

Easter – March 23, 2008

Matt 28:1-9

I Cor 15:14-17 And if Christ is not risen, then our preaching *is* empty and your faith *is* also empty. 15 Yes, and we are found false witnesses of God, because we have testified of God that He raised up Christ, whom He did not raise up—if in fact the dead do not rise. 16 For if *the* dead do not rise, then Christ is not risen. 17 And if Christ is not risen, your faith *is* futile; you are still in your sins!

I. WHAT DOES THE RESURRECTION PROVE?

For 2000 years men have denied that the resurrection happened.

- The _____ theory – They accuse the disciples of _____ the body.
- The _____ theory – Jesus never really died. He just passed out and was later revived.

- The _____ tomb theory – Jesus didn't really experience a resurrection, his disciples just went to the wrong tomb.

What does the resurrection prove?

- Jesus is who he _____ to be!

II. WHAT IS THE RESURRECTION PURPOSE?

A. God wants to have a _____ with us.

God sees you, God knows you and he desires that you come to know him, but how can we have a relationship with God?

Man has tried to bridge that gap in many ways,

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

1 Cor 15:1-4 Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, 2 by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. 3 For I delivered

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

Because of our _____ we could not go to God, so God came to us.

B. God wanted to break Satan's _____ on mankind.

Heb 2:14 Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil,

III. WHAT THE RESURRECTION CAN DO FOR YOU

A. It can take care of your _____

Rom 8:1 *There is* therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus,^[a] who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.

B. It can help you _____!

Trust Jesus and he will _____ your life!

John 10:10 The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have *it* more abundantly.

C. It will secure your _____!

John 11:25 Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live.

IV. CONCLUSION

You don't get to heaven through

A. Sincerity

B. _____

C. Subtraction

You get to heaven through a _____
_____ with Jesus Christ.

There are only 3 responses to the resurrection.

1. I'm _____ sure it really happened.

2. I believe it happened and I have _____
Jesus into my life.

3. I believe it happened but have not
_____ it to my life.