

### **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.

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

1 Corinthians 15:16-19 (NASB)

### 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 \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus' claim that He is the way, the truth, and the life. John 14:6
  
2. It gives you absolute \_\_\_\_\_ for the future. John 14:19
  
3. It offers spiritual life \_\_\_\_\_ !

*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 (NIV)

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