

Why  
We...?

- *Fundamental Studies*
- *Why Believe...*
- *Why we Practice...*
- *Why we Don't...*





# Topics

- ✓ **Thursday:** *Why we believe it makes a difference what one believes*
- ✓ **Friday:** *Why we believe Jesus was raised from the dead*
- ✓ **Saturday:** *Why we believe there is just one church*
- ✓ **Sunday Class:** *Why we believe miracles have ceased*
- ✓ **Sunday AM:** *Why we believe hell is real and eternal*
- ✓ **Sunday PM:** *Why we do not believe once saved always saved*

Jesus  
Raised  
from the  
Dead

# Is at the Heart & Core of All We Believe

*If Jesus was raised from the dead:*

God Is....

Jesus is Son of God

Word is True

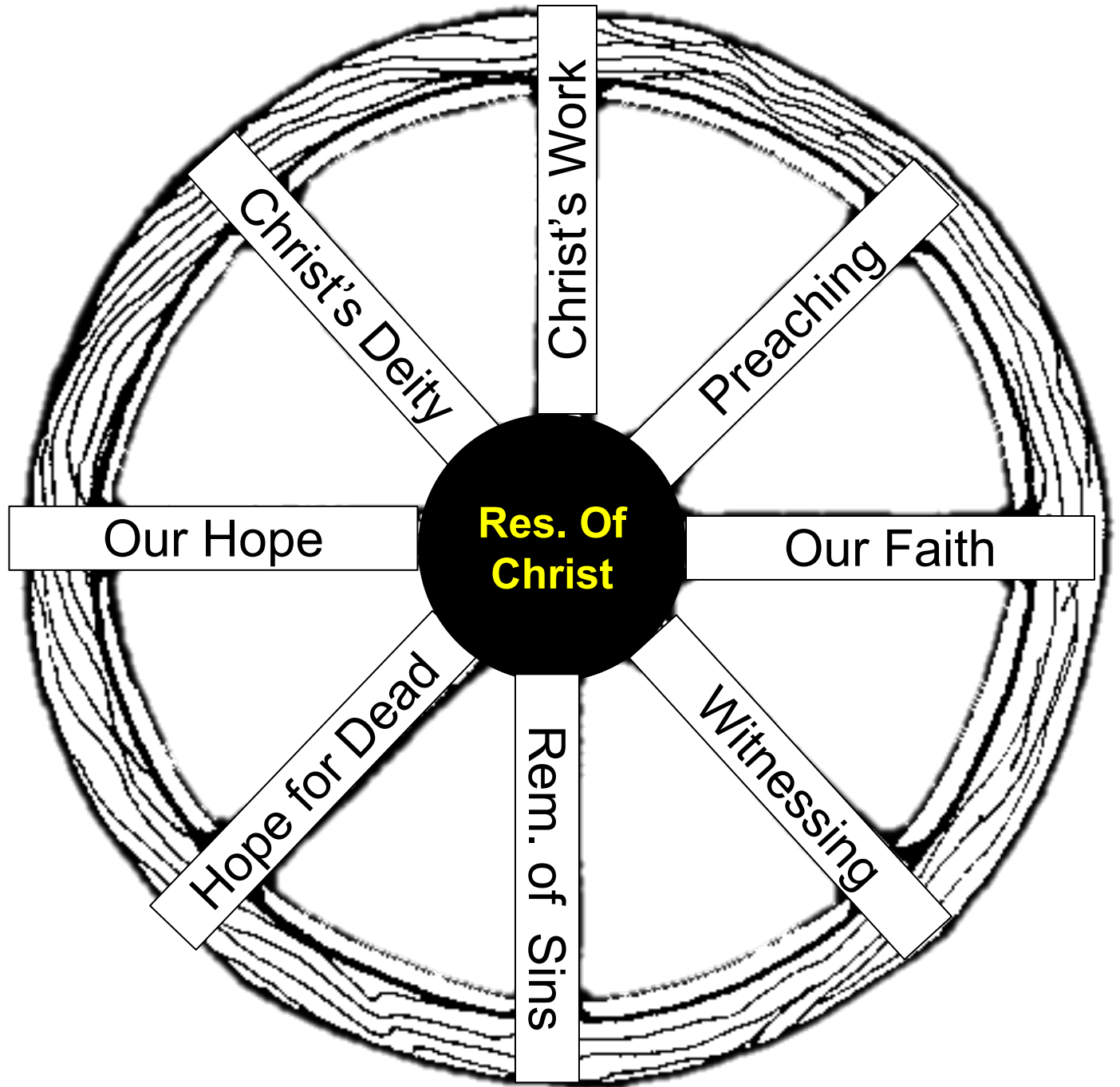
“Hub” of Gospel





# Jesus Raised from the Dead

1 Cor.  
15:13-18



We Believe Jesus  
Was Raised From The Dead

1. The Empty Tomb



# The Empty Tomb

## A. Fact That Tomb is Empty

1. *Matt. 28:6*
2. *Luke 24:3*
3. *Admitted by all*



# The Tomb Itself



1. New Tomb (Luke 23:53; John 19:41)
2. Made of Solid Rock (Matt. 27:60; Mark 15:46)
3. Only Opening Sealed with a Great Stone (Mark 16:4; Matt. 27:62-66)

***Found in the tomb: linen cloths & face cloth  
(John 20:6-7)***

# The Empty Tomb

A. Fact That Tomb is Empty

B. How Did It Become Empty?

1. *“Swoon Theory”*

- Stone 3 women couldn't move (Mk 16:3)
- Jesus in weak condition could not:
  - ✓ Blood he has lost
  - ✓ Has not eaten in 3 days
- Those at cross knew he was dead





# The Empty Tomb

A. Fact That Tomb is Empty

B. How Did It Become Empty

1. *“Swoon Theory”*

2. *Disciples stole it*

- Was the charge (Matt. 28:13)
- How could they without waking the guards?
- If disciples had the body – wouldn't make the claim



# The Empty Tomb

A. Fact That Tomb is Empty

B. How Did It Become Empty

1. *“Swoon Theory”*

2. *Disciples stole it*

3. *Enemies stole it*

- If so, could produce the dead body and destroyed “Christianity”
- What motive would they have?
- Proof for enemies would be to have the body still in grave!



# The Empty Tomb

A. Fact That Tomb is Empty

B. How Did It Become Empty

1. *“Swoon Theory”*

2. *Disciples stole it*

3. *Enemies stole it*

4. *Really was raised*

- Was the conclusion of the angel (Matt. 28:7)
- Fulfilled prophecy (Psa. 16:10)



# We Believe Jesus Was Raised From The Dead

- I. The Empty Tomb
- II. Transformation of Disciples



# Transformation of the Disciples

## A. When Jesus Died – Disciples Were in Utter Despair

1. *Hearts troubled (John 14:1-3)*
2. *Shortly after res. they are changed!*
3. *They were not expecting a resurrection (Luke 24:11)*





# Transformation of the Disciples



A. When Jesus Died – Disciples Were in Utter Despair

B. Peter As An Example

1. *Just prior to Christ's death – denied the Lord (Matt. 26:69-75)*

2. *At tomb he wondered... (Luke 24:12)*

3. *Within few days – different man – boldness:*

- Acts 4:10 – proclaims resurrection
- Acts 4:19-20 – cannot but speak
- Acts 5:29 – ought to obey God rather than men

**Nothing but the resurrection could  
have done that!**

# We Believe Jesus Was Raised From The Dead

- I. The Empty Tomb
- II. Transformation of Disciples
- III. Change in the Jews



# Change in the Jews

## A. The Jews Wanted to Kill Jesus

1. *“Crucify him” (Mark 15:13, 14)*
2. *Very ones at Pentecost (Acts 2:22-23)*



# Change in the Jews

A. The Jews Wanted to Kill Jesus

B. What They Heard (Acts 2)

1. *Preaching about resurrection of Christ*  
(vv. 24-36)

- Fulfills Psa. 16:10 (Shows could not refer to David) (vv. 24-29)
- Empty tomb (v. 29)
- Witnesses (v. 32)

2. Concluded that Jesus is both Lord and Christ (v. 36)



# Change in the Jews

- A. The Jews Wanted to Kill Jesus
- B. What They Heard (Acts 2)
- C. They Changed!
  1. *Pricked in hearts (v. 37)*
  2. *Asked what do to (v. 37)*
  3. *Did what told – submitted to the authority of Christ (v. 38, 41)*
  4. *They were convinced of a bodily resurrection of Christ!*





# We Believe Jesus Was Raised From The Dead

- I. The Empty Tomb
- II. Transformation of Disciples
- III. Change in the Jews
- IV. Witnesses



# Witnesses

## A. Criteria for Witnesses

1. *Honesty*
2. *Ability*
3. *Number (agreement)*

“The credit due to the testimony of witnesses depends upon firstly, their **honesty**; secondly, their **ability**; thirdly, their **number** and the consistency of their testimony; fourthly, the **conformity of their testimony with experience**; and fifthly, the **coincidence of their testimony with collateral circumstances**” (p. 28)



Simon Greenleaf - *Testimony of the Evangelist*  
Practiced law 1806-1853 - Professor at Harvard

# Witnesses

## A. Criteria for Witnesses

## B. Witnesses Meet The Criteria

### 1. *Honest*

- Suffered for cause (would they if knew it was a lie?)
- Tell of own faults:
  - ✓ Peter's denial (Matt. 26:69-75)
  - ✓ Ambition (Matt. 20:20-28)
  - ✓ Failure to understand (Jn. 20:9)
- Reasons for lying cannot be found:
  - ✓ Fear – testified in face of death!
  - ✓ Greed – had nothing to gain
  - ✓ Ambition – no power was gained



# Witnesses

## A. Criteria for Witnesses

## B. Witnesses Meet The Criteria

### 1. *Honest*

### 2. *Competent (Ability)*

- Been with Christ since his baptism (Acts 1:21-22)
- Matthew was a tax collector
- Luke was a doctor
- Peter, Andrew, James & John were businessmen
- John noted details (Jno. 20:7)
- Paul was highly educated



# Witnesses

## A. Criteria for Witnesses

## B. Witnesses Meet The Criteria

1. *Honest*

2. *Competent (Ability)*

3. *Number (and agreement)*

- Reach point need no more witness (Lk. 22:71)
- All said the same thing
- Over 500 claimed they saw him (1 Cor. 15:6)





# We Believe Jesus Was Raised From The Dead

- I. The Empty Tomb
- II. Transformation of Disciples
- III. Change in the Jews
- IV. Witnesses
- V. Appearances



# Appear- ances

## A. When Jesus Appeared After Resurrection – That Proved He Was Raised

1. *Thomas would not believe until he saw the Lord (John 20:25)*
2. *When he saw the Lord (vv. 27-28):*
  - Saw his hands and side
  - Concluded “My Lord and my God”



# Appear- ances

- A. When Jesus Appeared After Resurrection – That Proved He Was Raised
- B. Appeared to Many



# Appear- ances

## Appeared to Many

1. *Mary Magdalene (Jn. 20:14-18; Mk. 16:9)*
2. *Two other women (Mt. 28:9)*
3. *Simon –Cephas (Lk. 24:34; 1 Cor. 15:5)*
4. *Two on road to Emmaus (Lk. 24:13)*
5. *The eleven (Lk. 24:33-49; Mk. 16:14; Jn. 20:19-23)*
6. *Over 500 at once (1 Cor. 15:6)*
7. *James (1 Cor. 15:7)*
8. *All apostles –including Thomas (1 Cor. 15:7; Jn. 20:26-29)*
9. *Peter, Thomas, Nathanael, James, John, and others (Jn. 21:1-14)*
10. *Eleven giving great comm. (Mt. 28:16-20)*
11. *Eleven at Jerusalem (Lk. 24:44-49; Acts 1:3-8)*
12. *Eleven at mount of Olives (Lk. 24:50-53; Acts 1:9-11)*
13. *Paul (1 Cor. 15:8; Acts 9:1-9)*



# We Believe Jesus Was Raised From The Dead

- I. The Empty Tomb
- II. Transformation of Disciples
- III. Change in the Jews
- IV. Witnesses
- V. Appearances
- VI. Conversion of Saul





# Conversion of Saul

## A. Argument Presented by Lord George Lyttelton in 1747

1. *Gilbert West – Resurrection of Christ*
2. *Lord Lyttelton – Conversion of Saul*
3. *Set out to disprove the resurrection*
4. *Changed – to believe in resurrection*
5. *Lyttelton: “The conversion was of itself a demonstration sufficient to prove Christianity to be a divine revelation”*



# Conversion of Saul

A. Argument Presented by Lord George Lyttelton in 1747

B. Lyttelton's Four Propositions:

1. *Paul was an imposter*
2. *Paul was an enthusiast – imagination*
3. *Paul was deceived (by others)*
4. *What he said about his conversion – really happened*



# Conversion of Saul

A. Argument Presented by Lord George Lyttelton in 1747

B. Lyttelton's Four Propositions:

C. Paul was not an imposter

1. *No motive for lying*

- Money
- Reputation
- Power

2. *Placed his story on road to Damascus*

3. *Miracles he worked shows he as not a fraud (Acts 13, 14, 16)*



# Conversion of Saul

- A. Argument Presented by Lord George Lyttelton in 1747
- B. Lyttelton's Four Propositions:
- C. Paul was not an imposter
- D. Paul was not an enthusiast
  1. *An enthusiast sees things he is looking for – Saul was not looking for res. Lord*
  2. *Were other witnesses (Acts 22:9; 26)*
  3. *No marks of an enthusiast*
    - Temper – wild and unreasonable
    - Ignorance – (cf. Acts 26:24)
    - Misguided zeal



# Conversion of Saul

- A. Argument Presented by Lord George Lyttelton in 1747
- B. Lyttelton's Four Propositions:
- C. Paul was not an imposter
- D. Paul was not an enthusiast
- E. Paul was not deceived by others
  - 1. *Impossible to produce a light brighter than noon sun*
  - 2. *Could not cause the voice to be heard*
  - 3. *Nor could they cause Saul to be blind for 3 days (and then return his sight)*



**Only Conclusion:  
It Really Did Happen!**

# We Believe Jesus Was Raised From The Dead

- I. The Empty Tomb
- II. Transformation of Disciples
- III. Change in the Jews
- IV. Witnesses
- V. Appearances
- VI. Conversion of Saul





