

Pastor Jeff Robinson

April 21, 2019

WHAT WILL YOU DO WITH JESUS?

John 20:31

but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

Q: What do we mean by the Resurrection?

A: The physical resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead that overcomes the power of death and validates Jesus's claims.

Why the resurrection matters...

1) If it didn't happen then Jesus is just another dead guy – 1 Corinthians 15:13
But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised...

2) If it didn't happen then following Jesus is an epic **mistake** – 1 Corinthians 15:14-16
And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain. ¹⁵ *We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified about God that he raised Christ, whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised.* ¹⁶ *For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised.*

3) If it didn't happen then your guilt and shame are **permanent** – 1 Corinthians 15:17
And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins.

4) If it didn't happen then you have no real **hope** – 1 Corinthians 15:18-19
Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. ¹⁹ **If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied.**

But if it's true...

- The Resurrection can transform our past, present, and future.
- What will you do with Jesus?

Minimal facts in non-Christian historical sources

1. Jesus was crucified.
2. Jesus was buried.
3. Jesus's tomb was found empty.
4. Numerous people claimed eye-witness testimony of the risen Jesus.
5. Disciples had experiences which they believed were literal appearances of the risen Jesus.¹

What if...

- Fainting Jesus? Romans were expert executioners.
- Wrong tomb? Religious leaders and Romans would have shown everyone the correct tomb.
- Hallucination? Hallucinations are not uniform.
- Stolen Body? Expert soldiers guarding the tomb vs. discouraged fishermen.
- Fraud? Why die for a belief you *know* to be a lie?

Q: What is the most reasonable explanation of the evidence?

A: Resurrection.

Next Steps

- I am committing my life to Christ (Connect Card).
- I'm interested in being baptized (Connect Card) – Beach Baptism next Sunday, April 28.
- I'm interested in Starting Point (Connect Card) – Two weeks from today, May 5.
- Attend the next series, *Family Goals* – Begins next Sunday, April 28.

Further reading

Barnett, Paul W. *Jesus and the Logic of History*. Edited by D.A. Carson. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 1997. (239 pages).

Bauckham, Richard. *Jesus and the Eyewitnesses: The Gospels as Eyewitness Testimony*. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans, 2006. (504 pages).

Craig, William Lane. *The Son Rises: Historical Evidence for the Resurrection of Jesus*. Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock, 2017. (156 pages).

Habermas, Gary R. *The Historical Jesus: Ancient Evidence for the Life of Christ*. Joplin, MO: College Press Publishing Company, 1996. (298 pages).

Habermas, Gary R. *The Risen Jesus and Future Hope*. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2003. (260 pages).

Licona, Michael R. *The Resurrection of Jesus: A New Historiographical Approach*. Downers Grove: IVP Academic, 2010. (721 pages).

The Historical Jesus: Five Views. Edited by James K. Beilby and Paul Rhodes Eddy. Downers Grove: IVP Academic, 2009. (312 pages).

Wright, N. T., *The Resurrection of the Son of God*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 2003. (806 pages).

¹ Gary Habermas, "Minimal Facts on the Resurrection that Even Skeptics Accept," *SES*, September 28, 2018, <https://ses.edu/minimal-facts-on-the-resurrection-that-even-skeptics-accept/>. Also see Gary Habermas, *Historical Jesus: Ancient Evidence for the Life of Christ* (Joplin, MO: College Press, 1996).