

## Everything Depends on the Resurrection – *Everything!*

For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, <sup>5</sup> and that He appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. After that He appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time... (1 Corinthians 15:3-6).

But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who are asleep. (1Corinthians 15:20).

If Jesus was not resurrected from the dead, then the Apostles who died for Him, died for what they knew was a hoax! But it wasn't.

If Jesus didn't rise from the dead, then all 500 people who saw Him alive *after* He was crucified were lying. But they weren't.

If Jesus was not dead and just fainted on the cross, then the Roman soldiers who were professional executioners, and those who handled His body after the cross would have handled a warm, limp body, not a cold stiff one. But they didn't.

Pilate was worried that Jesus might not be dead and called the Centurion in charge of the execution to make sure He was dead before he granted Joseph's request to take the body, (Mark 15:44, 45).

Eye witness testimony from the Jews, eyewitness testimony from the Roman soldiers, eyewitness testimony from His followers, all agreed Jesus was dead, really dead. Then He was alive!

And Jesus promised His followers that He would be preparing a place in heaven for us to live with Him eternally, in precious joy and happy fellowship. Without a resurrected Jesus, Christians are just another group of deluded philosophers. With the real resurrection of Jesus, we are heaven-bound believers walking "in His steps," (1 Peter 2:21) so that, as He, Himself said, "that where I am, there you may be also, (John 14:3). Jesus loves us so much that He died on the cross to take *our* punishment for *our* sins, just so He could have us living with Him forever in His heaven!

Do you believe the evidence? Because we do, we celebrate His resurrection every first day of the week, just as the Christians did in the first century. In God's plan, every Sunday is what the world calls "Easter Sunday."

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