

TODAY'S ORDER OF WORSHIP

Welcome by: Don Taylor /Opening Prayer by: David Smith

Morning Assembly Song Leader: Danny Balch

#346 He Lives

#344 Low In the Grace He Lay

Scripture Reading by: Jackson Burgess

#214 Have You Seen Jesus, My Lord

#180 Jesus Is Lord

Lord's Supper and Contribution

#300 Praise Him! Praise Him!

Sermon: "The Resurrection of the Son of God"

1 Corinthians 15:3-4

#947 Jesus Is Tenderly Calling

#794 Unto Thee, O Lord

Closing Prayer by: Andre Jones

Welcome by: Don Taylor

Evening Assembly Song Leader: Danny Balch

#716 Sing to Me of Heaven

#548 The Lily of the Valley

Scripture Reading: Tristan Strickhausen

Prayer by: Daniel Balch

#611 Heavenly Sunlight

Sermon: "Worship in Song"

1 Corinthians 14:15

#539 Higher Ground

#634 We'll Work Till Jesus Comes

Closing Prayer by: David Warren

Other Opportunities For Spiritual Growth

Sunday: 9:00am — Bible Study Classes, 10:00am — Worship, 6:00pm — Worship

Wednesday: 10:00am — Ladies Bible Class, 7:00pm — Bible Study Classes

April 1, 2018

"Stand Firm in...Liberty"

Galatians 5:1

Eyewitnesses to the Resurrection

It is that season of the year when we are bound to encounter an article or two expressing incredulity about the resurrection of Jesus: that sort of unsophisticated belief might have been acceptable 2,000 years ago, but surely Christians in our enlightened 21st century don't still believe *that*, do they? Of course, ancient people knew the dead did not simply come back to life. That is precisely what made Jesus so remarkable.

I take it for granted that, if you are reading this bulletin, you believe in the resurrection. Nevertheless, it is good to try to think like a skeptic from time to time in order to sharpen our minds and deepen our faith. Let's consider just one line of evidence for the resurrection on strict historical grounds.

The Gospel Accounts

Our primary sources for the life of Jesus are the four gospel accounts. Critical scholars reject these as viable witnesses to the resurrection, however, for a few reasons. One is their "late" date: most place their writing in the latter third of the 1st century, between 40 and 70 years after the death of Jesus. Another is the dubious nature of their eyewitness testimony. All of the documents are originally anonymous, the argument runs, so we cannot trust that the authors had access to reliable information.

It is worth noting here that this timespan is hardly lengthy, either by ancient or modern standards. The major accounts we have of the life of Augustus, for example, are written more than a century after his death, yet historians rightly use them as sources for his life. Nor would you consider an eyewitness account of, say, Vietnam to be inherently unreliable today simply because it is 50 years in the past. Furthermore, anonymity was commonplace in ancient historical writing. To dismiss a source on those grounds would eliminate virtually all ancient documents.

Nevertheless, for the sake of argument, let's stipulate to these conditions and withdraw the gospel accounts from evidence. What remains?

Paul's Letters

Unlike the gospel accounts, we 1) know the author of these documents and 2) can date them with relative accuracy. The principal text about the resurrection of Jesus is in **1 Corinthians 15**. Paul relates not only that Christ *was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures*, but also enumerates several post-resurrection appearances he made, including to Peter and James (**15:4ff**).

Our Sick

Dana Wiggins is taking chemo treatments.
Doris Trahan is taking radiation treatments.
Frances Petree is in Fall Creek Rehab, room 602 in Humble.
Morgan Butler has been in the hospital and was released on Wednesday.

Upcoming Activities

Deacons meet today at 4:45 pm.
 Elders, Deacons, Minister meet Monday, April 2nd at 7:00 pm.
 We are having a Houston Food Bank truck on Tuesday, April 3rd at 9:00 am.

Communion Preparation: Marsha LaFour
 Nursery Attendants: Lynette Ward, Debra Faneros
 Children's Bible Hour: Susan McCain
 Teen Helpers:

Communion Preparation for Sunday, Apr. 8th: Sharon Lartigue
 Nursery Attendants for Sunday, Apr. 8th: Raven & Sharon Lartigue
 Children's Bible Hour for Sunday, Apr. 8th: Ashley Balch

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Paul also notes that he personally taught this in Corinth. We know that Paul was in Corinth in AD 50 (cf. **Acts 18**). So we are already to within 20 years of the resurrection.

But where did Paul hear about the resurrection in the first place? He says *I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received*, wording that indicates a tradition that was handed down to him (**15:3**). We have a probable answer to that in **Galatians 1**. Three years after his conversion, Paul went to Jerusalem, where he conferred with Peter for 15 days (**1:18**). The only other church leader he saw at that time was James (**1:19**).

What could they have been talking about during that time other than the gospel Paul preached (**1 Cor 15:1**)? And is it mere coincidence that the only two individuals he specifically mentioned as seeing the resurrected Lord are *also* the only two he consulted with? I think not. Paul received the tradition about Jesus' resurrection appearances from Peter and James 3 years after his conversion – that is, within about half a dozen years of Jesus' death.

Finally, we note that this material Paul received goes back earlier still. It came directly from men who claimed to have seen the risen Lord. The underlying content about the resurrection goes all the way back to the very beginning.

Does this prove that the resurrection occurred? Not in the sense of a mathematical proof. But it counters the claims of skeptics that the resurrection is a later legend tacked on to the story of Jesus. There is clear evidence not only that he died, but, for his earliest followers, *something* happened that caused them to believe he was raised from the dead.

How do we account for that?

Bryant Perkins

Continued Prayers

(Need cards, phone calls & visits)

Gwen Pettit, James Scott, Gary Nielsen, Harold Cryer, Gerald Lucy, Steve Ward, Teresa McKewen, Jackie David, Patricia Padon, Frank & Tina Garcia, Ronnie Davis, Bill Lunceford, Phillip Cottle, Eric Davis, J. P. Williams, Stacie Copeland, Wayne Howser, Jo Ella McKewen

Shut Ins

(Need cards, phone calls & visits)

Jim Smith, Pauline Taylor, Winona Angelle, Pat Henley, Myrtle Sheffield, Ronnie Rubit, Ouida Cauthorn, Joe Leonard

Our Missionaries

Aaron & Marisa Bailey in Mwanza, Africa,
 Rod Kyle in the South Pacific

Primetimers will be going to The Ranch Hand Café on Tuesday, April 10th at 4:45 pm. A sign up sheet is on the bulletin board.

We will be having a VBS meeting immediately after morning service on Sunday, April 8th. For more information see Kristi Burgess.

Plastic Bags

The Food Bank is in need of plastic grocery bags. A barrel is in the foyer.

<u>Elders</u>	<u>Deacons</u>	<u>Minister</u>
Ken Coleman	Daniel Balch	Bryant Perkins
Bob Parker	Danny Balch	
Bobby Rader	Shannon Smith	
Don Taylor	Phillip Strickhausen	
Robert Ward		

“Stand Firm in...Liberty”

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