

Christology: The Person and Work of Christ

Lesson 9: The Work of Christ – Crucifixion and Resurrection

Statement of Belief: Jesus Christ, the Son of God and Second Person of the Trinity, was crucified on a Roman cross, died a real death, was buried, and rose from the grave after three days.

Question #1: Is there biblical evidence for the Crucifixion?

- Synoptic Gospels (dated before AD 70)
 - Matthew 20:17-19; 27:33-35
 - Mark 10:32b-34; 15:22-25
 - Luke 18:31-33
- Gospel of John (dated in the AD 90s)
 - John 12:32-33; 18:31-32; 19:16b-18, 32-34
- Evidence from prophecy
 - Psalm 22:14-18
 - Isaiah 53:3-5
 - Zechariah 12:10

Question #2: Is there extra-biblical evidence for the Crucifixion?

- Josephus (AD 37-100; Jewish historian)
- Jewish Talmud
- Thallus (Palestinian historian writing about AD 52)
- Cornelius Tacitus (AD 56-c.121; Roman governor and historian)
- Mara bar Serapion (some time after AD 73)
- Phlegon (c. AD 2nd century; Greek historian and freedman)
- Justin Martyr (2nd century AD)

Michael Licona: “[T]his first fact is as solid as anything in ancient history: Jesus was crucified and died as a result. The scholarly consensus—again, even among those who are skeptical toward the resurrection—is absolutely overwhelming. To deny it would be to take a marginal position that would get you laughed out of the academic world.”

Question #3: Is there biblical evidence for the resurrection?

- Matthew 28:1-20
- Mark 16:1-8 (questionable reliability)
- Luke 24:1-53
- John 20:1-21:25

Question #4: How did the Father and Son participate in the resurrection?

- God the Father raised the Son
 - Acts 2:24
 - Romans 6:4
 - 1 Corinthians 6:14
 - Galatians 1:1
 - Ephesians 1:20
- Jesus raised himself
 - John 10:17-18 (cf. 2:19-21)
 - John 11:25 (cf. Hebrews 7:16)

Question #5: What is the doctrinal significance of the resurrection?

- Christ's resurrection insures our regeneration
 - Romans 6:4, 11
 - Ephesians 2:5-6 (cf. Col. 3:1)
 - Philippians 3:10
 - 1 Peter 1:3
- Christ's resurrection insures our justification
 - Romans 4:25
- Christ's resurrection insures that we will receive perfect resurrection bodies
 - 1 Corinthians 6:14; 15:12-58
 - 2 Corinthians 4:14

Question #6: What is the ethical significance of the resurrection?

- Continue steadfastly in the work of the Lord
 - 1 Corinthians 15:58
- Focus on our future heavenly reward as our goal
 - 1 Corinthians 15:17-19
 - Colossians 3:1-4
- Stop yielding to sin in our lives
 - Romans 6:11-13