

Between the age of 18-21, I worked as a letter carrier for the USPS. A favorite memory of mine was the 3-legged Siberian Husky dog. One day, while walking outside her fence, she, and her brother, sprinted from their porch toward me. They ran full speed, side by side. Only, in a split second, when she would start to stumble, the brother would stop, help her catch her balance, and, then, they'd continue pursuit!

Today, we continue our series, "The Case for Christ", based off a book by Lee Strobel. It is an investigation into the evidence for Jesus. As C.S. Lewis once famously said, "Jesus was either a legend, liar, lunatic, or Lord." Last week, we looked at the eyewitness evidence in the Bible. Both the eyewitness accounts, what people saw, and their actions, what people did in response to Jesus, proved His resurrection.

Now, as you imagine, throughout history, many people have seen the Bible as full of bias, prejudice, and self-interest. They claim, like my 3-legged friend, "The Bible doesn't have a leg to stand upon! It needs support from somewhere/something outside of itself!" This is why, today, we'll look at "Evidence Outside the Bible". Specifically, what evidence corroborates, makes more certain, and confirms the Bible.

In his book, The Case for Christ, Lee Strobel contends, "The Jesus of history is the same as the Jesus of faith." He does so with the help of historians like Dr. Edwin M. Yamauchi (Miami (Ohio) University) and

Dr. Gregory A. Boyd (Bethel College). He does so by drawing from ancient, verifiable, and reliable sources like Josephus, the Talmud, Tacitus, Pliny the Younger, Tertullian (Phlegon), etc. Here's a summary!

“We would still have a considerable amount of important historical evidence [about Jesus without the New Testament]. We would know...

- 1) Jesus was a Jewish teacher;
- 2) Many people believed he performed healings and exorcisms;
- 3) Some people believed he was the Messiah;
- 4) He was rejected by the Jewish leaders;
- 5) He was crucified under Pontius Pilate in the reign of Tiberius;
- 6) Despite this shameful death, his followers, who believed that he was still alive, spread beyond Palestine so that there were multitudes of them in Rome by AD 64;
- 7) All kinds of people from the cities and countryside—men and women, slave and free—worshiped him as God.”

Thanks be to God... history corroborates (gives legs) to Jesus/Bible!

Let's pray. Lord, in 1 Corinthians 15:14, 17, 19-20 (ESV), Paul says, “If Christ has not been raised from the dead, our preaching is in vain, our faith is futile, we are still in our sins, and we are of all people most to be pitied. But, in fact Christ has been raised from the dead!” Lord, thank you for the eyewitness evidence both inside and outside of the Bible which proves this. Help us go be witnesses of this to the world!