

What do Christians Believe About the Resurrection of Jesus?

Notes

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Story- Belief that the historical resurrection isn't that important is totally false!

Paul, writing to the Corinthians says (1Corinth. 15:12-19)

"If it is preached that Christ has been raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead?"

"If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith."

"More than that, we are then found to be false witnesses about God, for we have testified about God that he raised Christ from the dead. But he did not raise him if in fact the dead are not raised. For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either."

"And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile, you are still in your sins."

"Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost. If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are to be pitied more than all men!"

What do Christians believe about the resurrection of Jesus?

1. The gospel writers record that Jesus claimed he would be killed and that he would rise again.
 - Mt. 12:38-40- the sign of Jonah
 - John 2:18-22- destroy this temple and I will raise it again in three days.
2. Jesus was raised to life in a bodily resurrection
 - John 20:19-31- resurrection appearances
 - Acts 1:1-3- convincing proofs
3. The reality of the resurrection is essential. Our faith is invalid if he wasn't raised.
 - 1 Corinthians 15:3-8, 12-14

C.S. Lewis said, “I am trying here to prevent anyone saying the really foolish thing that people often say about Him: I’m ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don’t accept his claim to be God. That is the one thing we must not say. A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic — on the level with the man who says he is a poached egg — or else he would be the Devil of Hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God, or else a madman or something worse. You can shut him up for a fool, you can spit at him and kill him as a demon or you can fall at his feet and call him Lord and God, but let us not come with any patronizing nonsense about his being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to.”

4. Christ’s resurrection is the first fruits... those who die in Christ will also be resurrected.

- 1 Corinthians 15:20-23
- 1 Corinthians 15: 35-44

Story- The saving power of the historical resurrection of Jesus!