



**Dear Crossroads Family,**

Does it really matter that Jesus rose from the dead—bodily, permanently—on Easter Sunday so many years ago? Science seems to tell us it is impossible. Bodily resurrection to eternal life isn't a repeatable experiment that scientists can replicate. Even some skeptics who consider themselves Christian believe that the resurrection is really just an inspiring idea. The 20<sup>th</sup> century theologian, Rudolf Bultmann "demythologized" it. He taught that the resurrection was not an event of past history. It simply represents the rise of faith in the early disciples. Another theologian, Marcus Brog, often argued that the resurrection is just a metaphor for the vindication of Jesus' life and teachings over the powers of empire and death. A group of liberal theologians and secular scholars view the resurrection as a communal "rising;" that is, the "body" of Christ that rose was the community of believers who decided to continue His work.

Does it really matter that Jesus rose from the dead—bodily, permanently—on Easter Sunday so many years ago? Apparently the Apostle Paul thought so. In 1 Corinthians 15, he argued vociferously that the literal resurrection of Jesus was essential for our faith to stand. In verse 14 he wrote, "And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith." And he instructed the Roman church in Romans 10:9, "If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved." (Oh, and by the way, he saw the risen Lord face to face on the road to Damascus.)

Does it really matter that Jesus rose from the dead—bodily, permanently—on Easter Sunday so many years ago? Yes! If we believe the word of God, the answer is a resounding "Yes!" Our salvation and the value of our faith depend on it.

I believe.

Do you want some good news? Though science can't replicate it, skeptics may deny it, and there is no way to "prove" any event that took place in the past, there is some remarkable evidence that points, not just to the possibility of the resurrection of Jesus, but to the probability of it. That's what we will be considering this Easter Sunday. My sermon is entitled, "The Amazing Case for the Resurrection." (Sermon notes are provided below. Sunday school teachers, please note that my text is different than the Sunday School lesson this week.) What a wonderful day of worship it will be as we praise the Lord for His resurrection and for our hope of resurrection to eternal life because of Him. And don't forget that we will be observing the Lord's supper during our Good Friday Service at 6:30 pm tonight. I hope you plan to join us!

He is Risen!

Love,  
Bro. Doug

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*The Amazing Case for the Resurrection*  
*Acts 3:12-26*

We live in an age of historical \_\_\_\_\_. The sermon Peter preached in Acts 3 offers us great \_\_\_\_\_ that the resurrection of Jesus took place as the Scripture proclaims.

It seems normal that Peter was the bold preacher of this Pentecost sermon. But if we view Acts 3 from a 1<sup>st</sup>-century lens, we would be \_\_\_\_\_. Only \_\_\_ days earlier Peter denied he was a follower of Jesus. What could possibly change a man in less than 2 months from a gutless \_\_\_\_\_ to a defiant \_\_\_\_\_? There is no more likely explanation than that he had encountered the \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus. The 1st, convincing clue about the veracity of the resurrection of Jesus is the enduring existence of a global \_\_\_\_\_, built by those same cowering fugitives whose sudden, fearless willingness to \_\_\_\_\_ for their message became the foundation of a 2-millennium legacy.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> compelling pillar of historical evidence for the resurrection is the \_\_\_\_\_ of Peter's sermon itself. What makes it compelling evidence is that no one \_\_\_\_\_ Peter's claim. At the time of his sermon and the completion of Acts, there were plenty of people who could have \_\_\_\_\_ his message, but no one did.

The final bit of corroborating evidence for the death and resurrection of Jesus is the stunning \_\_\_\_\_ voices. Voices from different times and settings prefigured the events of the gospel record, predicting them with striking \_\_\_\_\_. Consider **Psalm 22**, **Psalm 69:19-21**, and **Isa. 53**. When we look at prophecies from 1,000 BC and 700 BC, we are looking at a historical transcript that describes the 'Pierced One' and the 'Holy One who sees no decay' with a \_\_\_\_\_ that defies any conclusion except that \_\_\_\_\_ was announcing His plan for resurrection.

The question then becomes, "What must I \_\_\_\_\_?" I can do nothing or what the text instructs: A \_\_\_\_\_ of your life. God wants to bless you with abundant and eternal life if you will reorient your life away from the \_\_\_\_\_ and toward \_\_\_\_\_.

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**A Few Announcements:**

**Easter Photos:** If you would like to take a family photo after the worship service, there will be an Easter backdrop set up on the front porch or there is an area near the playground with the cross with a bench in front.

**Crossroads Easter Egg Hunt** will take place following the Worship Service in the playground. All children are invited to participate! If it is raining, each child will be given an Easter bag full of eggs to be hidden at home.

**There are no scheduled evening activities Sunday.**

**Women on Mission** will be meeting this Tuesday, April 7 at 10:00 am in the Fellowship Hall. All ladies are invited!

**Fiesta Time in San Antonio & with Young at Heart!** Join us on Thursday, April 9 at 11:30 am in the Fellowship Hall for a fun time of food and fellowship. Our entertainment will be none other than our very own "Bound for Glory"! Be sure you don't miss being blessed by this wonderful talent! Bring your favorite Mexican dish or dessert.

**Crossroads Monthly Food & Diaper Drive is Sunday, April 12.** Please plan to bring your donations next Sunday. A shopping list is included in the bulletin and on the website.