



The Resurrection

Matthew 28:2-7

The Christian _____ rests on the resurrection of Jesus from the dead. We're going to examine the _____ for that resurrection. Whether Jesus arose matters _____. If Jesus arose, there is _____ after death. If Jesus arose, then He fulfilled His prophecies and has _____ Himself to be the Son of God. If Jesus arose, then His promises and teaching are _____. If Jesus arose and is the Son of God, He is Lord of all and has _____ over your life and mine. If the Lord Jesus arose, then He will one day _____ again and _____ you and me according to His Word. Since what we're studying has _____ consequences for our souls, we need to pay _____ attention. If Jesus arose from the dead, we can't _____ Him or live as if that was a meaningless act. Read Hebrews 4:12-13.

The Lord Jesus _____ His death and resurrection (Matthew 20:18-19). This is an amazing and a _____ prediction. Jesus not only predicted He would be scourged and crucified at the _____ of the chief priests and the Gentiles but also that He would _____ from the dead the third day. Only the Son of God could _____ such a prediction about His death and resurrection and _____ its fulfillment just as He predicted.

Before we can speak of a resurrection, we have to _____ examine the evidence that Jesus actually died upon the cross. That Jesus was beaten by the soldiers and then scourged is _____ dispute. All four _____ accounts speak of His scourging. A Roman scourging was not _____ a beating. Many men _____ from scourging. The whip they used lacerated the skin with _____ objects and caused the _____ of much blood. The Romans did not _____ their stripes to 39 as the Jews did. The purpose of the cross was to kill a person _____ and very _____. While the nails that went through the hands and feet were not of themselves _____, the physical position of a crucified person hung upon a cross created tremendous _____ on the heart and lungs. A person had to pull himself up to _____ in and out. The cross gradually _____ a person down to where he couldn't breathe. In the case of Jesus, _____ surrounded his heart until it failed. The reason soldiers would _____ the legs of a crucified person was to _____ their death. A person with broken legs couldn't _____ himself up to breathe and would die quickly. They broke the legs of the _____ thieves; but these experienced soldiers found Jesus was _____ dead, so they didn't break His bones in fulfillment of Psalm 34:20 that "not a bone of Him should be broken." Instead, a soldier _____ His side with a spear, "and immediately there came out blood and water" (John 19:34). This flowing of water and blood is a sure _____ that Jesus was _____ dead. If Jesus had not died from the crucifixion, He could not have survived this _____. Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus asked Pilate for the _____ of



Jesus, but Pilate would not release the body until it was determined _____ positive that he was dead. The two prepared his body for _____ in a new tomb a short distance from where he was crucified. John reveals that they _____ the body in linen wrappings with myrrh and aloes, about a hundred pound weight. This burial process would have _____ Jesus in a mummy-like wrapping with spices sealing the cloth together. Bound up like this, Jesus—even if He by some remote _____ survived the crucifixion and the spear—couldn't have breathed and lived. Jesus was _____ in the tomb.

The Pharisees and the priests went to Pilate and they requested a _____ for the tomb. Read Matthew 27:62-66. They were determined not to let _____ happen to that tomb. They didn't merely _____ a couple of guards at the tomb. They made it as _____ as they could. Some scholars suggest that there were as many as 28 guards at the tomb, and they would have been particularly _____ on the third day, when the threat was the very greatest. The governor's _____ meant that it would be criminal to mess with the tomb.

The Scriptures tell us that the women came very _____ on the first day of the week to the tomb, and they came to _____ the body of Jesus. This was their first opportunity since the Sabbath had passed; and they wondered, "Who will _____ the stone for us from the entrance of the tomb?" They realized the stone was "extremely large" (Mark 16:4). Scholars again _____ that this stone weighed between one and a half and two tons, three to four thousand pounds. They knew that moving this stone was far beyond their _____ and that it would take a number of strong men to move it. When they arrived they saw that an _____ had rolled the stone away.

When the women _____ to the apostles the tomb was empty, many of the apostles laughed and they _____ the women; but two apostles wanted to find out for themselves if the tomb was empty. Peter and John _____ to the tomb. John 20:5-7 says they looked in the tomb and saw the linen wrappings _____ there. They saw "the face-cloth which had been on His _____, not lying with the linen wrappings, but _____ in a place by itself." Why would the disciples, if they _____ the body, take the _____ to loosen the linen wrappings and _____ them in the tomb, knowing that the guards were just outside? Whatever understanding you have of this event, you must _____ who moved the stone, how the tomb became empty, and who took the linen wrappings from the body of Jesus. The people who examined these events _____ without hesitation that Jesus _____ from the dead. The soldiers _____ all these events to the chief priests, who paid the soldiers a large sum of money to _____ and promised to keep them out of trouble with the governor (Matthew 28:11-15). But down deep these soldiers and the chief priests knew the _____.



We now ask whether the testimony we have about the empty tomb is _____. Is there some way that we can _____ the credibility of the report that we have of the resurrection? First, let's remember that Jesus believed and taught His people to be _____. The Lord _____ hypocrisy and deceit. Jesus praised Nathanael for being a person in whom there was no _____ (John 1:47). Jesus spoke of the devil as a _____ and He condemned _____ (John 8:44). How could His disciples abandon everything they had been _____ and spread a _____ throughout Jerusalem? All the Jews had to do to _____ Jesus had not **been** resurrected from the dead was to _____ the body of Jesus. If the Jews produced the body of Jesus, they could _____ Christianity. They never _____, because they knew they couldn't. All they could do was _____ the soldiers to lie and _____ the disciples.

Look at the _____ in the disciples. The disciples did not know for _____ that Jesus had been raised on that third day; they _____ it; and so they _____ in the upper room with the door locked for fear of the Jews. They _____ and they _____ when the women came and told them that Jesus had risen. Their hard _____ kept them from believing until Jesus _____ Himself to them. One apostle, Thomas, persisted in his disbelief _____ when the others insisted they had seen the Lord (John 20:25-29). Jesus appeared to the disciples and He _____ Himself to them in a variety of ways. Read Luke 24:36-39. Acts 1:3 tells how Jesus "presented Himself _____ after His suffering, by many convincing _____, appearing to them over a period of forty days and speaking of the things concerning the kingdom of God." So strong did He convince them that we see a very _____ group of men at Pentecost than we do on the day that Jesus arose. After they disbelieved, hiding themselves as cowards, and doubting the prophecy of Jesus; Jesus then _____ Himself alive with many convincing proofs. So at Pentecost they were _____ and unrelenting in their _____ of the gospel. They told everyone they were _____ of the resurrection. They called the people to _____ of their sins, because they had _____ Jesus whom God for certain had made both Lord and Christ (Acts 2:36). In Acts 3-8 the early disciples endured beatings and imprisonment, but they wouldn't _____ preaching Jesus as the Christ resurrected from the dead.

When the Sanhedrin, that is the Jewish Council, commanded them not to speak or teach at all in the _____ of Jesus, Peter and John were convinced that they must _____ God and continue preaching the gospel (Acts 4:19-20). The Council arrested the apostles, flogged them, commanded them to _____ preaching in the name of Jesus, and released them. But the apostles _____ "that they had been considered worthy to _____ shame for His name. And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they kept right on teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ" (Acts 5:41-42). They later suffered imprisonment, beatings and



even death for their _____, but nothing kept them from continuing to preach Jesus as the Christ, _____ from the dead. The disciples didn't become _____ from their preaching; they suffered _____ to tell the story of Jesus. They (the enemies of Christ) stoned _____ (Acts 7) and they beheaded _____ the son of Zebedee (Acts 12). Not one of the disciples _____ denied the resurrection. They died for _____ it. The only _____ they spoke out so boldly about their faith was they believed Jesus was truly the Christ, the _____ Son of God. And their bold faith _____ us that we too can place our faith in Jesus as Lord.

Saul of Tarsus was originally _____ to Judaism and a violent persecutor of the church, but He _____ Christ on the road to Damascus. His conversion is especially important in view of his earlier _____ against Christianity. He gave up everything to _____ a Christian. What he wrote about the resurrection in 1 Corinthians 15 is really the _____ documentary evidence that we have. No one can satisfactorily _____ the conversion and the later life of the apostle Paul except in the way that he himself explained it. He had seen the _____ Christ.

Some say Jesus _____ on the cross and revived in the cool of the tomb; but this doesn't _____ how Jesus survived the linen wrappings, how He moved the stone, or how He frightened the guards to get away. Others say the apostles only _____ they saw Jesus after His resurrection, but this doesn't explain why there were linen wrappings in the empty tomb, how the stone was moved before the women arrived, or how the guards were frightened. Nor does it explain how they were able to _____ Jesus.

Though we have barely discussed the _____ surrounding the resurrection, we have seen _____ to say confidently with Peter and the apostles that God raised Jesus from the dead. And if He is risen, He is the _____ of God and the _____ of all. He will one day _____ you and me according to His Word (John 12:48; Acts 17:31).

To become a Christian _____ with all your heart that Jesus is the Christ, _____ from your sins in repentance, _____ Jesus as the Christ and the Son of God, and be _____ for the forgiveness of your sins as the Bible teaches in Acts 2:38.