

The Resurrection of Jesus Christ

Jesus Christ: God's Champion

Introduction

- How long can sports stars and other famous people expect to be remembered after they die?
 - A few years ago, Cesar Higaldo, Director of the Collective Learning Group at MIT Media Lab released a mathematical model that calculates the rate of decline in the world's awareness for certain songs, politicians, movies, actors, patents, and other pop culture icons.
 - They found that "The universal decay of collective memory and attention concludes that people and things are kept alive through 'oral communication' from about five to 30 years."
- Jesus is still well-remembered 2,000 years later, which is just one reason why His resurrection is so important. We tend to forget about people over time, but Jesus was unforgettable.
- So far in our series we've talked about the unparalleled character and accomplishments of Jesus Christ, God's Champion.
 - We've looked at the deity of Christ and the humanity of Christ.
 - We've looked at the unity of Christ as those two natures have come together.
 - We've looked at the offices of Christ and the atonement of Christ.
- Tonight, we'll wrap up by looking closely at the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Study

I. The Evidence for Christ's Resurrection

A. Historical Evidence

1. His tomb was empty, and no one ever produced his body
2. His disciples believed that they saw Jesus resurrected from the dead.
3. His disciples were transformed following their alleged resurrection observations

B. Biblical Evidence

1. The Gospels contain many eyewitness accounts about His resurrection.
2. The Book of Acts is a story about the apostles' proclamation of the resurrection.
3. The Epistles are all based on the assumption that Jesus Christ is the living and resurrected Savior of the world.
4. The entire New Testament gives evidence to the resurrection of Christ. Without the resurrection, the message of the Bible and the Gospel both fall apart, like a building with the cornerstone has been removed.

Discussion Question #1

II. The Nature of Christ's Resurrection

- A. Jesus was not resuscitated; He was not subject to weakness, aging, or another death like Lazarus. (John 11:1-44)
- B. Jesus was recognized by His disciples. (Matthew 28:9, 17)
- C. Jesus had a real body.
 - 1. He was able to eat food. (Luke 24:30)
 - 2. His disciples were able to touch His scars. (John 20:27)
 - 3. He moved from place to place, although suddenly. (Luke 24:31)

Discussion Question #2

III. The Results of Christ's Resurrection

- A. Jesus ascended back into heaven. (Acts 1:7-11)
 - 1. His glorified body prepared Him to experience the glories of heaven again (Remember, He had been there before His incarnation).
 - 2. His ascension underscored His final instructions (v. 8)
 - 3. His ascension anticipated His eventual second coming (v. 11)
- B. Jesus is exalted in heaven and on earth.
 - 1. He has the right to claim all authority in heaven and on earth. (Matthew 28:18-20)
 - 2. Everyone will eventually bow their knee in worship to Jesus Christ. (Philippians 2:9-11)
- C. We are resurrected with glorified bodies as well.
 - 1. Christ is the "first fruits" which is an agricultural term that means there is more to come! (1 Corinthians 15:20)
 - 2. The same power that raised Christ from the dead is at work in all believers. (1 Corinthians 6:14)
 - 3. Our glorified bodies will be perfected, with no defects or scars. (1 Corinthians 15:42-44)

Discussion Question #3

Discussion Questions

- 1. What other pieces of evidence for the resurrection are you aware of? How do all of these pieces of evidence fit together to give us confidence in the resurrection?
- 2. How do you think you would have reacted if you were one of the eyewitnesses to the resurrection? Would you have been quick to believe, or would you have been more skeptical?
- 3. There is great hope found in the results of Christ's resurrection. Which result bring you the most hope and why?