

The Messenger



“... How beautiful are the feet of those who bring glad tidings of good things!” Romans 10:15

A Weekly Publication of the Christians Meeting at
2291 Highway Z, Wentzville, Missouri
Website: westlakechurchofchrist.org

Dedicated to the Proclamation of the Truth in the Spirit of Love (Ephesians 4:15)

Volume 11, Issue 40

Evangelist and Editor:
Dempsey Collins

Oct. 3, 2010

Listen to PROVE ALL THINGS on 730 AM WKRE, Sunday mornings from 8:15 to 8:30

The Resurrection of Jesus

by Ryan Collins

The Sign of Jonah!?

- Jonah 1:14-17
 - Jonah is as good as dead to those men
- Jonah 3:1-4
 - All he said was, “40 days and Nineveh will be destroyed!”
- Jonah 3:5
 - The people believed God and repented!
 - What gave Jonah’s message power?
 - What would cause a whole city to repent like this?
- **Resurrection!** - Matthew 12:38-41

Does the Resurrection of Jesus Really Matter?

- “The resurrection of Jesus is one of the most wicked, vicious, heartless hoaxes ever foisted upon the minds of men, or it is the most fantastic fact of history.” (Josh McDowell, Evidence that Demands a Verdict)
- The Faith and Religion of Christianity Stands or Falls on the Resurrection of Jesus
 - “if Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless, you are still in your sins.” (I Cor. 15:17)
 - Jesus “was declared the Son of God with power by the resurrection from the dead.” (Rom. 1:4)

You Cannot be a Christian and Deny the Resurrection of Jesus!

- “Faith in the resurrection is the very keystone of the arch of Christian faith, and, when it is removed, all must inevitably crumble to ruin.” (H.P. Liddon, Therefore Stand: Christian Apologetics)
- “Christianity stands or falls with the truth of the resurrection. Once disprove it, and you have disposed of Christianity.” (Michael Green, Man Alive)
- Why?

Only a Liar, a Lunatic, or The Lord Would Make Claims Like This!

- Because of the significant claims of Jesus
 1. Jesus unmistakably claimed to be the Son of God
 - John 6:38 – “I have come down from heaven...”
 - John 8:58 – “before Abraham was born, I AM”
 - John 10:30 – “I and the Father are one”
 2. Jesus unmistakably claimed that He would die and rise from the dead
 - Mark 8:31 – “the Son of Man must...be killed and after 3 days rise again.” (vs. 32 He was stating the matter plainly.)
 - Luke 9:22 – “The Son of Man must...be killed and be raised up on the 3rd day.”
 - Matthew 12:40 – the sign of Jonah – “so shall the Son of Man be 3 days and 3 nights in the heart of the earth.”

Disprove the Resurrection, and Jesus is a Liar!

- But, if Jesus did rise from the dead...
 - Everything that Jesus said is TRUE.
 - Jesus is Lord
 - He is worthy of worship
 - There is great hope in believing Jesus!
- The resurrection must be very clear and settled in our minds!
 - Jesus did not want us to blindly accept His claims (John 10:37-38)
 - After a closer look...I think you'll find that the Burden of Proof lies upon the unbeliever!

Did Jesus Really Die?

- Did Jesus Fake His Death? ("Swoon Theory" Hugh Schonfield, 1965)
 1. Intent of the Jews was Jesus' Death – He is given to Pilate. (Matt. 27:1-2; Matt. 26:4. John 19:10 – Pilate has the authority to execute)
 2. The scourging and crucifixion of Jesus makes a "faked death" improbable and absurd! (Matt. 27:26-31; John 19)
 3. All 4 gospels explicitly say that Jesus was dead (Mark 15:42-47; Matt. 27:50; Luke 23:46; John 19:32-34).
 4. Trained Roman soldiers (enemies) said that He was dead. These are professional executioners that surely know when someone is dead or not. (Mark 15:44-45; John 19:33-34).
 5. "Even if we do not have the New Testament...we would be able to conclude from writings such as Josephus, the Talmud, Tacitus, and Pliny the Younger that He (Jesus) was crucified under Pontius Pilate in the reign of Tiberius." (Edwin Yamauchi, archeologist)
You don't survive Roman crucifixion!

Tombs are for the Dead, Not the Living

- The Tomb was donated by Joseph of Arimathea (John 19:38)
 1. "a new tomb, in which no one had yet been laid." (John 19:41)
 - No mistaking the body for someone else!
 2. "which he had hewn out in the rock." (Matt. 27:60)
 - One way in and one way out...no back doors!
 3. "he rolled a large stone against the entrance of the tomb" (Matt. 27:60)
 - Greek "lithon megan" – Megalith (a very large stone!)
 - The 4 women wondered who would move it for them. (Mark 16:3)
 4. "they went and made the grave secure" (Matt. 27:62-66)
 - Pilate orders "go, make it as secure as you know how." (Matt. 27:65)
 - Trained guards are placed in front of the tomb. (Matt. 28:4)
 - A Roman seal was placed over the stone – carried consequences if broken. (Matt. 27:66)
 5. At least 4 eye-witnesses of the tomb and Jesus in it - Joseph, Nicodemus, Mary and Mary Magdalene (John 19:38; Mark 15:46-47)

The Tomb was Empty!

- "You are to say, 'His disciples came by night and stole Him away while we were asleep.'" (Matt. 28:11-15)
- "A godless and lawless heresy had sprung from one Jesus, a Galilean deceiver, whom we crucified, but His disciples stole Him by night from the tomb..." (letter circulating among the Jewish community c. 165 AD)
- "A diligent search was made and He (Jesus) was not found in the grave where he had been buried. A gardener had taken Him from the grave and brought Him into his garden..." (6th Century treatise, Toledoth Yeshu)
- A common theme arises, even among the enemies of Jesus – the tomb was empty!

to be continued

News and Notes:

Remember to check the prayer list for those with ongoing spiritual weaknesses and physical illnesses.

"...Pray for one another...The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." James 5:16