

LIVING PROOF

Dr. S.M. Lockridge – “That’s My King” video

Rom 10:8-9 ...(this) is, the word of faith we are proclaiming: **9** That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. **NIV**

This is the core of our faith. God raised Jesus from the dead...**And it changes everything...**

- It empowers our words...If we confess with our mouth...
- It gives life to our beliefs... and believe in your heart
- it activates salvation... you shall be saved

TCC- Every miracle that has ever taken place is a direct result that God raised Him from the dead

Q **But what if He didn't?** Our words would be meaningless... our beliefs just empty wishes.

Today is the day that millions of Christians all over the world celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

- Today for those who believe it is the **crescendo of our faith** it is the day that makes everything else make sense. The resurrection makes sense of the cross, and that makes sense of our lives.

Q But what if He didn't?

1 Cor 15:14 ... if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. NIV

If Christ is not risen there is no such thing as sin... because the whole idea of a resurrection is predicated on the fact that there was a need for forgiveness of sin – because sin separates us from God... we need Him.

Q But what if He did?

Today I want to give you what I believe is irrefutable historical proof that Jesus raised from the dead

The murder of the apostles and those who saw Jesus after the resurrection

This is first century History... recorded by secular scholars... not Biblical conjecture

- **James...** was beheaded
- **Andrew...** crucified after ministering in Greece, Turkey and Russia
- **Simon the zealot...** killed for not bowing down to Sun god in Persia
- **Bartholomew-** was **beaten** to death... Arabia
- **Peter** was **crucified** upside down
- **John** was **boiled in oil...** still lived... exiled on an island prison
- **Thomas** was killed with a **spear in India**
- **Matthew** was stabbed to death ... Ethiopia
- **Phillip** was **crucified...** North Africa
- **Mathias-** **burned** to death in Syria

Point: All dying horrible deaths...

Q Why would they?

Q What were these men doing all over the world... preaching and dying if it was all a hoax?

Q Why would they give up their lives without exception...

- Why would **James and Jude** the natural half-brothers of Jesus convert after his death They saw Him
- Why would **Peter who denied Him** ... reverse course and preach on the day of Pentecost based on nothing? ...He saw Him

Acts 2:23-24, 32- This man (*Jesus*) was handed over to you And you... put him to death by nailing him to the cross. **24** But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death.....**32** God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of the fact NIV

If you don't believe... Answer the question... Why would they all die for a fake cause?

Q Why would all these men give up their whole lives to spread His gospel based on His resurrection... **and then be tortured and die terrible deaths without even one recanting...**

There is no logical answer except one... He really did raise from the dead!!

So now...because He is God

- Because He really came and died for our sin to free us from the demonic strongholds that life throws at us
- Because He shed his blood our sin REALLY IS FORGIVEN
- Because He really DID raise from the Dead

When we believe in our heart and confess with our mouth that God raised Him from the dead we are saved!!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Q. What's the first thought that comes to mind when you think about the resurrection?

Q. What has made you trust that the resurrection of Jesus Christ really happened?

Q. What did the Holy Spirit speak to you today about the resurrection?