

# SEEING JESUS CHANGES EVERYTHING

## *Seeing Resurrection Evidence Changes Everything*

Pastor Derwin L. Gray – March 12, 2017

- Open in prayer and then read Luke 24:13-35.
- Pastor Derwin walked the TC Family through evidences of the resurrection. Why is the physical, bodily resurrection of Jesus important to followers of Jesus? Read 1 Corinthians 15:4.

### **Evidence of Jesus' Resurrection: Testimony of...**

#### 1. Unbelievers

- "At this time there was a wise man who was called Jesus. And His conduct was good, and he was known to be virtuous. And many people from among the Jews and the other nations became His disciples. Pilate condemned Him to be crucified and to die. And those who had become His disciples did not abandon His discipleship. They reported that He had appeared to them after His crucifixion and that He was alive; accordingly, He was perhaps the Messiah concerning whom the prophets have recounted wonders." Flavius Josephus, 37-100, a first-century Roman-Jewish scholar, historian

- Discuss.

#### 2. The Early Church

- "Consequently, to get rid of the report, Nero fastened the guilt and inflicted the most exquisite tortures of a class hated for their abominations, called Christians by the populace. Christus, from whom the name had its origin, suffered the extreme penalty during the reign of Tiberius at the hands of one of our procurators, Pontius Pilatus, and a most mischievous superstition, thus checked for the moment, again broke out not only in Judea, the first source of the evil, but even in Rome, where all things hideous and shameful from every part of the world find their center and become popular." [Annals 15.44], Geisler, N. L. (1999). Jesus, Non-Christian Sources. In Baker Encyclopedia of Christian Apologetics (p. 381). Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books.

- "There were thousands of Christians before a line of the NT was ever written. Why? Because Christianity did not originate from a series of written documents we call the NT; Christianity originated from an historical event—the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. In other words, the NT writers did not create the Resurrection; the Resurrection created the NT writers! Why would they invent a Resurrected Jesus? All the NT writers, with the exception of Luke, were Jews who already thought they were God's chosen people. They had no motive to invent a Resurrected Jesus. By saying Jesus was Resurrected, they got kicked out of the synagogue and then beaten, tortured and killed. That's not a list of perks!" Dr. Frank Turek (Frank Turek is a Christian apologist, author, public speaker and radio host. He is the author of two books, *Correct, Not Politically Correct* and *Stealing from God*, and co-author of two more with Dr. Norman Geisler.)

- Discuss.

#### 3. Scriptures

- One of the most uninformed, ignorant statements a person can make is that the Bible was not accurately preserved through history.

- Dead Sea Scrolls (Old Testament)

"Herein lies its chief importance, supporting the fidelity of the Masoretic tradition." Millar Burrows (Millar Burrows was an American biblical scholar, a leading authority on the Dead Sea scrolls and professor emeritus at Yale Divinity School.)

- New Testament Manuscripts

"The New Testament is about 99.5 percent accurate." Bruce Metzger (American Biblical Scholar, Bible translator and textual critic who was a longtime professor at Princeton Theological Seminary and Bible editor who served on the board of the American Bible Society and United Bible Societies. He was a scholar of Greek, New Testament, and New Testament textual criticism, and wrote prolifically on these subjects. Metzger is widely considered one of the most influential New Testament scholars of the 20th century.)

- Discuss.

4. Mary Magdalene -- Read John 20:10-18

- "It is an unmistakable sign of the authenticity of the record that, in a male dominated culture, Jesus first appeared to a woman. In the first-century Jewish culture, a writer inventing a resurrection account would never have taken this approach. A woman's testimony was not even accepted in court. Anyone faking the record would have Jesus appear first to one or more of his twelve disciples, probably a prominent one such as Peter. Instead, Jesus' first post-resurrection appearance was to Mary Magdalene. During this appearance there were unmistakable proofs of the visibility, materiality, and identity of the resurrection body." Geisler, N. L. (1999). Resurrection, Evidence For. In Baker Encyclopedia of Christian Apologetics (p. 651). Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books.

- Discuss.

5. Peter -- Read John 21:18-19

- The Apostle Peter went from denying Jesus to dying for Jesus. Why? Because of the resurrection of Jesus.

- Discuss.

6. James -- Read John 7:5

- James, the brother of Jesus, went from thinking Jesus was out of His mind to becoming one of the leaders of the early church. He died being stoned to death representing Jesus and His new movement. Why? Because he witnessed the resurrection of Jesus.

- Discuss.

7. Paul -- Read Galatians 1:23-24

- The Apostle Paul went from trying to destroy Jesus' church to building the church. Why? Because he experienced the risen Savior.

- Discuss.

8. "There are more documents, more eyewitnesses, and more corroborative evidence [for the resurrection] than for any other historical event of ancient history." Norm Geisler (Dr. Norman Geisler is a Christian systematic theologian, philosopher, and apologist. He is the co-founder of two non-denominational Evangelical seminaries (Veritas Evangelical Seminary and Southern Evangelical Seminary). He holds a Ph.D. in philosophy from Loyola University and is well known for his scholarly contributions to the subjects of classical Christian apologetics, systematic theology, the history of philosophy, philosophy of religion, the creationism and evolution debate, Calvinism, Roman Catholicism, biblical inerrancy, Bible difficulties, ethics, and more. He is the author, coauthor, or editor of over 90 books and hundreds of articles.)

- Discuss.

9. Jesus -- Read John 2:19-22.

- Discuss.

10. You -- Read Romans 8:11

- How has the risen Messiah transformed your life?