



If Jesus' tomb was not empty on that Sunday morning, then nothing matters.

If Jesus' tomb was empty on that Sunday morning, then nothing else matters.

**1 Cor 15:12-20** Now if Christ is preached that He has been raised from the dead, how do some among you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? <sup>13</sup>But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ is not risen. <sup>14</sup>And if Christ is not risen, then our preaching is empty and your faith is also empty. <sup>15</sup>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. <sup>16</sup>For if the dead do not rise, then Christ is not risen. <sup>17</sup>And if Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins! <sup>18</sup>Then also those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. <sup>19</sup>If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable. <sup>20</sup>But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

## 1. The great Controversy:

“Is Jesus alive or not?”

**1 Cor 15:12-13** Now if Christ is preached that He has been raised from the dead, how do some among you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? <sup>13</sup>But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ is not risen.

## 2. The great Consequences

If Jesus is not alive ...

- Our preaching is meaningless and our faith is meaningless

1 Cor 15:14 And if Christ is not risen, then our preaching is empty and your faith is also empty.

- **We are false witnesses**

**1 Cor 15:15** 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.

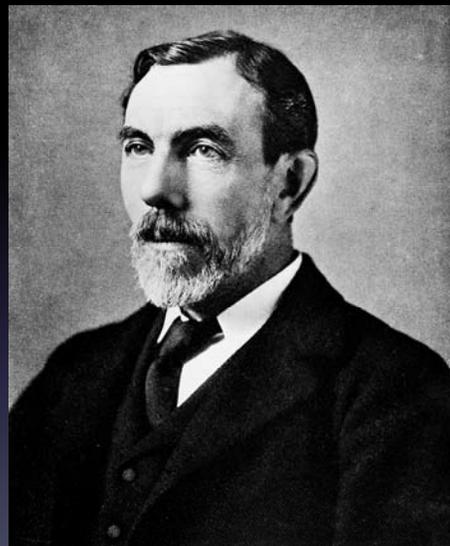
- **We are not forgiven and those who have died are lost forever**

**1 Cor 15:17** And if Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins! <sup>18</sup>Then also those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished.

- We are miserable and hopeless people indeed

1 Cor 15:19 If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable.

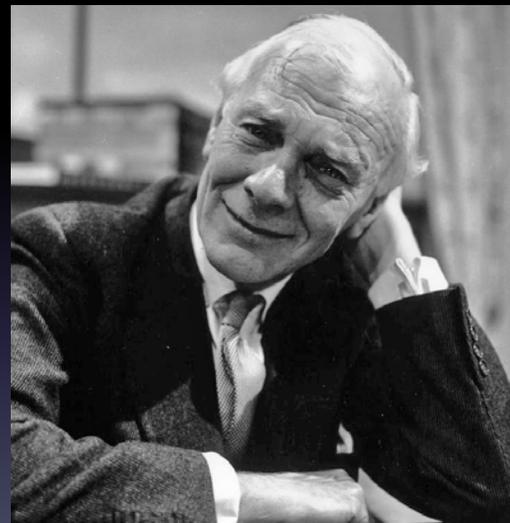
Sir William Mitchell Ramsay was a highly respected archaeologist from Scotland. He set out to prove the historical inaccuracies of the book of Acts. He believed Acts was the most ridiculous of all in the New Testament. He spent 15 yrs. researching and digging only to end up becoming convinced of the incredible accuracy of the book and converted to Christianity. He called Luke one of the greatest historians to ever live

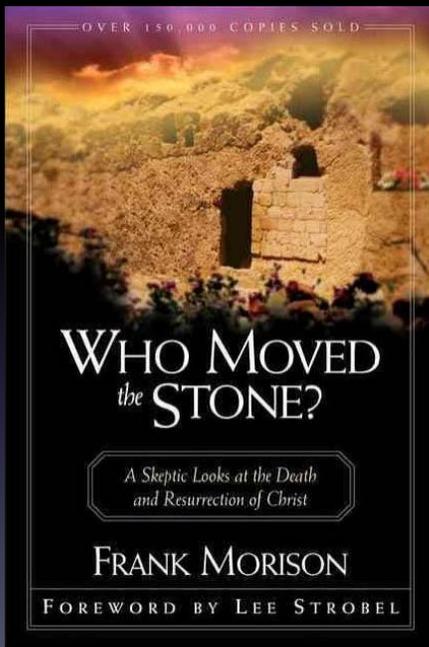




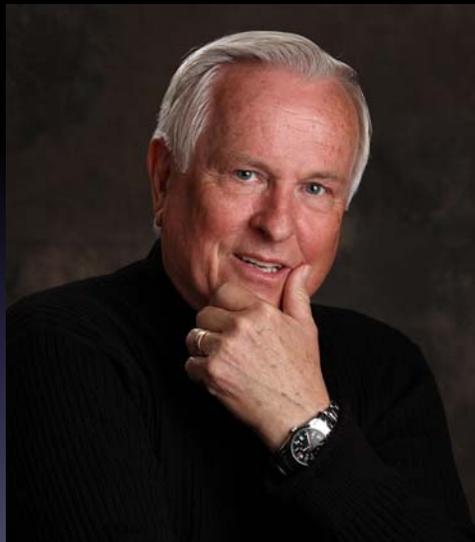
C. S. Lewis was an Oxford educator and accomplished writer who became an atheist as a young man. Influenced by arguments made by Christian thinkers, Lewis, claimed he "...came into Christianity kicking and screaming." He died as a committed follower of Christ

Malcolm Muggeridge was a British journalist, author, satirist, media personality, soldier, and spy. As a professed agnostic for most of his life, Muggeridge became a Christian, and in 1969 published several well-received books on the Christian faith.





Frank Morison was an English journalist and author who set out to disprove the myth of Christianity over 80 years ago. His book, *Who moved the stone?*, has become a classic and has led many people to Christ.



Josh McDowell set out to disprove the Christian faith as a college student only to arrive, after many months of study, at the conclusion that Jesus Christ must have been who He claimed to be.

“I decided to write a book that would make an intellectual joke of Christianity. I left the university and traveled throughout the United States and Europe to gather evidence to prove that Christianity is a sham. I returned to the United States and to the university, but I couldn’t sleep at night. I would go to bed at ten o’clock and lie awake until four in the morning, trying to refute the overwhelming evidence I was accumulating that Jesus Christ was God’s Son.

I began to realize that I was being intellectually dishonest. My mind told me that the claims of Christ were indeed true, but my will was being pulled another direction. I had placed so much emphasis on finding the truth, but I wasn’t willing to follow it once I saw it. I began to sense Christ’s personal challenge to me.

I knew I had to resolve this inner conflict because it was driving me crazy. I had always considered myself an open-minded person, so I decided to put Christ’s claims to the supreme test. One night at my home in Union City, Michigan, at the end of my second year at the university, I became a Christian.

After trying to shatter the historicity and validity of the Scripture, I came to the conclusion that it is historically trustworthy. If one discards the Bible as being unreliable, then one must discard almost all literature of antiquity.”

Josh McDowell, “He Changed My Life,” *The New Evidence That Demands a Verdict*, Thomas Nelson, 1999, pp. xxv.

Lee Strobel was for many years a hard-nosed journalist and atheist. As he set out to confirm justification for his atheism, he unexpectedly, found that the evidence he encountered led him instead to the Christian faith. He is now a pastor, producer, and author of several very successful books – including the excellent “The Case for” series that presents an ironclad defense of the Christian faith.



Dr. Hugh Ross was the youngest person ever to serve as director of observations for Vancouver's Royal Astronomical Society. After testing the scientific and historical data, Dr. Ross became convinced that the Bible is truly the Word of God and is now a follower of Christ.

Andre Kole was a giant in the world of magic, creating tricks for the greatest magicians in the world including making the statue of liberty disappear for David Copperfield. He was commissioned to study the miracles of the bible to expose them as magic tricks and thus disprove its legitimacy. Through this investigation, Kole became a Christian and has since dedicated himself to spreading the Gospel via the art of magic, performing in more countries than any other magician in history.



Francis S. Collins M.D. Ph.D. is a physician-geneticist, famous for his landmark discoveries of disease genes and his leadership of the Human Genome Project. An atheist at the completion of graduate school, Collins later became a believer as a result of his philosophical and scientific studies.

### 3. The great Conclusion

1 Cor 15:20 But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.



**Mt 27:22** Pilate said to them, “What then shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?”

They all said to him, “Let Him be crucified!”