

Bridgeway Community Church  
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## **Easter 2022**

He is Risen!...He is Risen Indeed!

"Through out generations the common Christian response on resurrection morning is 'He is Risen!' and the response being 'He is Risen Indeed!'"

"Easter – The Resurrection – the key event in all of human history. It is why we worship on Sunday and not the Sabbath Saturday."

Question: Do you believe in miracles!?

"Perhaps you are a fellow struggler like me. There are times when doubts can enter our minds. There are times in the difficult things of life where we wonder if God is too wise to make a mistake. If he is too loving to be unkind. If he is too powerful for his purposes to be thwarted."

Question: The miracle of the resurrection - do you doubt it?

"What we need is faith, but faith is one of those words that doesn't tell the whole story. It needs an object."

Question: What do you have faith in?

"My friends, we must have faith, confidence, trust IN the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ. It's what makes all the difference in the world...I a basing everything on the resurrection of Christ."

I better be able to prove it! Even Jesus was challenged in this way:

John 2:18–22 (NIV)

<sup>18</sup> The Jews then responded to him, “What sign can you show us to prove your authority to do all this?”

<sup>19</sup> Jesus answered them, “**Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days.**”

<sup>20</sup> They replied, “It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and you are going to raise it in three days?” <sup>21</sup> But the temple he had spoken of was his body. <sup>22</sup> After he was raised from the dead, his disciples recalled what he had said. Then they believed the scripture and the words that Jesus had spoken.

"Prove it! You put your faith in the resurrection? Prove it...proof is important. A proclamation is one thing but proof is important."

Acts 1:3 NIV

After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God

"I want you to listen to significance of the resurrection as Paul, in the most prominent chapter on resurrection - 1 Corinthians 15 - deals with this...Paul is grappling with the question 'What if? What if we can't prove it? What if Jesus is NOT risen from the grave? What are the implications of that? Does it even matter?' "

1 Cor 15:1-8,14-20 (NIV)

Now, brothers and sisters, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. <sup>2</sup> By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain.

<sup>3</sup> For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, <sup>4</sup> that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, <sup>5</sup> and that he appeared to Cephas, and then to the Twelve. <sup>6</sup> After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. <sup>7</sup> Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, <sup>8</sup> and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born.

<sup>14</sup> And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. <sup>15</sup> More than that, we are then found to be false witnesses

about God, for we have testified about God that he raised Christ from the dead. But he did not raise him if in fact the dead are not raised. <sup>16</sup> For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either. <sup>17</sup> And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. <sup>18</sup> Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost. <sup>19</sup> If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied. <sup>20</sup> But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

"If Christ is not risen from the dead, note the things that Paul identifies are true:

1. Our Faith is in vain, without purpose. Faith is useless, futile, empty
2. Therefore, our preaching useless.
3. We are liars, false witnesses.
4. Still in our sins, unforgiven
5. Those who've died ahead of us lost
6. We are to be pitied

What if it is true!?

1. Proves Him to be the Son of God... Romans 1:4. He is who He says He is...

Romans 1:4 NIV

and who through the Spirit of holiness was appointed the Son of God in power by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord.

2. Rom 4:25 – “raised for our justification” The resurrection of Jesus Christ is that which gets us our justification, by grace. It is that which gets us the forgiveness of sin. It is that which gains, for us, our redemption. And so, our assurance of salvation rests upon the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Romans 4:25 NIV

He [Jesus] was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification.

John 19:30 NIV

When he had received the drink, Jesus said, “It is finished.” With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

3. Secures our resurrection and current empowerment to live a Godly life  
Romans 6:4; 8:11-13

Romans 6:4 NIV

We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

Romans 8:11-13 NIV

And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you. <sup>12</sup> Therefore, brothers and sisters, we have an obligation—but it is not to the flesh, to live according to it. <sup>13</sup> For if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live.

"Peter furthermore tells us that we better be ready to be able to prove out and to reason and defend why it is that we have this hope within us."

1 Peter 3:15 NIV

But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason [apologia = defense/reason/answer] for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect

" 'give an answer to everyone' - sometimes I think we need to give to ourselves. We need to give ourselves some fortified, secure hope and reason as to why we continue on in this Christian life."

Apologetics is the intellectual defense of the truth of the Christian religion.

Question: Do you need your heart secured in the evidence of the resurrection so that your faith is based on something that's solid?

“With many convincing proofs”

Acts 1:3 (NIV)

After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God.

What are the proofs? The evidence?

### **Evidence for a Historical Resurrection of Jesus...**

About 12 key evidences held even by skeptics, today we'll cover 5

#### **#1 - Death by Crucifixion**

- The Romans were good at killing people. We know his side was pierced and the fluids were separation of water and blood were clear evidence that Jesus was dead.
- The crucifixion account is included in every gospel narrative, and confirmed by several non-Christian sources such as Jewish historian Josephus, the Roman historian Tacitus, the Greek Lucian, as well as the Jewish Talmud. Jesus died!

#### **#2 – The Empty Tomb** – after first showing there was a burial of the body...

- Atheist Jeffery Lowder agrees that “the burial of Jesus by Joseph of Arimathea has a high final probability.” Something had to happen to the body of Jesus!
- All 4 gospels record the scene at the empty tomb of Jesus
- Luke 24:1–10; Matthew 28:1–8; Mark 16:1–8; John 20:1–8

Luke 24:1–8 (NIV)

On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. <sup>2</sup> They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, <sup>3</sup> but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. <sup>4</sup> While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. <sup>5</sup> In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, “Why do you look for the living among the dead? <sup>6</sup> He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: <sup>7</sup> ‘The Son of Man must be delivered over to the hands of sinners, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.’ ” <sup>8</sup> Then they remembered his words.

### **#3 - Multiple Appearances**

- During his 40 days before the ascension.
- 3 private [Peter, James, Paul], 3 group appearances.
- These things were recorded very early after they occurred.

1 Corinthians 15:3-8 NIV

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### **#4 – The Dramatic Change in Many**

Transformed! (Disciples/Doubters like James and Paul), James – “a bondservant of the Lord Jesus Christ”

James 1:1 NASB

James, a bond-servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ,

Acts 9:3-6 NIV

As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. <sup>4</sup> He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, “Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?”

<sup>5</sup> “Who are you, Lord?” Saul asked.

“I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting,” he replied. <sup>6</sup> “Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.”

"Liars don't make good martyrs and James and Peter and Paul were all willing and did give their lives for this reality...that Jesus Christ is risen from the dead."

### **#5 - 2000 year movement of Millions**

- Even if someone was not persuaded by historical fact, they cannot deny the influence of Christianity – a movement based on a resurrected leader.
- Nor can they argue with a changed life – YOURS.

"If I can talk you into something, Satan can talk you out of it."

"There has to be more than just an intellectual assent, believing ABOUT the resurrection. You have to believe IN the resurrected one, putting your trust into him."

The Exclusivity of Jesus.

John 14:5–6 (NIV)

Thomas said to him, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?" <sup>6</sup> Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.