

The Question:

Do you have to throw your “brains in the trash” to believe in Christ?

The Journey:

Is there intellectually feasible evidence to support a faith in the Jesus of the Bible with His claims of deity, eternal life, and absolute truth?

The Central Issue:

Christianity rises and falls on the truthfulness and reality of the resurrection.

¹⁶ For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised; ¹⁷ and if Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins. ¹⁸ Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. ¹⁹ If we have hoped in Christ in this life only, we are of all men most to be pitied.

1 Corinthians 15:16-19

7 Reasons Why I Believe in the Resurrection:

1. Did Jesus really exist?

- Biblical manuscripts: quality and quantity
- 25,000 New Testament documents that authenticate the reality of Jesus Christ
- External verification: Josephus (Jewish historian), Pliny, Tacitus (Roman historians)

2. What was Jesus really like?

- Friend and foe agree: great man, moral teacher
- Claimed sinless life
- Affirmed by history and impact

John 8:46

3. The works of Jesus went unchallenged.

- Fact of miracles, feeding 5000 not disputed
- Eyewitness accounts validated miracles
- Critics never claimed He didn't perform miracles; they questioned His source of power to do them

Matthew 12:24

4. Who did Jesus actually claim to be?

- His own claim
- God's claim
- His followers' claim
- His enemies' claim
- External sources' claim – Pliny, AD 111
- By fulfillment of over 700 Old Testament prophecies

John 14:6
Mark 9:7
Mark 8:27-30
John 10:33

5. Did Jesus really die?

- At the time both friend and foe thought He died
- His flogging, beating, and crucifixion
- Medical evidence: water and blood indicate puncture of pericardium
- By burial preparation: 70 pounds of spices and linen

6. His burial was public and secure.

- Joseph of Arimathea's tomb: a high-profile member of the Sanhedrin
- Roman guards
- Roman seal
- Size of tombstone: would take 20 men to roll away
- Penalty of death for guards sleeping

7. Could Jesus' resurrection possibly be true?

- Predicted by Old Testament prophets hundreds of years earlier
- Jesus predicted it openly and repeatedly
- Appeared to over 500 eyewitnesses in 12 different locations over 40 days
- Transformation of the disciples
- Conversion of Saul of Tarsus
- Transformation of Roman empire and the world
- Best legal minds: the evidence is conclusive!
- My testimony: "He changed my life."

What does this mean for you?

1. It **VALIDATES** Jesus' claim that He is the way,
the truth, and the life. John 14:6
2. It gives you absolute **HOPE** for the future. John 14:19
3. It offers spiritual life **RIGHT NOW!**

*For God so loved _____ that He gave His one and only Son,
your name
that if _____ believes in Him, _____
your name your name
shall not perish but have eternal life.*

*For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn _____,
your name
but to save _____ through Him.
your name*

John 3:16-17

4. If you believe Jesus rose from the dead, you have all the **POWER** you need to be a Christian who lives like a Christian by His grace.