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“HE IS RISEN”

Text: **1 Cor. 15:1-19**

**Paul was a master defender of truth – in this text of the resurrection.**

* He used sound arguments – contended for the truth.
* He presented evidences. **(Acts 1:3)** There are people today that this text could help.
* He could have said that it was true because “I told you so and I’m speaking for God.”
* He did preach the gospel to them – confirmed with miracles. **(2 Cor. 12:12)**
* The resurrection was according to the Scriptures – **Psalm 16:8-11; Acts 2:25-28**
* The eyewitnesses: (1) Peter (2) 12 apostles (3) 500 brethren at one time (3) James (brother of Jesus?) (4) by the apostles again (5) then last of all by Paul.
* What moved James to believe that his brother was the Messiah?
* What moved Paul to convert to Jesus?
* What moved the apostles to stronger faith after the cross to preach the gospel?
* After the cross, they went into hiding. Did not believe the words of the women.
* “Dr. Edwin M. Yamauchi, associate professor of history at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, emphasizes: "What gives a special authority to the list (of witnesses) as historical evidence is the reference to most of the five hundred brethren being still alive. St. Paul says in effect, 'If you do not believe me, you can ask them.' Such a statement in an admittedly genuine letter written within thirty years of the event is almost as strong evidence as one could hope to get for something that happened nearly two thousand years ago.” (Josh McDowell, *Evidence for the Resurrection*)[[1]](#footnote-1)

**IF THERE IS NO RESURRECTION:**

* What does that say about what you first believed when I preached the gospel to you?
* Christ is not risen – then our *preaching* is *vain* and so is your *faith*. It is *futile* to believe.
* We are still in our sins.
* The dead in Christ have perished. All our loved ones are lost.
* Did those who did not believe in a resurrection believe in heaven or hell?
* To live for Christ leaves us of all men to be pitied.
* The apostles are *false witnesses* (throw them out of the courtroom).
* Guilty of deception – but for what gain? *“What advantage is it for me?”*
* *“And why do we stand in jeopardy every hour?”* ***(30)***
* *“I die daily … have fought with beasts at Ephesus”* ***(31-32)***
* But they were willing to suffer persecution, to even die for the Lord.

“Taken together, I concluded that this expert testimony constitutes compelling evidence that Jesus Christ was who he claimed to be – the one and only Son of God. The atheism that

I had embraced for so long buckled under the weight of historical truth.”

(Appendix: A summary of *The Case for Christ*, Lee Strobel)

“A student at the University of Uruguay said to me, "Professor McDowell, why can't you refute Christianity?" "For a very simple reason," I answered. "I am not able to explain away an event in history--the resurrection of Jesus Christ."

(Josh McDowell, *Evidence for the Resurrection*)[[2]](#footnote-2)

**The story of the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus is true.**

* The resurrection is the ultimate proof that Jesus is the Son of God. **(Romans 1:3-4)**
* “The resurrection is God’s vindication of Jesus’ radical personal claims to divine authority.” (William Lane Craig, The Resurrection of Jesus)[[3]](#footnote-3)
* The tomb was empty even according to the enemies of Jesus and His church.
* This is the truth upon which we stand. ***(1)***
* If we stand on any other foundation, our faith will not withstand the storms.
* If it’s true, baptism takes on the full meaning it is given in scripture. **(Romans 6)**
* When we eat the Supper, we *proclaim the Lord’s death till he comes*. **(1 Cor. 11)**
* All other truth is built upon this truth – Jesus is the Son of God and I should bow my knee to Him in humble adoration and submission.

**THE REASON FOR OUR HOPE (1 Peter 3:15)**

* This does not mean that I have to be able to answer all the questions I am asked.
* See **Acts 24:15** *“I have hope … that there will be a resurrection….”*
* The resurrection is why we come together, do the things the Lord has commanded us, to love one another, to serve others, to teach others, to serve in our homes and at work. It’s why we won’t do some things others may do.
* Reviewing this chapter and this material stirs my faith – Jesus is the Christ!
* Now go do his will! Show our faith by our works!
1. [www.leaderu.com/everystudent/easter/articles/josh2.html](http://www.leaderu.com/everystudent/easter/articles/josh2.html) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. [www.leaderu.com/everystudent/easter/articles/josh2.html](http://www.leaderu.com/everystudent/easter/articles/josh2.html)) [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. [www.reasonablefaith.org/the-resurrection-of-jesus](http://www.reasonablefaith.org/the-resurrection-of-jesus) [↑](#footnote-ref-3)