

July 18, 2018

Hard Questions – How do we know Christianity is true?

1 Cor 15:12-20

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“Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say, “There is no resurrection of the dead”?¹³ But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised;¹⁴ and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation is without foundation, and so is your faith.¹⁵ In addition, we are found to be false witnesses about God, because we have testified about God that He raised up Christ—whom He did not raise up if in fact the dead are not raised.¹⁶ For if the dead are not raised, Christ has not been raised.¹⁷ And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins.¹⁸ Therefore, those who have fallen asleep in Christ have also perished.¹⁹ If we have put our hope in Christ for this life only, we should be pitied more than anyone.²⁰ But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.” 1 Cor 15:12-20

1. Why is the Resurrection Crucial?

- A. The Resurrection is **necessary for Christ to be alive.** (vss. 13, 16)
- B. The Resurrection **gives meaning to the gospel.** (vs. 14a)
- C. The Resurrection **provides a basis for Christianity.** (vs. 14b)
- D. The Resurrection **gives meaning and worth to our faith.** (vss. 14, 17)
- E. The Resurrection **makes Christianity true.** (vs. 15)
- F. The Resurrection **delivers us from sin.** (vs. 17)
- G. The Resurrection **proves life after death.** (vs. 18)
- H. The Resurrection **provides the difference between hope and despair.** (vs.19)

2. What are some Historical Proofs of the Resurrection?

- A. His death was **confirmed** (Matthew 27:55)
- B. His tomb was **secured:** (Matthew 27:64) - the guards, seal and stone.
- C. His grave was empty (Matthew 28:4-6)

D. His post-resurrection appearances were numerous and varied (1 Corinthians 15:5-8).

3. Is there other circumstantial evidence pointing to the Resurrection?

A. The soldiers left the **tomb unguarded** (Matthew 28:11)

B. Jesus' **grave wrappings** were found '**in their folds**' (John 20:6-7)

C. The first **witnesses were women** (Luke 24:11)

D. **Something dramatic happened in Jerusalem** during this time (Acts 2:41)

E. **Shift of worship to Sunday** (Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 16:1-2)

F. Symbolism of **baptism and communion**.

G. **Dramatic conversions** from enemies to missionaries.

H. The episode was **prophesied by Jesus** on multiple occasions (Matthew 16:21, 17:22; Mark 8:31; Luke 9:22, 43, 18:31-33)

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