

Christian faith exists

The disciples' belief in Jesus' resurrection is the best explanation for the Christian faith.

The empty tomb and eyewitnesses to Jesus are the best explanations for the disciples' belief.

Jesus resurrection is the best explanation for the empty tomb and his appearances.

The proclamation of the early church was NOT:

- ✓ the inerrancy of the Scripture.
- ✓ the changed lives of the disciples.
- ✓ the ethical teaching of Jesus.
- ✓ the power of prayer.
- ✓ the new life in the Holy Spirit.
- ✓ the reform of society.

It was the **Word of the Cross** confirmed by

- the resurrection of the dead starting with Jesus.

The resurrection of Christ

- ✓ the cornerstone of apologetics.

Acts 17:31 “. . . having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead.”

- ✓ the power of the church.

Phil.3:10 “that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection . . .”

- ✓ the hope of the believer.

1 Cor.15:17 “if Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins.”

The sermons in the book of Acts do not focus on the ethical teaching of Jesus or the atonement for sin but always mention
the resurrection.

Acts 4:33

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

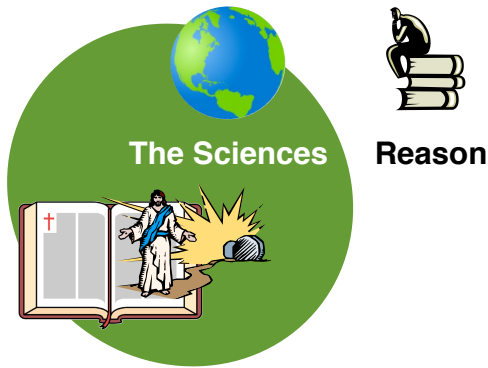
Mark 16

“¹ And when the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, bought spices, that they might come and anoint Him. ² And very early on the first day of the week, they came to the tomb when the sun had risen. ³ And they were saying to one another, “Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance of the tomb?” ⁴ And looking up, they saw that the stone had been rolled away, although it was extremely large. ⁵ And entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting at the right, wearing a white robe; and they were amazed. ⁶ And he said to them, “**Do not be amazed**; you are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who has been crucified. He has risen; He is not here; behold, here is the place where they laid Him. ⁷ But go, tell His disciples and Peter, ‘He is going before you into Galilee; there you will see Him, just as He said to you.’” ⁸ And they went out and fled from the tomb, for trembling and astonishment had gripped them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.”

Why is the resurrection challenged?

1. **It is impossible** - A miracle is the most improbable explanation.
2. **The evidence is suspect** - Only those with a faith bias give us the evidence.
3. **It was an after-thought** - It was a doctrine that evolved over time.
4. **It does not matter** - Christian faith is based upon one's subjective feelings, and Jesus' ethical teaching.

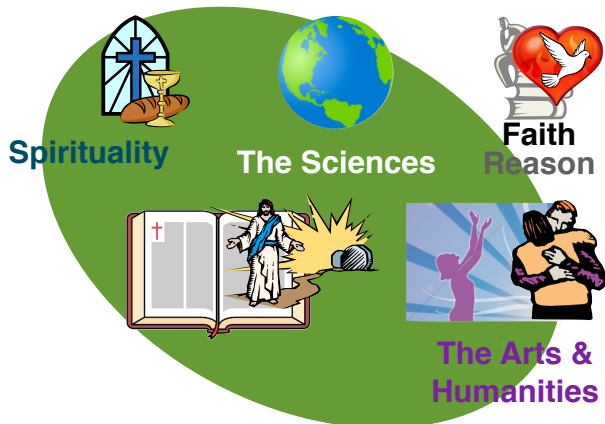
The narrow view of discerning truth.



Big questions that seem beyond the purview of science.

1. The origin of the universe.
2. Human origin and destiny.
3. The phenomena of self consciousness.
4. The longing for beauty, justice, & God.
5. The purpose (meaning) of life & death.

The broad view of discerning truth.



Challenging the challenges

The evidence is suspect - Only those with a faith bias give us the evidence.

1. The testimony does not have the **marks of bias or distortion**.
2. The **faith did not precede the evidence** but followed it.
3. The testimony **bore the test of authenticity** in the 1st century.

1 Cor.15:6 "After that He appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time, most of whom remain until now, but some have fallen asleep."

Challenging the challenges

It does not matter - Christian faith is based upon one's subjective feelings, and Jesus' ethical teaching.

The resurrection addresses one of the biggest question of life—DEATH.

1. The sting and fear of death.
2. Longing for fullness of life.
3. The call to self sacrifice in this life.
4. A sense of God's justice and mercy.

Challenging the challenges

It was an after-thought - It was a doctrine that evolved over time.

1. The disciples would live and die for it.
2. It was not debated in the early church.
3. It was universally accepted very early.



The Gospel
has one great visual aid

-Death-

and one great hope

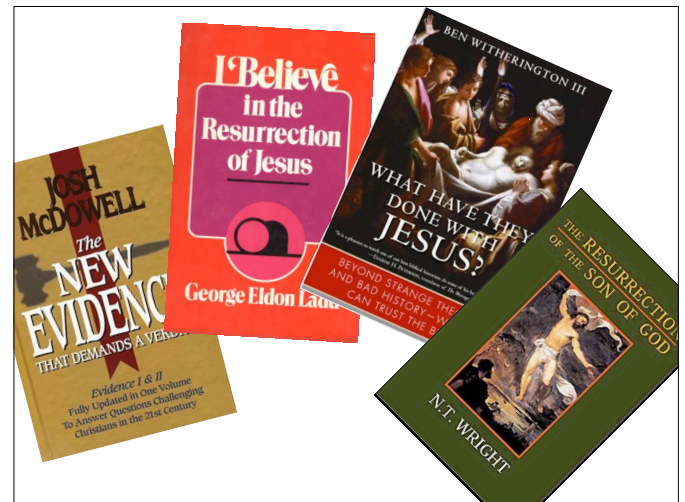
-Resurrection-

Example from Jesus
on being IN
but not OF the world.

Disciple's have a hope
grounded not in this life but
in the resurrected Christ.

The implications

- ✓ This is a hill we should be prepared to die on.
- ✓ Our hope must never be centered on this life.
- ✓ 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.



For more information on the
resurrection

apptoteach.org
Theology #510