




Sermon audio is available online. The sermon outline is available for reference at the end of these notes.

## OPEN WITH PRAYER




### ICE BREAKERS...

-  What was the most important fact about the Resurrection that you learned from this message?
-  What are some skeptical reactions you've heard about the Resurrection story? What would your response to them be?
-  How is Christianity different from other world religions?

### THE WORD OF GOD / DISCUSSION POINTS...





**Read I Corinthians 15:12-19; Read Matthew 28:1-9**


-  Why is the resurrection of supreme importance to the Christian faith?
-  What are some of the ramifications of Jesus' resurrection? Would Christianity exist without the resurrection?
-  Given all of the eyewitness testimony, why can it still be hard to believe in the resurrection?



**Read Mark 16:1-8**

-  What is the significance of Jesus first revealing Himself to women?
-  Of what were the women afraid?

### GROUP DISCUSSION...

-  Discuss the theories (below) used to explain away the resurrection. What are the weaknesses in each of these theories?

***Legend Theory; Unknown Tomb Theory; Wrong Tomb Theory; Disciples Stole the Body; Twin Theory; Swoon Theory***

### PRAYER...

### FOR FURTHER STUDY...

Read *The Case for the Resurrection: A First-Century Investigative Reporter Probes History's Pivotal Event*, by Lee Strobel. Watch YouTube video: "*Reliability of Christ's Resurrection*," with Lee Strobel.

## OUTLINE

### The Certainty of Christ in an Age of Unbelief

1 Cor 15:12-19

Dr. Craig Hazen, Biola University

Christianity is different from the other world religions because it is \_\_\_\_\_

The Resurrection of Christ is the great \_\_\_\_\_ demonstrating Jesus' identity and authority (John 2:18-22 and Matt 12:38-40)

1 Corinthians 15: 12-19

<sup>12</sup>But if it is preached that Christ has been raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? <sup>13</sup>If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. <sup>14</sup>And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your \_\_\_\_\_.

<sup>15</sup>More than that, we are then found to be false witnesses about God, for we have testified about God that he raised Christ from the dead. But he did not raise him if in fact the dead are not raised. <sup>16</sup>For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either. <sup>17</sup>And if Christ has not been raised, your \_\_\_\_\_ is futile; you are still in your sins.

<sup>18</sup>Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost. <sup>19</sup>If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are to be pitied more than all men.

#### **Known Facts Surrounding the Death, Burial, and Purported "Resurrection" of Jesus**

- 1) Jesus died by Roman crucifixion
- 2) He was buried, most likely in a private tomb (the tomb of Joseph of Arimathea)
- 3) Soon afterward, the disciples were discouraged, bereaved, and despondent, having lost hope

- 4) Jesus' tomb was found empty very soon after his interment
- 5) The disciples had experiences which they believed were actual appearances of the risen Jesus
- 6) Due to these experiences, the disciples' lives were thoroughly transformed, to the point of being willing to die for this belief
- 7) The Resurrection message was the center of preaching in the earliest church
- 8) This message was especially proclaimed in Jerusalem, where Jesus died and was buried shortly before
- 9) As a result of this preaching the church was born and grew
- 10) Sunday became the primary day of worship
- 11) James, who had been a skeptic, was converted to the faith when he believed he saw the resurrected Jesus
- 12) A few years later, Paul became a Christian believer due to an experience which he believed was an appearance of the risen Jesus

### **Theories Used to Explain the Historical Facts**

<u>Theories</u>	<u>Facts missed by the Theory</u>
Legend Theory	1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12
Unknown Tomb Theory	4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12
Wrong Tomb Theory	5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12
Disciples Stole the Body	5,6,11,12
Twin Theory	4,11
Swoon Theory	1,6
God Raised Jesus from the Dead	_____