



SOWING SEEDS for the *Kingdom*



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April 2025 HE IS RISEN, LET'S LOOK AT THE EVIDENCE!

Dearly Beloved in the Lord,

1 Corinthians 15:12-14 (KJV)

12 Now if Christ be preached that he rose from the dead, how say some among you that there is no resurrection of the dead?

13 But if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen:

14 And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain.

The Apostle Paul goes to Mars' Hill, where the philosophers are gathered there trying to consider all the gods, so worried that if they miss one they have a monument to the "Unknown god." And Paul tells them:

Acts 17:22-23 (KJV)

22 Then Paul stood in the midst of Mars' hill, and said, Ye men of Athens, I perceive that in all things ye are too superstitious.

23 For as I passed by, and beheld your devotions, I found an altar with this inscription, TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Whom therefore ye ignorantly worship, him declare I unto you.

Then he goes on and preaches Christ, whom he said God ordained by the resurrection.

The very first message of the Church was the one Peter preached on the day of Pentecost when he said in Acts chapter two: "This Jesus whom you know....." And then he named the fact that they knew Him crucified; then he testified of that which they did not know, "This Jesus has God raised up of whom we all are witnesses", and he introduced that vindicating fact.

Paul says in one of his speeches:

1 Corinthians 15:4-6 (KJV)

⁴ And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:

⁵ And that he was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve:

⁶ After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep.

So, we can look for the **FACT** of history on which Christianity is based, namely:

JESUS CAME OUT OF THE TOMB!

Jesus made some remarkable statements about Himself, that if we would hear someone make some of His statements about Himself and apply them to themselves, we would probably call the men in the white coats to come and get them.

But, if someone said, "KILL ME AND IN THREE DAYS I'LL COME OUT OF THE TOMB AND SAIL OFF INTO THE BLUE."

And then three days later that same person comes out of the tomb and sailed off into the blue, I'd take another look at the one making the claims.

I don't need anything else as a basis for my faith; I don't need all the fancy philosophic Trinitarian doctrines.

This resurrected one, IF IT HAPPENED , is my starting point for a personal and real God!

In order to research anything, you have to get a foundation in facts.

Most people will argue a resurrection can't occur, and anybody who says it can must be lying or mentally deranged.

As an example, if you would ask me if I preached a particular message within an hour on a particular Sunday, you would have to assume that that Sunday came and went. That is not open to discussion. That fact is taken for granted.

You could argue whether I preached an hour or more but at least agree that I did preach.

You don't have to agree if it was good or bad but that I was there and my mouth moved and said things.

This is what is known as a “FRAME OF REFERENCE,” or WHAT IS TAKEN FOR GRANTED.

If someone says, “I don’t believe Pastor Dave was there.” The debate is over!

It is much easier to prove I was there than to prove how long I preached because you don’t know when I started, or what were the opening remarks. That is more debatable, but to prove whether I was here at all or not that is a little easier.

In this letter, I want to look at several points of theories that have been used to DISCREDIT or explain the belief of the disciples.

Theory #1. The disciples stole the body.

Theory #2. The Jewish leaders stole it.

Theory #3. The Roman leaders stole it.

Theory #4. The women went to the wrong tomb.

Theory #5. It was all hallucinations.

Theory #6. Resuscitation

Theory #7. The disciple lied.

Theory #8. IT’S ALL TRUE!

There is no such thing as a knowledgeable person that doesn’t have an opinion; no exposure to information or facts keeps you neutral.

Knowledge forces an opinion, and when you study the facts about Jesus there are only two options allowed.

Either the disciples lied or they honestly reported the truth.

Let’s look at the theories:

1. They stole the body: then the disciples lied.
2. The Jewish leaders stole the body; they wanted to disprove the resurrection, so why would they make the tomb empty?
3. Roman leaders took the body; with all the interactions the Jewish leaders had with the Romans, enabling them to get the crucifixion done they would have exposed that fact that the Roman government took the body.
4. Women went to the wrong tomb; it was a KNOWN ACCESSIBLE TOMB. The Jewish leaders interest would have taken them to the KNOWN TOMB, and all they had to explain the wrong tomb theory was go to the tomb where the body is...and that would have finished it.

5. Hallucinations; the empty tomb eliminates that, if it had been just hallucinations, there would have been a body in the tomb. Along with the fact that you have to somehow spirit the body away.
6. Resuscitation; Frankenstein coming out of the tomb does not quite measure up to the good Jesus that was preached. It might explain the empty tomb, but it does not explain the kind of Jesus that they had preached, it does not explain the Ascension...the disciples were still making it all up.

So, we have to conclude that there are only two options...two conclusions, because it boils down to the veracity of the witnesses.

In other words, these disciples made the story up to save face and the whole thing is a lie...or they are telling what they TRULY EXPERIENCED as honest men.

We come to the point of they either lied or were telling the truth. Were these disciples who were the witnesses, honest men telling what they saw, or conspirators who concocted a lie to save face?

Let's look at four reasons why I don't believe they were lying:

#1. **Cataclysmic change for the better on the part of the witnesses:** Peter was unstable, he fled in fear and denied Jesus, he was always in trouble. But, AFTER the resurrection he is the man that preaches to a mocking mob...he dies with courage requesting he be hung upside down because he is not worthy to die in the position of his Master. Look at John, self-centered to the extreme, one of the brothers called "sons of thunder," wanting to call fire down on those who opposed him. After the resurrection he became the APOSTLE OF LOVE. Then of course there was Thomas, consistently a doubter, a realist, questioning everything. But after seeing Jesus cried out, "My Lord and my God." Thomas went to the most philosophical area of the world...never wavering an instant in faith...a total change.

#2. **Indirect evidence:** women were thought incapable of being a credible witness. The disciples knew that so why would they present women as the first witnesses of the Resurrection? Liars would have avoided recording women witnesses knowing they wouldn't have been believed.

#3. **Paid a price:** You don't pay the price that these men paid to tell a lie. All of them, except John died a martyr's death: **Bartholomew** flayed to death with a whip in Armenia; **Thomas**, pierced with a Brahmin sword; **Peter**, crucified upside down, **Andrew**, crucified on St. Andrews cross (from which it gets its name); **Luke**, hanged by idolatrous priests; **Mark**, dragged to death in the streets of Alexandria. These men paid a price beyond human belief for their "LIE."

#4. **They died alone:** We can conceive of a group of individuals trying to save face, telling a story, having bet on the wrong man, crushed by His failure (as they would have viewed it) trying to resurrect Him with a lie. I can see where they staying together and group pressure holding together the consistencies of their lie, because they don't want to be the first one to break faith and rat on the others and collapse the whole thing.

Let's assume for a few moments that "A" "B" and "C" concocted this story. We don't have television, satellite, fax, or cell phones..."A" is in India, "B" is in Armenia, and "C" is in Rome. You have lost contact with each other. You can't pick up a phone and call anybody, nobody knows where you are...and since you are telling a lie and you really don't expect the generations forever to believe it...and YOU "B" in Armenia are being flayed to death literally...skinned with a whip, your skin peeled off of you...all you have to say is, "IT IS ALL A LIE, FORGIVE ME I'M LEAVING TOWN!"

"A" wouldn't have known it, and "C" wouldn't have known it and when you get together next time exchanging stories telling them, "I really tore them up in Armenia, I told the story and nobody could forget it the way I told it."

"A" and "C" would not know that you lied.

"A" is going to be pierced with a sword in India; you are never going to see "B" and "C" again...all you have to do to get the pressure off is to say, "It's a lie!"

"B" is off to Rome and you are a little more exposed than the other two and with your life at stake, all you have to say is "Sorry, maybe I dreamed it." And wiggle out and go to France or England.

Thomas Aquinas said, it is psychologically inconceivable that these men, separated, each one paying the supreme price for their story and each one dying ALONE, that some one of the group wouldn't break away from his fellows and say, "IT WASN'T TRUE!"

To DIE ALONE, not one shred of evidence surviving 2,000 years of hard-looking critics, you will never find one record anywhere on the face of this earth where any one of these men ever wavered unto their terrible death in telling this story. Therefore, we MUST come to the conclusion there is no way that these men were lying. They were telling what they **thought** and **experienced** and **saw** as truth.

IT IS TRUE....JESUS CAME OUT OF THE GRAVE!

Now we can truly comprehend what Christianity really is...if I can believe that Jesus Christ came through those grave clothes, through the rock and the door...molecular

displacement is nothing to Him...He can do it without creating an explosion. IT IS A TRUTH THAT ALL THINGS CONSIST IN HIM AND HE CAN CONTROL THEM!

Because of that, it should not be difficult to believe that the same substance of God, placed in Mary, came forth as Jesus of Nazareth through the Holy Spirit. God says He places that same God-Substance in us when we trust Him.

That is the TRUE born-again experience...a regeneration...a new creation that permeates our cell structure and is place in us as a gift from God when we connect by trusting His Word.

That is the genesis of all Christianity, properly seen, that is in us the hope of glory. It is that new life growing out through us which can only be maintained by faith in His Word, but it was founded and based upon the solid rock of the provable quality of: HE WAS RAISED FROM THE DEAD!

Therefore, we can also have faith to believe that He will do the other thing He said:

“I WILL COME AGAIN!”

1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 (KJV)

¹⁶ For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

¹⁷ Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

IF YOU ARE NOT SURE PRAY THIS OUTLOUD:

I believe with all my heart that Jesus died for me/I believe with all my heart that He was raised from the dead for me/I turn away from sin/I turn away from everything that is not pleasing to Jesus/from this day forward I declare that JESUS IS LORD OF MY LIFE/I expect the Holy Spirit to lead me and guide me into all the truth/Thank you Lord Jesus for making me a new creation...I will serve you the rest of my days...COME ON IN JESUS!

If you prayed that prayer, you are a NEW CREATION, please, please, please contact me so I can help you get started on the journey of your New Life In Christ Jesus

Kathy and I are so grateful for your faithfulness in giving of prayers and offerings to help us spread the Kingdom of God throughout the whole earth. SHALOM!

KATHY AND I DECREE YOU BLESSED IN JESUS NAME!

Pastor Dave and Kathy

Matthew 6:33

You are loved. You are welcome. You belong.