

# LIGHT IT UP!

## Responding To: "I don't believe in the Resurrection of Jesus Christ" (week 7)

Various Scriptures

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### **Bottom Line:**

Believing in and knowing the evidence for the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ is vital for the true follower of Jesus Christ!

### **3. Objection #3: "I don't believe in the resurrection of Jesus Christ."**

*Matthew 28:5-6; 1 Corinthians 15:1-14; Romans 1:4; 1 Corinthians 6:14*

#### **A. The Prophecies (testimony) of Jesus About His Resurrection**

**Matthew 16:21-22** - From that time Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "Far be it from you, Lord! This shall never happen to you." (see also Mark 8:31 and Luke 9:22)

**John 2:19-21** - Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." The Jews then said, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will you raise it up in three days?" But he was speaking about the temple of his body.

**Matthew 12:39-40** - But he answered them, "An evil and adulterous generation seeks for a sign, but no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. For just as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth."

#### **B. The Change in the Disciples**

**After the crucifixion but before the resurrection,**

- The disciples were cowards.
- Hiding in shadows and locked rooms.
- Afraid of being discovered.
- AFRAID OF BEING KILLED.

**After the resurrection,**

- The disciples were fully committed.
- Boldly claiming Jesus' resurrection in the presence of enemies.
- Willing to suffer on numerous occasions.



**The Deaths of the Apostles According to Church History:** Andrew: Crucified. Bartholomew: Crucified. James, the half-brother of Jesus: Stoned to death. James, son of Alphaeus: Crucified. James, son of Zebedee: Death by the sword. John: Died a natural death while in prison. Matthew: Death by the sword. Peter: Crucified upside down. Philip: Crucified. Simon the Zealot: Crucified. Thaddaeus: Death by arrows. Thomas: Death by a spear thrust. Paul: Beheaded

**Michael Green, Principal Scholar of St. John's College, Nottingham, writes:**

*". . . You could imprison them, flog them, kill them, but you could not make them deny their conviction that on the third day he rose again."*

### **C. The Testimony of the Eyewitnesses**

**1 Corinthians 15:4-6** - That he (Jesus) was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, 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.

**1 John 1:1** - That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life....

Dr. Edwin M. Yamauchi, Professor of History at Miami University in Ohio:

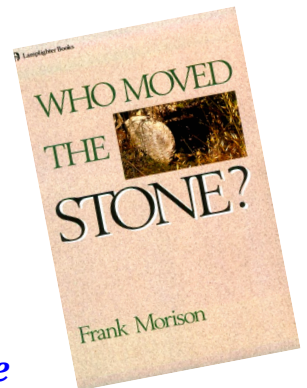
**"What gives a special authority to the list (of witnesses) as historical evidence is the reference to most of the five hundred brethren being still alive. St. Paul says in effect, 'If you do not believe me, you can ask them.'"**

### **D. The Conclusions of Scholars (Thousands More Have Come to Faith in Christ)**

- Lord Littleton & Dr. B. Gilbert West: The book: *The Observation of the History and Evidences Regarding the Resurrection of Christ*. Result: (from the flyleaf) **"Reject not [the resurrection of Christ] until you have examined the evidence."**

- Frank Morison: The book: *Who Moved The Stone*. Result: **Morison became a believer in Jesus Christ and the resurrection.**

- Professor Thomas Arnold, former Chair of Modern History at Oxford University. **"I have been used for many years to study the histories of other times, and to examine and weigh the evidence of those who have written about them, and I know of no one fact in the history of mankind which is proved by better and fuller evidence of every sort, to the understanding of a fair inquirer, than the great sign which God hath given us that Christ died and rose again from the dead."**



- Dr. Simon Greenleaf, former Professor of Law at Harvard University. **Challenged by his Christian law student to refute the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Result: He became an enthusiastic follower of Jesus!**

### **E. The Impossibility of the Skeptics' Theories**

1) Disciples removed the body while guards slept: (Whose testimony was given if guards slept; death penalty for sleeping; rolling stone failed to wake the guards??)

2) The authorities moved the body: (Authorities would have had every motivation to produce the body of Christ to stop the growth of the church but they couldn't.)

3) The women went to the wrong tomb: (That would mean everyone else went to the wrong tomb as well...impossible!)

4) The witnesses were hallucinating: (Hallucinations are highly subjective; do not persist for forty days over numerous sightings; hallucinations cannot be touched.)

5) Jesus never died on the cross, only swooned (fainted): (Shows a profound ignorance of the violence of the crucifixion; the injuries Jesus sustained; the impossibility for Jesus to open the tomb and overpower the guards.)