

Introduction:

How can someone as well educated and intellectually astute as you appear to be...really believe in a literal Jesus and all this “born-again” stuff?

Dr. Al Platt
Dept. Chair WLSC, 1976

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:

1 Corinthians 15:13-19

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

7 Reasons Why I Believe in the Resurrection:

1. The HISTORICITY of Jesus of Nazareth is airtight

- Biblical manuscripts – quality and quantity
- Extra Biblical Sources – Josephus, Pliny, Tacitus
- Archeological confirmation

2. The CHARACTER of Jesus is unquestioned

- 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, etc. not disputed
- Eyewitness accounts validated miracles
- Acts 2 sermon – even unbelievers acknowledged His works

4. The IDENTITY of Jesus was confirmed

- By Himself
- By God
- By His followers
- By His enemies
- By extra Biblical sources – Pliny A.D. 111
- Fulfilled over 700 Old Testament prophecies

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

5. The DEATH of Jesus was undisputed

- At the time by friend and foe
- By His flogging, beating, and crucifixion
- By medical evidence – water and blood indicate puncture of pericardium
- By burial preparation – 70 pounds of spices and linen

6. The BURIAL of Jesus was public and secured

- Joseph of Arimathea's tomb
- Roman guards
- Roman seal
- Size of tombstone – takes 20 men to roll away
- Penalty of death for guards sleeping

7. The EVIDENCE for Jesus' resurrection is convincing

- Predicted by Old Testament prophets
- Jesus predicted it openly and numerously
- Appeared 12 different times to over 500 eye witnesses
- Appeared in multiple locations, times, over 40 days
- The transformation of the disciples
- Explosion of the church – “in Jerusalem”
- Disciples all willing to knowingly “die for a lie” – inconceivable
- Conversion of Saul of Tarsus
- Transformation of Roman empire and the world – test of time
- Best legal minds – the evidence is conclusive!
- My testimony – “He changed my life”

