

EYEWITNESSES
JOHN 20:11-12 / FEB. 14, 2018 / WED.

I. EYEWITNESSES TO THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS CHRIST.

- A. There are eleven appearances of Jesus listed in the New Testament.
1. TO MARY MAGDALENE.
 2. TO CERTAIN WOMEN AS THEY RETURNED TO THE SELPUCHRE.
 3. TO PETER.
 4. TO TWO DISCIPLES ON THE ROAD TO EMMAUS.
 5. TO 10 APOSTLES (THOMAS BEING ABSENT).
 6. TO ALL 11 APOSTLES ONE WEEK LATER (INCLUDING THOMAS).
 7. TO SEVERAL DISCIPLES AT THE SEA OF GALILEE.
 8. TO THE APOSTLES AND ABOUT 500 BRETHREN AT ONCE ON AN APPOINTED MOUNTAIN IN GALILEE
 9. TO JAMES.
 10. TO THE APOSTLES AT JERUSALEM IMMEDIATELY BEFORE THE ASCENSION .
 11. TO SAUL OF TARSUS.
- B. Some of these appearances were to individuals, however several involved more than one person and even groups of people.
- C. Can these so-called eyewitnesses be trusted and believed?

II. EVIDENCE OF THE TRUSTWORTHINESS OF THESE EYEWITNESSES.

- A. First we can trust the nature of their testimony.
1. When Jesus' resurrection was first reported to the disciples by the women they refused to believe second-hand testimony—Mk. 16:11.
 2. For forty days, however, they were presented with empirical or personal evidence of Jesus' resurrection—Acts 1:3.

- B. Second, we can trust the transformation of their lives.
1. Prior to seeing the resurrected Jesus they deserted him at his arrest.
 - a. Peter even denied knowing Jesus three times.
 - b. They were absent from Jesus' crucifixion with the exception of John.
 - c. They hid behind closed doors for fear they might be arrested.
 2. But after seeing the resurrected Christ they opened praise him in the temple—Luke 24:52-53.
 3. They publically proclaimed Jesus' resurrection before the Sanhedrin—Acts 5:41-42.
- C. We can trust them because of the price they paid. The apostles endured great suffering because of their eyewitness testimony—1 Cor. 4:9-13.