

PLEASANT VIEW PROCLAIMER

April 17, 2022

He is Not Here, for He Has Risen (Matthew 28:6; 1 Corinthians 15)

The Easter holiday is intended to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus as recorded in Matthew 28:6 (Mark 16:6; Luke 24:6)

Matthew 28:6 “He is not here, for He has risen...”

These words about the resurrection are either the most important that have ever been translated into the languages of man or the greatest lie in human history. As Christians we not only believe in the resurrection, but also likely echo the sentiments of Paul from I Corinthians 15:3-5 that it is of “first importance” to the gospel message. It means **everything** to us and has served as the foundational motivation for following God’s plan.

But why do we believe it is true? Clearly not everyone believes in the resurrection story, otherwise our world would be a much different place. Paul considered the impact if this was indeed a lie in **1 Cor 15:12-19** and said that “if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain.”

In view of this, how would we explain our faith in this event to a non-believer? In **1 Peter 3:15**, Peter exhorts his readers to “always be prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you...” Can we do this regarding the resurrection of Christ? What would you say if asked to give a reason for your faith in the resurrection?

Is There Another Explanation? *What theories have been offered to explain why the tomb of Jesus was empty?*

Conspiracy Theory - Asserts that Jesus’ followers stole His body, lied about His post mortem appearances, and faked the resurrection (**Mt 28:11-15**).

Swoon Theory - Asserts that Jesus was not quite dead when He was removed from the cross but merely fainted and appeared dead.

Hallucination Theory - Asserts that all the postmortem appearances of Jesus were merely hallucinations.



*“Your name, O Lord,
endures forever, Your
fame, O Lord, throughout
all generations”*

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Jesus

The Word of God

...became flesh

The Son of God

...became man

The Lord of All

...became a servant

The Righteous One

...was made sin

The Eternal One

...tasted death

The Risen One

...now lives in men

The Seated One

...is coming again!

Substitute Victim Theory - Asserts that Jesus was not actually crucified, but someone else (possibly Judas Iscariot) was crucified in His place.

Is There Evidence for the Resurrection? *Is Paul's case for the resurrection in 1 Corinthians 15 stronger than the theories presented to explain why the tomb was empty?*

1 Corinthians 15:3-4a (ESV) - *"For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, ⁴ that he was buried..."*

The fact that Jesus died and was buried is not nearly as controversial as popular culture would lead us to believe. It is almost universally accepted by scholars (even non-believers) that He died by crucifixion.

1 Corinthians 15:4b (ESV) *"...that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures,*

It is powerful to note that there is No evidence of any claim that Jesus' body was still in the tomb. Again, it is almost universally accepted that the tomb was found to be empty.

1 Corinthians 15:5-8 (ESV) *"...and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me."*

Paul challenges his readers to check his facts. He gives a list of eyewitnesses and points out to his readers that many of these eyewitnesses are still alive and available for questioning. Among these eyewitnesses are Peter, James, and Paul who all experienced a life changing transformation after they believed they had seen the risen Jesus. How else can this be explained than that they actually did witness the resurrection?

Has the Resurrection Transformed Your Life?

PRAYER LIST

- **Joseph and Corey Buchanan** are now home with their twins Peyton & Riley
- Mamie Hamilton's son **Kendall** is recovering from eye surgery
- **Faye Waller** is in Ahava Healthcare in Clarksville
- **Isabel Johnson** is home, struggling with her appetite.
- **James Craig**, Faye Head's brother, is home undergoing rehab
- **Nick Phifer**, a family friend of the Reeds, has had a relapse of leukemia but is responding well to treatment.
- **Ethan Pennington**, Tammy's cousin, has brain cancer
- Continue to pray for **Delores Coleman, Rosemary Douglas, Gaynell Walker, Rebecca Brown, Kristine Garrett, John Hayes, Ann Reed, and Jim Sims**

SERVING TODAY (April 17, 2022)

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Read: C. Baker
Prayer: M. Reed

WORSHIP

Read: J. Baker
Wait On Table: J. Gupton
Serve: D. Demonbreun, J. Walker
Prayer: L. Gregory