

CHRISTIANITY

101

WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS

About

SIN & SALVATION
RESURRECTION & JUDGMENT

↑
HEAVEN

HELL
↓

THE NATURE OF MAN

◉ *The Nature of God* ◉

CHRISTIANITY 101

THE RESURRECTION

WHAT IF JESUS CHRIST NEVER ROSE FROM THE DEAD?

I. IF JESUS DID NOT RISE FROM THE DEAD IT SAYS SOMETHING QUITE SIGNIFICANT ABOUT GOD, HIS EXISTENCE AND HIS UNIVERSE. I COR. 15:15

- ▶ I am misrepresenting God.
- ▶ I believe in God because of Jesus.
- ▶ If Jesus died and stayed that way then Christianity is a farce.

- ▶ Jesus claimed to be God and to show us the reflection of the Father. John 14:6-9
- ▶ Jesus said that he would rise from the dead as evidence that He was God.
John 10:17-18

THE CLEAREST PLACE WHERE GOD HAS REVEALED HIMSELF DEFINITELY, ABSOLUTELY, BEYOND THE SHADOW OF A DOUBT IS IN THE RESURRECTION.

- ▶ If He didn't it is entirely possible that God isn't there.
- ▶ If He is there then He may be something entirely different than we have supposed Him to be.

THE CHRISTIAN FAITH SAYS THAT ONE TIME IN ALL OF HUMAN HISTORY GOD PUT HIS HAND INTO HISTORY AND SAID, "THIS IS NOT A PLATITUDE, I AM HERE".

- ▶ I am a God of love and that is why I came and you can depend on that."
- ▶ If He didn't do that then that God doesn't exist.

II. IF JESUS DID NOT RISE FROM THE DEAD IT SAYS SOMETHING SIGNIFICANT ABOUT MAN AND HIS NATURE.

- ▶ People are still guilty. I Cor. 15:17
- ▶ Guilt is the simple psychological theme in almost everybody's life. It is central and it is horrible.

GUILT

- ▶ It is the reality that controls almost all of how we live and die.
- ▶ Guilt is the one thing that causes us to do or not do what we do or don't do.

WE NEED TO REALIZE THE SIGNIFICANT PLACE GUILT OCCUPIES IN EMOTIONAL DIFFICULTIES.

- ▶ What are we going to say to a guilty world?
- ▶ If Jesus is still dead you are not going to do anything with it—just deal with it.

THE CHRISTIAN FAITH CLAIMS TO TAKE REAL SIN THAT PRODUCES REAL GUILT AND PUTS IT ON CHRIST ON A REAL CROSS AND IT IS WASHED COMPLETELY AWAY.

- ▶ It claims to take a persons guilt forgive it, set him or her free and make them clean.
- ▶ It claims that, because it has seen the cross and the empty tomb.

IF THE TOMB ISN'T EMPTY AND THE DISCIPLES WENT TO THE WRONG PLACE AND THERE WAS A CORPSE AND THE CORPSE WAS LIKE EVERY OTHER CORPSE THEN YOU ARE STILL IN YOUR SINS—GUILTY.

- ▶ You are born guilty and you will die guilty.
- ▶ You are, right now, no better than dead.

**III. IF JESUS DID NOT RISE FROM THE DEAD IT SAYS
SOMETHING SIGNIFICANT ABOUT THE MEANING OF
LIFE. I COR. 15:18**

IF THERE IS NO POSITIVE EVIDENCE OF ANYTHING BEYOND THIS LIFE (AND THE RESURRECTION IS THE ONLY POSITIVE EVIDENCE I KNOW) THEN LIFE HAS NO MEANING.

POET MATTHEW ARNOLD

- ▶ What is the course of the life
Of mortal men on the earth?—
Most men eddy about
Here and there—eat and drink,
Chatter and love and hate,
Gather and squander, are raised

▶ Aloft, are hurl'd in the dust,
Foam'd for a moment, and gone.
Striving blindly, achieving
Nothing; and then they die—
Perish;—and no one asks
Who or what they have been,

- ▶ More than he asks what waves,
In the moonlit solitudes mild
Of the midmost Ocean, have swell'd,
Are raised for a moment are foamed and
gone.

- ▶ I am constantly amazed at the number of people who having denied the only view we have ever had of death from the other side still hang on to a belief in immortality.

THEY GRASP AFTER THE STRAWS FLOATING IN THE WIND.

- ▶ Reincarnation
- ▶ Spiritualism
- ▶ Séances
- ▶ Mediums
- ▶ Superstition.

WHEN PEOPLE STOP BELIEVING IN A REAL GOD THEY DON'T JUST BELIEVE IN NOTHING THEY BELIEVE IN ANYTHING.

- ▶ When you are facing death you are facing the ultimate end of everything if Christ is still dead. You are like a turnip. Is that all there is?
- ▶ Eat drink and be merry for tomorrow we die—if Jesus stayed dead.

IV. IF JESUS DID NOT RISE FROM THE DEAD IT SAYS SOMETHING SIGNIFICANT ABOUT THE FUTURE. I COR. 15:19

- ▶ The future doesn't matter.
- ▶ You have no hope.

V. GOOD NEWS! CHRIST HAS RISEN!

THE F.E.A.T. OF THE RESURRECTION

▶ F. Jesus suffered Fatal torment.

▶ E. Jesus' tomb was Epty.

Christianity simply cannot survive an identifiable tomb containing the corpse of Christ.

- ▶ A. Jesus Appeared to many people and gave convincing proofs that He is alive.
- ▶ T. Jesus Transformed the disciples, vicariously the Roman Empire, and us today.

CONCLUSION:

IF CHRIST HAS BEEN RAISED FROM THE DEAD THERE ARE TWO INESCAPABLE IMPLICATIONS.

- ▶ 1. Everything that Jesus ever said about you or me or life itself is true because it literally came from the mouth of God.

- ▶ Jesus said I am come that you might have life and have it more abundantly.
- ▶ Jesus said these things I have said unto you that your joy may be full.

- ▶ That isn't a motivational speaker trying to make you feel good for the next two hours of your life—this is the very Son of God!

- ▶ Jesus said, "For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins". Mt 26:28

- ▶ Jesus said that God is not a malicious fiend. He hasn't gone away on vacation somewhere, He is a loving Father and you are not a number to Him—you are a name and you can be forgiven.

- ▶ Jesus said, "Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also". John 14:1-3

- ▶ He said, "He who believeth in me shall never die."

- ▶ If Jesus came back from the grave he is here right now and he wants to be your Savior. Just reach out to Him, He is there and He loves you and cares about your future.

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