

The resurrection of Jesus is the _____ of Christianity and the authentication of His claim to be God.

Paul, a bondservant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated to the gospel of God which He promised before through His prophets in the Holy Scriptures, concerning His Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who was born of the seed of David according to the flesh, and declared to be the Son of God with power according to the Spirit of holiness, **by the resurrection from the dead.**" Romans 1:1-4

- "And if Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins!" 1 Corinthians 15:17

Evidence for the resurrection is supported by the reliability of _____ documents of the New Testament.

"For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures," 1 Corinthians 15:3,4

- The first E stands for the early date of the creeds
- Resurrection faith dates back to the earliest dates of Christianity.

Evidence for the resurrection is supported by the fact that no one ever said it was anything but _____.

"On the next day, which followed the Day of Preparation, the chief priests and Pharisees gathered together to Pilate, saying, "Sir, we remember, while He was still alive, how that deceiver said, 'After three days I will rise.' "Therefore command that the tomb be made secure until the third day, lest His disciples come by night and steal Him away, and say to the people, 'He has risen from the dead.' So the last deception will be worse than the first." Pilate said to them, "You have a guard; go your way, make it as secure as you know how." So they went and made the tomb secure, sealing the stone and setting the guard." Matthew 27:62-66

- The second E stands for the empty tomb. Even His opponents admitted it was empty on Easter!
- The unanimous testimony of history is that the tomb was empty on Easter Sunday.
- The only explanation that fits the facts is that Jesus really did rise from the dead.

Evidence for the resurrection is supported by the fact that there were _____ of His majesty.

"For we did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty. For He received from God the Father honor and glory when such a voice came to Him from the Excellent Glory: "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." And we heard this voice which came from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain." 2 Peter 1:16-18

- The third "E" stands for "EYEWITNESSES." Over a period of 40 days Jesus appeared, ALIVE, a dozen different times to more than 515 individuals. 1 Corinthians 15:6; Acts 1:1-3
- People will die for religious beliefs if they're convinced they are true -- like a terrorist.
- But people will not die for religious beliefs if they **know** their beliefs are false.
- **Nobody knowingly and willingly dies for a lie. The disciples knew for certain He was ALIVE!**
- EARLY ACCOUNTS + EMPTY TOMB + EYEWITNESSES = certainty of the resurrection.
- Jesus' tomb is empty because He was the power of God to overcome the grave.
- Who will you put your hope in to overcome the grave?

When we have been reconciled to God through Jesus' death, we then will be saved by His _____.

"For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, **we shall be saved by His life...** Romans 5:6-11

- He is alive! Video