

Theme: The literal, physical death, burial and resurrection of Christ were observed by many witnesses, and their reality is the heart of the Gospel and our faith.

I. Intro – Da Vinci Code, Gospel of Judas

- A. A lot in the new lately about Jesus
- B. Da Vinci Code, Gospel of Judas
- C. ScrippsHoward – Ohio U. study – 36% believe in bodily resurrection of believers
- D. What really happened at Easter?
- E. Paul lays it out clearly in this text

II. The Unalterable Gospel Which Saves

- A. Paul reminding them of THE Gospel which saves
 - 1. This was what Paul preached (v1)
 - 2. This is what Corinthians believed (v1)
 - 3. This is what saves believers (v2)
 - 4. If you change it; you are lost! (v2)
 - 5. Paul received from others and passed on (v3)
- B. The importance of holding on to the Gospel
 - 1. There was not many Gospels – one Gospel
 - 2. Only this Gospel saves!
 - 3. We must never let go of these key beliefs

III. The Heart of the Gospel (3 points)

- A. Christ died for our sins (v3)
 - 1. Jesus died for sins (v3; 1Pe 2:24; 1Jn 2:1-2; Mt 26:28)
 - 2. According to Scripture (Is 53:4-6)
- B. Christ was buried (v4)
 - 1. Jesus was buried (v4; Mt 27:57-60; all 4 Gospels)
 - 2. (According to Scripture) – Is 53:9
- C. Christ was raised from dead (v4)
 - 1. Christ was raised (v4; Lk 24:5-7; Acts 2:23-24)
 - 2. According to Scripture – v4; Is 53:10-11; Acts 2:24-32

IV. Witnesses to Christ's Resurrection

- A. Physical historical witnesses (vv5-8)
 - 1. Peter and Twelve
 - 2. Five hundred
 - 3. James and all apostles
 - 4. Paul – last of all
- B. Spiritual witnesses – changed lives
 - 1. Change in Peter and the Twelve

2. Change in James
3. Change in Paul (vv9-10)
4. Change in us today!

V. Conclusion & Summary

A. Don't buy into "other" Gospels

1. They are false – THE Gospel is true!
2. A dead Jesus can not save
3. A dead Jesus can not change your life

B. Embrace THE Gospel of the Resurrected Christ

1. He died for our sins – we are forgiven & free
2. He was raised for our salvation – we are saved!
3. Celebrate the Resurrection – & our new life!
4. Celebrate the Resurrection – we will join Him!

Easter - The Heart of the Gospel

1 Corinthians 15:1-11

April 16, 2006

Celebrate Jesus Celebrate

Hebrews 13:20-21

24 He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed.

1 Peter 2:24

1 My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defense-- Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. 2 He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world. 1 John 2:1-2

28 This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. Matthew 26:28

4 Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered him stricken by God, smitten by him, and afflicted. 5 But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed. 6 We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all. Is 53:4-6

57 As evening approached, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who had himself become a disciple of Jesus. 58 Going to Pilate, he asked for Jesus' body, and Pilate ordered that it be given to him. 59 Joseph took the body, wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, 60 and placed it in his own new tomb that he had cut out of the rock. He rolled a big stone in front of the entrance to the tomb and went away. Matthew 27:57-60

9 He was assigned a grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death, though he had done no violence, nor was any deceit in his mouth. Is 53:9

"Why do you look for the living among the dead? 6 He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: 7 'The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.'" Luke 24:5-7

10 Yet it was the LORD's will to crush him and cause him to suffer, and though the LORD makes his life a guilt offering, he will see his offspring and prolong his days, and the will of the LORD will prosper in his hand. 11 After the suffering of his soul, he will see the light of life and be satisfied; by his knowledge my righteous servant will justify many, and he will bear their iniquities. Isaiah 53:10-11

24 But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him. 25 David said about him: "'I saw the Lord always before me. Because he is at my right hand, I will not be shaken. 26 Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices; my body also will live in hope, 27 because you will not abandon me to the grave, nor will you let your Holy One see decay. 28 You have made known to me the paths of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence.' 29 "Brothers, I can tell you confidently that the patriarch David died and was buried, and his tomb is here to this day. 30 But he was a prophet and knew that God had promised him on oath that he would place one of his descendants on his throne. 31 Seeing what was ahead, he spoke of the resurrection of the Christ, that he was not abandoned to the grave, nor did his body see decay. 32 God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of the fact. Acts 2:24-32