

# THE BEREANS

ACTS 17:11

**John 20:1-18**

**Lesson #69**

**The Importance of Christ's Resurrection**

**04/16/2017**

*John 20*

"11 But Mary was standing outside the tomb weeping; and so, as she wept, she stooped and looked into the tomb; 12 and she beheld two angels in white sitting, one at the head, and one at the feet, where the body of Jesus had been lying. 13 And they said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "Because they have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid Him." 14 When she had said this, she turned around, and beheld Jesus standing there, and did not know that it was Jesus. 15 Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?""

1

*These are perhaps two of the most important questions humanity can ask.*

Why are you weeping?

*The pain of death!*

Whom are you seeking?

*The pursuit of hope!*

*Matthew 7:7*

"seek and you will find"

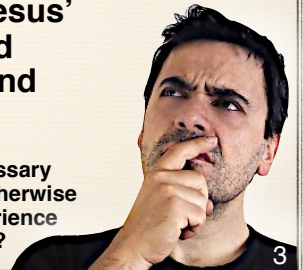
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***Does it matter?  
Is it important?***

***PC Christianity***

**The physics resurrection of Jesus does not matter** - Christian faith is based upon one's subjective feelings, and Jesus' ethical teaching celebrated through religious rituals and traditions.

Is the resurrection (miracle) an unnecessary stumbling block to many who would otherwise welcome Christianity as a private experience based on the ethical teaching of Jesus?



3

**The Gospel addresses  
one great dilemma**

**-Alienation-**

**which has one big visual aid**

**-Death-**

**calling for one great hope**

**-Resurrection-**

4

*Hebrews 2*

"14 Since then the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same, that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil; 15 and might deliver those who through fear of death were subject to slavery all their lives."

fear - death - slavery

5



1. The resurrection is of **“first importance.”**

*1 Corinthians 15:1-5*

“For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins . . . and that He was raised on the third day . . .”

2. It is the foundation of the Gospel as presented in the book of **Acts**.

*Acts 4:33*

“And with great power the apostles were giving testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus,”

3. It is the foundation of the Gospel as presented by **Paul**.

*1 Corinthians 15:17*

“and if Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins.”

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# Resurrection



**Why does it matter?  
Why is it important ?**

7

1. It is the source of our **HOPE**.

*1 Peter 1:3*

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.”

8

1. It is the source of our **HOPE**.

**Resurrection hope is not:**

- ✓ Personal temporal, material, comfort.
- ✓ Social political, economic, renewal.
- ✓ Power to be whatever we have faith to be.



9

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**Resurrection hope is not:**

- ✓ Personal temporal, material, comfort.
- ✓ Social political, economic, renewal.
- ✓ Power to be whatever we have faith to be.

**Resurrection hope is:**

- ✓ Reconciliation with God - life after death.
- ✓ Membership in a community of hope.
- ✓ Power to be the Body of Christ now.

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2. It is represented in our **BAPTISM**.

*Romans 6*

“Therefore we have been buried with him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.”

11



“ . . . baptism now saves you, not the washing of the filth of the flesh but the answer of a good conscience toward God through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.”

*1 Peter 3:21*



**Water baptism**  
is our positional washing  
as a believer priest.

12

The temple priest was ceremonially sanctified with water before he performed his sacred duties.



**This had to do with his official position not his personal character.**

13

“<sup>10</sup> that I may know him and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of his sufferings, being conformed to his death <sup>11</sup> in order that I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.”

*Philippians 3*



**Water baptism**  
is our power to live for Christ

14

**Take your baptism seriously because God does.**

*Life is no longer about me or you.*

*This is our ticket into the world as Ambassadors for Christ.*

*This is how we can be both in and yet not of the world.*



15

**When God looks at you, He sees His Son where you may see only your sin.**



**He invites you to do the same.**

16

## **The implications**

- ✓ This is a hill we should be prepared to die on.
- ✓ Our hope must not be centered on this life or in the things of this world.
- ✓ The resurrection of Christ cannot be proven but it has strong evidence.
- ✓ The living Christ is our assurance of power to participate in the Kingdom on earth.
- ✓ The alternatives do not address life's big questions in a convincing way.

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## Life's big questions

- ✓ Why do we die?  
**Mortality**
- ✓ Why do we not kill ourselves?  
**Meaning**
- ✓ Why do we not kill each other?  
**Morality**
- ✓ Why can't we get along?  
**Management**

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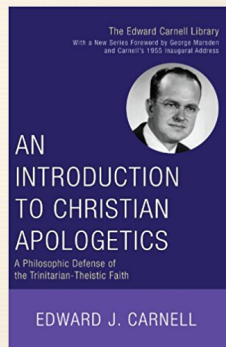
**One of the strongest arguments for the Gospel is the vanity of the alternatives.**

*Ecclesiastes 1:14*

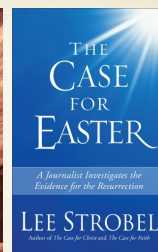
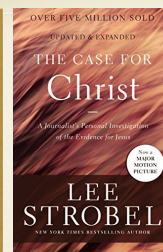
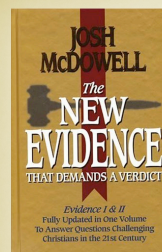
"I have seen all the works which have been done under the sun, and behold, all is vanity and striving after wind."

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"As I observe the external world around me and the internal phenomena within me I find the Christian message to be a more satisfying explanation of and hope for both, than any of the alternatives."

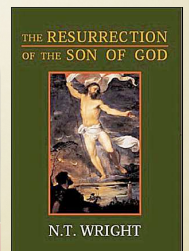
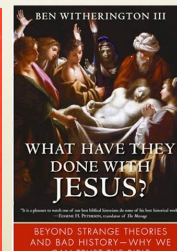
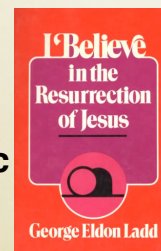


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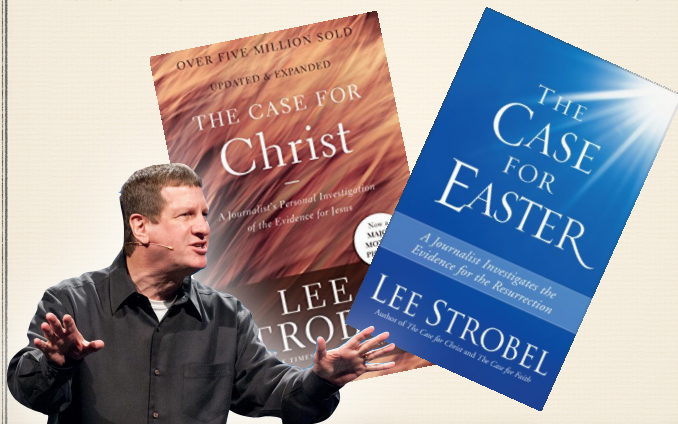
**For the general public**

**For the more academic readers**



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"The Case for Easter probes the core issues of the resurrection. Jesus Christ, risen from the dead: superstitious myth or life-changing reality? The evidence is in. The verdict is up to you."



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**For more information on the resurrection**

[apttoteach.org](http://apttoteach.org)  
**Theology #510**

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