

JESUS' RESURRECTION AND YOU

I. Matthew 28:1-10 9

A. Matthew 28:1-10 (ESV) is today's big story, told by a former despised tax collector, also known as Levi: *1 Now after the Sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. 2 And behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. 3 His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. 4 And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men. 5 But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. 6 He is not here, for He has risen, as He said. Come, see the place where He lay. 7 Then go quickly and tell his disciples that He has risen from the dead, and behold, He is going before you to Galilee; there you will see Him. See, I have told you." 8 So they departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to tell His disciples. 9 And behold, Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came up and took hold of His feet and worshiped Him. 10 Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell My brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see Me."*

B. Since some of you are in the Chapel and some of you are in cars, we'll have to respond differently to the ancient declaration, *He is risen!* if you're inside, it's "*He is risen indeed!*" If you're outside, honk your horns! Let's have it: *He is risen!*

C. We've always sought to remove all the obstacles in your minds regarding Jesus' resurrection. Luke in Acts 1 said there were "*many convincing proofs Jesus was alive.*" Besides the book we've shared with you, *Your Verdict on the Empty Tomb* by Val Grieve, today's notes will provide numerous Scriptures, articles, quotes, & video clips that have served to convince countless atheists, unbelievers, and former pagan worshipers of the validity of Jesus' resurrection. Beyond these, I have little more to offer. To you who believe, I want to reiterate what Jesus' resurrection means for you. What are the implications of Jesus rising from the dead? All this will lead us to the Lord's Table.

D. First and foremost you should be reminded that the resurrection affirms that Jesus was God, God the Son from eternity past. When the doubtful Thomas saw the wounds of our risen Lord, He rightly exclaimed, "*My Lord and my God!*"

E. Secondly, Jesus atoned for our sins by His shed blood on the cross and His resurrection affirms that His sacrifice on the cross, satisfied God's holy and righteous judgment against our sin. "*By His wounds, we've been healed.*"

1) Dr. Martin Lloyd-Jones said: "The resurrection is the proclamation of the fact that God is fully and completely satisfied with the work that His Son did upon the cross."

2) R.A. Torrey echoes: "I look at the cross of Christ and I know that atonement has been made for my sins; I look at the open sepulcher and the risen and ascended Lord, and I know that the atonement has been accepted."

3) Paul Zahl adds this: "The atonement, or forgiveness of sin once and for all achieved on the cross, weighs in, and heavily. But the atonement is confirmed, ratified, sealed,

and made enduringly good by virtue of Christ's rising from death. Our justification hinges on a risen life, present in us now because Christ is present with us now."

F. Thirdly, Jesus' resurrection assures us of our own bodily resurrections.

1) Romans 6:5 (NLT) says: 5 *Since we have been united with Him in His death, we will also be raised to life as He was.*

2) 1 Corinthians 6:14 (ESV) says: 14 *And God raised the Lord and will also raise us up by His power.*

3) 1 Corinthians 15:19-23 (NIV) Paul argues best: 19 *If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied. 20* *But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. 21* *For since death came through a man, (Adam, the original sinner) the resurrection of the dead comes also through a Man. (Jesus, our only Savior) 22* *For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. 23* *But each in turn: Christ, the firstfruits; then, when He comes, those who belong to Him. (As I said a few weeks ago, your new body's already on order! Dem bones gonna rise again!)*

G. Fourthly, Jesus' resurrection makes us Family. Once enemies, we're now God's children! We've been adopted into the Family of God and we'll worship our risen Lord for all eternity.

1) 1 Peter 1:3-5 (TLB) puts it this way: 3 *All honor to God, the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ; for it is His boundless mercy that has given us the privilege of being born again so that we are now members of God's own family. Now we live in the hope of eternal life because Christ rose again from the dead. 4* *And God has reserved for His children the priceless gift of eternal life; it is kept in heaven for you, pure and undefiled, beyond the reach of change and decay. 5* *And God, in His mighty power, will make sure that you get there safely to receive it because you are trusting Him. It will be yours in that coming last day for all to see.*

2) Sinclair Ferguson said: "We are adopted into God's family through the resurrection of Christ from the dead in which He paid all our obligations to sin, the law, and the devil, in whose family we once lived. Our old status lies in His tomb. A new status is ours through His resurrection." **(Don't like some of your spiritual kinfolk? Uh-Oh!)**

H. Val Grieve said: "The resurrection is like a receipt you are given when you pay a debt. The receipt does not pay the debt; it is evidence that the debt has been paid. In the same way, when Jesus died on the cross He paid the debt of sin. The punishment which should have been ours fell on Him. The resurrection three days later is God's great receipt and proof to us that the debt of sin has been paid. Forgiveness is available."

I. So lets go to the Lord's Table. 1 Corinthians 15:3-4 (NIV) says: 3 *For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4* *that He was buried, that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures... (The Bread & Cup remind us... Pray & Officiate Communion...)*

*** Hebrews 13:20-21 (NIV) takes us all home: 20** *Now may the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd*

of the sheep, 21 equip you with everything good for doing His will, and may He work in us what is pleasing to Him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Scriptures, Videos, & Bonus Stuff

Matthew 28:1-10 (ESV)

1 Now after the Sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. **2** And behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. **3** His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. **4** And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men. **5** But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. **6** He is not here, for He has risen, as He said. Come, see the place where He lay. **7** Then go quickly and tell his disciples that He has risen from the dead, and behold, He is going before you to Galilee; there you will see Him. See, I have told you." **8** So they departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to tell His disciples. **9** And behold, Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came up and took hold of His feet and worshiped Him. **10** Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell My brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see Me."

Romans 6:5 (NLT)

5 Since we have been united with Him in His death, we will also be raised to life as He was.

1 Corinthians 6:14 (ESV)

14 And God raised the Lord and will also raise us up by His power.

1 Corinthians 15:19-23 (NIV)

19 If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied. **20** But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. **21** For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a Man. **22** For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. **23** But each in turn: Christ, the firstfruits; then, when He comes, those who belong to Him.

1 Peter 1:3-5 (TLB)

3 All honor to God, the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ; for it is His boundless mercy that has given us the privilege of being born again so that we are now members of God's own family. Now we live in the hope of eternal life because Christ rose again from the dead. **4** And God has reserved for His children the priceless gift of eternal life; it is kept in heaven for you, pure and undefiled, beyond the reach of change and decay. **5** And God, in His mighty power, will make sure that you get there safely to receive it because you are trusting Him. It will be yours in that coming last day for all to see.

1 Corinthians 15:3-4 (NIV)

3 For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, **4** that He was buried, that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures...

Hebrews 13:20-21 (NIV)

20 Now may the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, **21** equip you with everything good for doing His will, and may He work in us what is pleasing to Him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Quote by D. Martin Lloyd-Jones

"The resurrection is the proclamation of the fact that God is fully and completely satisfied with the work that His Son did upon the cross."

- Martin Lloyd-Jones, *Romans: An Exposition of Chapters 3:20-4:25*, Page 244.

Quote by R. A. Torrey

"I look at the cross of Christ and I know that atonement has been made for my sins; I look at the open sepulcher and the risen and ascended Lord, and I know that the atonement has been accepted."

- R.A. Torrey, quoted by James Boice in his *Expositional Commentary on Romans* (Rom. 4:25) p. 498. Original quote from, *The Bible and Its Christ*, by R.A. Torrey, 1904-1906, p.p. 107-108.

Quote by Paul F.M. Zahl

"The atonement, or forgiveness of sin once and for all achieved on the cross, weighs in, and heavily. But the atonement is confirmed, ratified, sealed, and made enduringly good by virtue of Christ's rising from death. Our justification hinges on a risen life, present in us now because Christ is present with us now."

Quote by Sinclair Ferguson

"We are adopted into God's family through the resurrection of Christ from the dead in which He paid all our obligations to sin, the law, and the devil, in whose family we once lived. Our old status lies in His tomb. A new status is ours through His resurrection."

Quote by Val Grieve

"The resurrection is like a receipt you are given when you pay a debt. The receipt does not pay the debt; it is evidence that the debt has been paid. In the same way, when Jesus died on the cross He paid the debt of sin. The punishment which should have been ours fell on Him. The resurrection three days later is God's great receipt and proof to us that the debt of sin has been paid. Forgiveness is available."

- Val Grieve, (1926 - 1998) *Your Verdict on the Empty Tomb*, p. 64.

Bonus Rations for Further Nourishment

"Christ the Lord is Risen Today" - Wonderful version by the NCC Worship Team

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rJNBpBeM1gE>

Jesus' Resurrection Appearances (The Gospel of John)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=evoOaiQwITg>

What is the Evidence for the Resurrection? - Andy Bannister

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uOOwZX9ai9M>

What are the Proofs of the Resurrection of Jesus? - Dr. Theodore Cabel

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Je9ll5jPTnQ>

The 4 E's of the Resurrection - Lee Strobel

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5ltcj8mhMcA>

Job 19:23-27 (NKJV)

23 Oh that my words were written! Oh that they were inscribed in a book! **24** Oh that with an iron pen and lead they were engraved in the rock forever! **25** For I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last He will stand upon the earth. **26** And after my skin has been thus destroyed, yet in my flesh I shall see God, **27** Whom I shall see for myself, and my eyes shall behold, and not another. My heart faints within me!

1 Corinthians 15:12-19 (ESV)

12 Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? **13** But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. **14** And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain. **15** We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified about God that He raised Christ, whom He did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. **16** For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised. **17** And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. **18** Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. **19** If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied.

Mark 16:1-7 (ESV)

1 When the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint Him. **2** And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. **3** And they were saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance of the tomb?" **4** And looking up, they saw that the stone had been rolled back--it was very large. **5** And entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe, and they were alarmed. **6** And he said to them, "Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen; He is not here. See the place where they laid Him. **7** But go, tell His disciples and Peter that He is going before you to Galilee. There you will see Him, just as He told you."

Luke 24:1-12 (ESV)

1 But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they went to the tomb, taking the spices they had prepared. **2** And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb, **3** but

when they went in they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. **4** While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men stood by them in dazzling apparel. **5** And as they were frightened and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, “Why do you seek the living among the dead? **6** He is not here, but has risen. Remember how He told you, while He was still in Galilee, **7** that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and on the third day rise.” **8** And they remembered His words, **9** and returning from the tomb they told all these things to the eleven and to all the rest. **10** Now it was Mary Magdalene and Joanna and Mary the mother of James and the other women with them who told these things to the apostles, **11** but these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. **12** But Peter rose and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; and he went home marveling at what had happened.

John 20:1-9 (ESV)

1 Now on the first day of the week Mary Magdalene came to the tomb early, while it was still dark, and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb. **2** So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid Him.” **3** So Peter went out with the other disciple, and they were going toward the tomb. **4** Both of them were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. **5** And stooping to look in, he saw the linen cloths lying there, but he did not go in. **6** Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen cloths lying there, **7** and the face cloth, which had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen cloths but folded up in a place by itself. **8** Then the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; **9** for as yet they did not understand the Scripture, that He must rise from the dead.

Psalm 16:1-11 (ESV)

A Miktam of David **1** Preserve me, O God, for in You I take refuge. **2** I say to the Lord, “You are my Lord; I have no good apart from You.” **3** As for the saints in the land, they are the excellent ones, in whom is all my delight. **4** The sorrows of those who run after another god shall multiply; their drink offerings of blood I will not pour out or take their names on my lips. **5** The Lord is my chosen portion and my cup; You hold my lot. **6** The lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; indeed, I have a beautiful inheritance. **7** I bless the Lord Who gives me counsel; in the night also my heart instructs me. **8** I have set the Lord always before me; because He is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken. **9** Therefore my heart is glad, and my whole being rejoices; my flesh also dwells secure. **10** For You will not abandon my soul to Sheol, or let Your Holy One see corruption. **11** You make known to me the path of life; in Your presence there is fullness of joy; at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

Theological Note on Psalm 16:9-11

ESV Study Bible

As in Psalm 49:15 and Psalm 73:24-26, here there is a clear affirmation that the human yearning to be near to God and to know the pleasure of His welcome forever, beyond

the death of the body, finds its answer in the covenant. Peter cites Psalm 16:8-11 in his pentecost speech (Acts 2:25-28), applying the verses to the resurrection of Jesus; Paul used Psalm 16:10 in his similar speech (Acts 13:35). If the apostles meant that David's words were a straight prediction of the death and resurrection of Jesus, it is difficult to know what function the psalm could have played in ancient Israel: the congregation would have scratched their heads in puzzlement every time they sang it. This puzzlement goes away if the psalm is seen as cultivating the hope of everlasting glory for the faithful, with the resurrection of Jesus (the Holy One par excellence) as the first step in bringing this hope to fruition (cf. Romans 8:23; 1 Corinthians 15:23).

- Theological Note on Acts 16:9-11 - *Hope of Everlasting Joy*, ESV Study Bible, Crossway, p. 956.

Acts 2:22-32 (ESV)

22 Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves know— **23** this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. **24** God raised Him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for Him to be held by it. **25** For David says concerning Him, *"I saw the Lord always before me, for He is at my right hand that I may not be shaken; 26 therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced; my flesh also will dwell in hope. 27 For You will not abandon My soul to Hades, or let Your Holy One see corruption. 28 You have made known to Me the paths of life; You will make Me full of gladness with Your presence."* **29** "Brothers, I may say to you with confidence about the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. **30** Being therefore a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would set one of his descendants on his throne, **31** he foresaw and spoke about the resurrection of the Christ, that He was not abandoned to Hades, nor did His flesh see corruption. **32** This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses.

Acts 13:26-39 (ESV)

26 Brothers, sons of the family of Abraham, and those among you who fear God, to us has been sent the message of this salvation. **27** For those who live in Jerusalem and their rulers, because they did not recognize Him nor understand the utterances of the prophets, which are read every Sabbath, fulfilled them by condemning Him. **28** And though they found in Him no guilt worthy of death, they asked Pilate to have Him executed. **29** And when they had carried out all that was written of Him, they took Him down from the tree and laid Him in a tomb. **30** But God raised Him from the dead, **31** and for many days He appeared to those who had come up with Him from Galilee to Jerusalem, who are now His witnesses to the people. **32** And we bring you the good news that what God promised to the fathers, **33** this He has fulfilled to us their children by raising Jesus, as also it is written in the second Psalm, (*Psalm 13:33*) *"You are My Son, today I have begotten You."* **34** And as for the fact that He raised Him from the dead, no more to return to corruption, He has spoken in this way, (*Isaiah 55:3*) *"I will give you the holy and sure blessings of David."* **35** Therefore He says also in another psalm, (*Psalm 16:10*) *"You will not let your Holy One see corruption."* **36** For David, after he had served the purpose of God in his own generation, fell asleep and was laid with

his fathers and saw corruption, **37** but He Whom God raised up did not see corruption. **38** Let it be known to you therefore, brothers, that through this Man forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you, **39** and by Him everyone who believes is freed from everything from which you could not be freed by the law of Moses.

Christ the Lord is Risen Today

By Charles Wesley, Circa 1739. Music by Lyra Davidson.

Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!
Earth and heaven in chorus say, Alleluia!
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!
Sing, ye heavens, and earth reply, Alleluia!

Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia!
Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!
Death in vain forbids Him rise, Alleluia!
Christ has opened paradise, Alleluia!

Lives again our glorious King, Alleluia!
Where, O death, is now thy sting? Alleluia!
Once He died our souls to save, Alleluia!
Where's thy victory, boasting grave? Alleluia!

Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia!
Following our exalted Head, Alleluia!
Made like Him, like Him we rise, Alleluia!
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!

Hail the Lord of earth and heaven, Alleluia!
Praise to Thee by both be given, Alleluia!
Thee we greet triumphant now, Alleluia!
Hail the Resurrection, thou, Alleluia!

King of glory, soul of bliss, Alleluia!
Everlasting life is this, Alleluia!
Thee to know, thy power to prove, Alleluia!
Thus to sing, and thus to love, Alleluia!

- Charles Wesley, the son of Samuel Wesley, was born at Epworth, Dec. 18, 1707. He was educated at Westminster School and afterwards at Christ Church, Oxford, where he graduated M.A. in 1735. For many years he engaged with his brother, John Wesley, in preaching the Gospel. He died March 29, 1788. To Charles Wesley has been justly assigned the appellation of the "*Bard of Methodism*."

Quote by Charles H. Spurgeon

"Come, see the place where the Lord lay," with joy and gladness. He does not lie there now. Weep, when ye see the tomb of Christ, but rejoice because it is empty. Thy sin slew Him, but His divinity raised Him up. Thy guilt hath murdered Him, but His righteousness hath restored Him. Oh! He hath burst the bonds of death, He hath ungirt the cerements of the tomb, and hath come out more than conqueror, crushing death beneath His feet. Rejoice, O Christian, for He is not there--He is risen!"

Quote by D.L. Moody

"The resurrection is the keystone of the arch on which our faith is supported. If Christ has not risen, we must impeach all those witnesses for lying. If Christ has not risen, we have no proof that the crucifixion of Jesus differed from that of the two thieves who suffered with Him. If Christ has not risen, it is impossible to believe His atoning death was accepted."

Quote by Erling C. Olsen

"Whoever reads the New Testament seriously, or gives thought to the impact which the apostles made upon their generation, must acknowledge that one outstanding historic event alone spurred that small band of 11 ordinary men to an amazing task of evangelization in their generation. Defying every obstacle, loss of home, persecution, even death itself, they evidenced the supreme relevance in their ministry of the resurrection of Jesus Christ."

Quote by Charles Stanley on Jesus' Resurrection

"There is one event in history that is unparalleled in its effect upon the world—the resurrection of Christ. Nothing like this had ever happened before, and nothing since has equaled it. When Jesus rose from the grave, the impact was felt immediately and has continued to reverberate throughout the world. This event shook religions, cultures, and governments, and individuals, too, as one by one, believers have been transformed by Christ's resurrection power."

- To read more, go to: <https://www.intouch.org/watch/the-stunning-impact-of-christs-resurrection>

Quote by Bill Bright on Jesus' Resurrection

"Every day more and more people are taking a look--for some, a 2nd one--at the historical person of Jesus of Nazareth. So why do His life and teachings still generate such interest today? To begin with, everything about Him was unique: The prophecies of His coming. His birth. His life. His teachings. His miracles. His death. And especially His resurrection. It is history's most significant event. The validity of Jesus' claims about Himself rests on the Resurrection--whether He rose from the dead or stayed in the grave. Many skeptics say that to believe in a risen Christ is nothing more than a blind leap of faith with little or no basis in truth. When confronted with the facts, however, those who are intellectually honest have been forced to admit that the Resurrection is an historical event based on irrefutable proofs. On my spiritual journey from agnosticism to faith in Christ, I, like many people, had a problem with the Resurrection. But my personal study brought me to a firm conviction that a bodily resurrection is the only explanation for Christ's empty tomb."

- To read more, go to: <https://www.cru.org/how-to-know-god/did-jesus-christ-really-rise-from-the-dead.html>

Quote by Adrian Rogers

"The resurrection is not merely important to the historic Christian faith; without it, there would be no Christianity. It is the singular doctrine that elevates Christianity above all other world religions."

Quote by Billy Graham

"The entire plan for the future has its key in the resurrection."

Quote by Sam Morris

"The tomb of Christ is famous because of what it DOES NOT CONTAIN."

Quote by John Piper

"The Bible says He was raised not just after the blood-shedding, but by it. This means that what the death of Christ accomplished was so full and so perfect that the resurrection was the reward and vindication of Christ's achievement in death."

- John Piper, *The Passion of Jesus Christ*.

Quote by Tim Keller

"If Jesus rose from the dead, then you have to accept all that He said; if He didn't rise from the dead, then why worry about any of what He said? The issue on which everything hangs is not whether or not you like His teaching but whether or not He rose from the dead."

- Tim Keller, *The Reason for God: Belief in an Age of Skepticism*.

Quote by Josh McDowell

"No matter how devastating our struggles, disappointments, and troubles are, they are only temporary. No matter what happens to you, no matter the depth of tragedy or pain you face, no matter how death stalks you and your loved ones, the Resurrection promises you a future of immeasurable good."

Quote by Charles Swindoll

"The devil, darkness, and death may swagger and boast, the pangs of life will sting for a while longer, but don't worry; the forces of evil are breathing their last. Not to worry...He's risen!"

Quote by C.S. Lewis

"The Resurrection is the central theme in every Christian sermon reports in the Acts. The Resurrection, and its consequences were the "gospel" or good news which the Christian brought: what we call the 'gospels,' the narratives of Our Lord's life and death, were composed later for the benefit of those who had already accepted the gospel. They were in no sense the basis of Christianity: they were written for those already converted. The miracles of the Resurrection, and the theology of that miracle, comes first: the biography comes later as a comment on it. Nothing could be more unhistorical than to pick out selected sayings of Christ from the gospels and to regard those as the datum and the rest of the New Testament as a construction upon it. The first fact in the

history of Christendom is a number of people who say they have seen the Resurrection."

- C.S. Lewis, *Miracles*, p.p. 143-144.

Quote by John MacArthur

"The truth of the resurrection gives life to every other area of gospel truth. The resurrection is the pivot on which all of Christianity turns and without which none of the other truths would much matter. Without the resurrection, Christianity would be so much wishful thinking, taking its place alongside all other human philosophy and religious speculation."

Quote by Charles Colson

"I know the resurrection is a fact, and Watergate proved it to me. How? Because 12 men testified they had seen Jesus raised from the dead, then they proclaimed that truth for 40 years, never once denying it. Every one was beaten, tortured, stoned and put in prison. They would not have endured that if it weren't true. Watergate embroiled 12 of the most powerful men in the world--and they couldn't keep a lie for three weeks. You're telling me 12 apostles could keep a lie for 40 years? Absolutely impossible."

- Charles Colson was Special Counsel to President Nixon during the Watergate Scandal. He served time in federal prison for obstruction of justice. He became a Christian in 1973, founded *Prison Fellowship*, *BreakPoint*, and the author of 30 books. In 1993 he was awarded the *Templeton Prize for Progress in Religion*. He died in 2012.

Quote by C.S. Lewis

"If the truth is that after there comes a negatively spiritual life, an eternity of mystical experience, what more misleading way of communicating it could possibly be found than the appearance of a human form which eats boiled fish? Again, on such a view, the body would really be a hallucination. And any theory of hallucination breaks down on the fact (and if it is invention, it is the oldest invention that ever entered the mind of man) that on three separate occasions this hallucination was not immediately recognized as Jesus."

- C.S. Lewis, *Miracles*.

Quote by Lee Strobel

"I went to a psychologist friend and said if 500 people claimed to see Jesus after He died, it was just a hallucination. He said hallucinations are an individual event. If 500 people have the same hallucination, that's a bigger miracle than the resurrection."

Quote by Peter Marshall

"No tabloid will ever print the startling news that the mummified body of Jesus of Nazareth has been discovered in old Jerusalem. Christians have no carefully embalmed body enclosed in a glass case to worship. Thank God, we have an empty tomb. The glorious fact that the empty tomb proclaims to us is that life for us does not stop when death comes. Death is not a wall, but a door."

Jesus Swooned But Didn't Die?

By A. Todd Coget

One lady wrote in to a question and answer forum: "Dear Sirs, Our preacher said on Easter, that Jesus just swooned on the cross and that the disciples nursed Him back to health. What do you think? Sincerely, Bewildered." Then came the answer: "Dear Bewildered, Beat your preacher with a cat-of-nine-tails with 39 heavy strokes, nail him to a cross; hang him in the sun for six hours; run a spear thru his side...put him in an airless tomb for 36 hours and see what happens. Sincerely, Charles."

Quote by Pheme Perkins

"Ghosts, apparitions, and various psychological hallucinations may do a lot of things, but they don't fire up the charcoal grill and cook fish for breakfast."

Jesus' Appearances After His Resurrection

Student's Life Application Study Bible

The truth of Christianity rests heavily on the Resurrection. If Jesus rose from the grave, who saw Him? How trustworthy were the witnesses? Those who claimed to have seen the risen Jesus went on to turn the world upside down. Most of them also died for being followers of Christ. People rarely die for halfhearted belief. These are people who saw Jesus risen from the grave:

Mary Magdalene:	Mark 16:9-11; John 20:10-18
The other women at the tomb:	Matthew 28:8-10
Peter in Jerusalem:	Luke 24:34; 1 Corinthians 15:5
The two travelers on the road:	Mark 16:12-13; Luke 24:13-35
Ten disciples behind closed doors:	Mark 16:14; Luke 24:36-43; John 20:19-25
All the disciples, with Thomas (excluding Judas Iscariot):	John 20:26-31; 1 Corinthians 15:5
Seven disciples while fishing:	John 21:1-14
Eleven disciples on the mountain:	Matthew 28:16-20
A crowd of more than five hundred:	1 Corinthians 15:6
Jesus' brother James:	1 Corinthians 15:7
Those who watched Jesus ascend into heaven:	Luke 24:44-49; Acts 1:3-8

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