

The Truth of His Resurrection Matthew 28:1-10

And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. (1 Cor 12:14)

So is it really true?

1 Evidence for the Resurrection

a) His absence from the tomb

Theories:

- ∅ Jesus did not really die (John 19:33,34)
- ∅ Disciples stole the body
- ∅ Authorities stole the body
- ∅ Robbers stole the body (John 20:1-9)

b) His presence with the disciples

- ∅ Could it be hallucination?
- ∅ Number of appearances
 - at least 10 different occasions
 - Over 500 people saw him
 - over a period of six weeks
- ∅ Nature of appearances (Luke 24:37-43)

c) The witness of the Christians

- ∅ First witnesses were women
- ∅ Thomas was a sceptic
- ∅ Birth and growth of Christian church
- ∅ Experience of Christians down the ages

2 What does the resurrection mean?

a) It confirms who Jesus really is

- ∅ Paul writes that "through the Spirit of holiness [Christ] was declared with power to be the Son of God by his resurrection from the dead" (Rom. 1.4)
- ∅ This truth is now explicit, whereas it was implicit throughout his life.

b) The resurrection confirms the effectiveness of the Cross

- ∅ Not just a martyr to a cause
- ∅ He won the victory over the devil and death
- ∅ His death is a full and sufficient sacrifice for sins

c) The resurrection confirms that there is good news.

- ∅ When Jesus cried out, "It is finished!", he really had done it. He had paid the full price for human sin.
- ∅ He therefore freely offers forgiveness of sins for anyone who turns to him.
- ∅ We have forgiveness and new life through him - he died for you and me!

d) His resurrection means that our faith is not in vain.

- ∅ Death could not hold him.
- ∅ His rising is the sign and pledge that all who put their trust in him will pass through death into heaven itself. Because he lives, we also who are 'in Christ' will live after our mortal bodies die.

e) His resurrection backs up his promise to be with us always.

- ∅ The resurrection means that Jesus is alive today.
- ∅ In our Christian life we are not alone. Jesus doesn't simply stand at the end beckoning us. He is with us all the way, just as he promised.
- ∅ Do you have that assurance of the presence of the risen Jesus?

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

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¹ After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb.

² There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it.

³ His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow.

⁴ The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men.

⁵ The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified.

⁶ He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay.

⁷ Then go quickly and tell his disciples: 'He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.' Now I have told you."

⁸ So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples.

⁹ Suddenly Jesus met them. "Greetings," he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshiped him.

¹⁰ Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

He lives, he lives,
Christ Jesus lives today.

He walks with me,
He talks with me,
along life's narrow way.

He lives, he lives,
Salvation to impart.

You ask me how I know he lives:
He lives within my heart.