

The Resurrection of Jesus II

By Greg Rangel

What difference does it make if Jesus arose again from the dead or not? As long as we “have faith” in Him even though He did not rise from the dead it’s all fine, right? Wrong! It makes an eternal difference. Because if Jesus did not rise from the dead, then that means that He is not the savior of the world as people have been taught for the last two thousand years. It also means that our faith is in vain, that we are still in our sins, and that those who have died as Christians have perished and have not gone to heaven as Paul the Apostle states in 1 Corinthians 15.

In 1 Corinthians 15 verse 6 Paul the Apostle tells us that Jesus was seen by more than five hundred people at one time. In other words, there were first hand eyewitnesses to the greatest event that ever took place, which is the resurrection of Jesus.

You go to any trial today, and you will most likely see that the witness program is used. According to law.com, the legal term for a witness is “a person who testifies under oath in a trial (or a deposition which may be used in a trial if the witness is not available) with first-hand or expert evidence useful in a lawsuit. A party to the lawsuit (plaintiff or defendant) may be a witness. 2) a person who sees an event.”

Witnesses in court will not be called to give their opinions on certain matters. Witnesses are used to tell the court the events that they saw first-hand. The more witnesses there are to a certain event the more that the event itself will be proven to be true.

If the witness program has been valid throughout history and very much valid for the courts today, why should we not apply it to the resurrection of Jesus?

A Jewish historian by the name of Josephus who was born around 37 A.D. and died sometime after 100 A.D. mentioned as well the resurrection of Jesus. He wrote in his book “The Antiquities of the Jews” the following; “Now, there was about this time, Jesus, a wise man, if it be lawful to call him a man, for he was a doer of wonderful works, a teacher of such men as receive the truth with pleasure. He drew over to him both many of the Jews, and many of the Gentiles. He was the Christ; and when Pilate, at the suggestion of the principal men amongst us, had condemned him to the cross, those that loved him at the first did not forsake him, for he appeared to them alive again the third day, as the divine prophets had foretold these and ten thousand other wonderful things concerning him; and the tribe of Christians, so named from him are not extinct at this day.”

The resurrection of Jesus Christ was the greatest event and the most powerful that man has ever witnessed. This is why the first-hand eyewitnesses dedicated themselves to tell the world about Jesus.

Even though the world itself did not like the Gospel message of the resurrection, the witnesses continued day in and day out to preach it, even though it cost them their life. They knew the facts of the resurrection and that is why not even persecution could stop them from proclaiming the Good News to a lost and dying world.

As Caesar gave them the choice to denounce Christ and confess him as lord and he would let them live, they knew without a shadow of a doubt that Jesus was Lord because of the fact that He arose from the dead.

As they were tortured, beheaded, sawed in two, placed in dead animal carcasses and thrown to hungry lions, and burned at the stake, they knew that Jesus would be waiting for them on the other side of eternity.

Jesus arose from the dead. It does not matter what man might say, or whether man likes it or not. That in itself will NOT change the fact that Jesus arose from the dead!

So does it matter if Jesus arose from the dead or not? Yes it does. If He didn't then why believe in Him? Why believe in someone who did not have power to beat death? But since He did, I would strongly suggest to the reader to receive Him as Lord and Savior today.

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