

## Sermon Study Guide

### Establishing the Resurrection

#### Overview

There is only one thing that needs to be established and demonstrated to show that Christianity is true - the resurrection. "The general public is under the impression that Jesus' resurrection cannot be believed on the basis of evidence. However, while this perception is common among the general population, it isn't true. There is actually a wealth of historical evidence for the truth of Christianity, and many skeptics have become Christians by looking at this evidence." *THE EVIDENCE FOR JESUS' RESURRECTION, PART 1*: by Evan Minton

*"Christianity, if false, is of no importance. But if true, it is of infinite importance. The only thing it cannot be is moderately important."* C. S. Lewis

#### Scripture

1 Corinthians 15:12-19

**Examination** - The best way to use this section is to discuss with others in a Bible study

1. Everything hinges on the resurrection 1 Corinthians 15:14
  - a. If God exists then Jesus can rise from the dead
  - b. If Jesus rose from the dead, then Christianity is true
2. Dealing with doubts and objections
  - a. Why are you doubting or objecting; is it purely intellectual or is it more emotions or desire? Some people deny that the resurrection occurred simply because they want it not to have occurred. Some people reject Christianity, not because there isn't enough evidence to establish that it's true, but because they don't want it to be true. *THE EVIDENCE FOR JESUS' RESURRECTION, PART 1*: by Evan Minton
    - i. If you presuppose the resurrection can't occur it is highly likely you will easily come to that conclusion without much evidence.
  - b. The burden of proof. Christians are always challenged to prove God and the resurrection are true. But the burden of proof is not limited to the Christian worldview. Can you prove there is no God or that the resurrection did not occur?
  - c. In this message we briefly discuss some objections such as the hallucination theory, the lie\conspiracy, the all religions have miracles objection and more. Take notes and research these further.. Use this example - The Titanic; *When the Titanic sank, there were differing accounts as to how it sank. Some said the Titanic went down in one piece; others said it broke in half and went down. Some said people continued to play music as the ship sank, others said there was no music. Some said there were shootings happening when the Titanic was sinking, but others disagreed. How in the world could eyewitnesses not agree on these things? I don't know! But I don't hear anyone claiming that because of*

*these discrepancies in the eyewitness accounts here that therefore the Titanic didn't sink*

3. Establishing the facts - "historical evidence in their favor and moreover, they are nearly universally accepted by scholars and historians who study ancient Palestinian history, even the skeptical ones." Dr. Gary Habermas - Jesus died by crucifixion; Jesus' tomb was found empty the following Sunday morning; Jesus' disciples believed that Jesus appeared to them after His death; A religious persecutor named Paul converted to Christianity based on what he believed to be the appearance of a risen Jesus
4. Possible and Plausible - Proof, faith and plausibility

**Practical Application** - discuss these items with others, perhaps in a bible study together

1. This week, identify your own questions and doubts about the resurrection and ask God to help you find answers
2. Ask at least one person this week if they believe Jesus did rise from the dead. If yes, begin praying for their salvation immediately. If no, do not argue with them but simply ask them what their reasons are. Don't try and convince them unless the holy Spirit CLEARLY directs you to. That will come later; pray for them to see the truth.