

Christ's Resurrection Guarantees

Our Resurrection

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*Much of the information in the third, fourth and fifth paragraphs are excerpts from Dr. Malcolm Lavender's book, **The Fallacy of the Sinning Christian** and is used by permission. Dr. Lavender is a learned Greek scholar, and the author of seven books using Greek syntax and exegesis to disprove theological fallacies. In addition, he is a contributing editor to the Millenia King James Bible (MKJB) to be released in July 2008*

Scripture: *And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain.*

I Corinthians 15:14 (KJV)

We Americans love guarantees. Seldom would we purchase any item if it had no guarantee. However, the Better Business Bureau says a guarantee is only as good as the one who backs it up. What do you think of our Savior? What do you think of the organization (the Holy Trinity) He's a part of? Can we trust His Word and what He tells us? Let's face it: Some things must be taken on faith and trust. Imagine what it would be like to go to bed and realize that the sun would never shine again. If there were no sun, all flowers and plants and life would become extinct. But "Thanks be to God" the sun does shine each day. As we have the assurance and the hope the sun will shine day after day, we likewise have a *guarantee* that we shall be resurrected and go to be with our Lord forever (all eternity).

During the time the Apostle Paul penned I Corinthians 15:14, some doubters were saying "there is no resurrection." This is nothing new. Wasn't this the same debate that raged between the Pharisees and aristocratic Sadducees? This same controversy continues even in modern times, "Will some people live again beyond death and the grave?" Again, Paul makes it clear that if Christ was not risen, then our preaching is vain (*futile, useless, ineffective and fruitless* as it reads in the Millenia King James Bible), as well as our faith [is in] vain (that is, *futile, useless, ineffective and fruitless*). In other words, "If Christ was not resurrected, we are wasting our time preaching the Good News and appropriating faith!"

As we focus on the last hours of Christ's life on earth, we see that darkness had enveloped Him in His anguish in the Garden of Gethsemane. For me, it is unimaginable. Yet, He accepted what lay before Him, went to the cross and "bore up" our sins (Isaiah 53:5) as *the Suffering Servant* of Yahweh. Like the two goats that took (or "bore up") the sins of the people in the wilderness, Christ had our sins placed on Him as He "bore up" our sins. Some misinformed television evangelists have said "Jesus became sin." This is not true. Our Lord on the cross acts in the role of *Yahweh-Savior*. He *yielded* to the will of the Father and drank the cup of death in obedience (Isaiah 53:7-10, Matt. 26:39, 53-54). He became *obedient* to the point of death (Phi. 2:6, 7, 9) and He was *perfected* (Heb. 5:9) by what He suffered.

Regrettably, many Spirit-Filled believers blindly accept the views of Calvinism concerning the atonement, but should know that it is incorrect. Our Lord was not *chastised* (punished) by Yahweh for the sins of the believer, nor was He *smitten by God* as the Christ rejecters thought! Jesus, on the cross acts in the role as *Yahweh, the suffering Servant* (See Isaiah. 53: 6, 10). In Romans 8 we see that Hell (Gk. "Gehenna"- the Lake of Fire) is the place of the wrath of God against sin, not Calvary! Calvary is the place where sin must be thought of in terms of removal, *abolishment* (Gk. *katakrino*). Most Calvinists believe in "Penal Atonement" – that is, that Christ's sufferings on the cross were *Penal*, as they were judicially inflicted in satisfaction of justice. This view is accepted and believed by the majority of Wesleyans, Calvinists and Pentecostal/Charismatic believers throughout the world. But this IS INCORRECT!! Proficient Greek scholars who truly understand the nuances and syntax of Greek grammar have discovered the two schools of Protestant thought teach a mixed (and confusing) theology of both Calvinism and Arminianism-Wesleyanism.

The correct interpretation for the Arminian-Wesleyan (and Pentecostal/Charismatic) groups should be the "Priestly-Sacrificial Atonement" — that is, the Atonement in which the priest and sacrifice of the OT are brought together in the person of Christ, that He may *offer Himself* in Priestly-Sacrificial Atonement, in bloodshed and death. This Atonement necessitated humanity and Divinity. Humanity that there may be bloodshed and death [wrought in His body], Divinity that

there may be *efficacy* (that is, the adequate power to produce the intended results). Atonement thus stands wrought in the *merit* (worth, value) of His person. Atonement then is in *act* what God is in *essence-love*!

Who is this Christ who suffered on the cross and rose from the dead on the third day?

(1) *He was the Incarnate God-Man (John 1:1, 14; Matt. 26) He pronounced His Deity on several occasions when He walked upon planet earth (Matt 17; John 10: 30, 38)). The Bible has much to say about the Person and Work of this Miracle Worker we call Messiah (Luke 2:11; 2 Peter 1:1). Therefore, if we trust the Bible, we must also trust what it says about Jesus, the Christ, who is our King (Rev. 17; Isa. 7:14; Heb. 2:17).*

(2) *He was born of a virgin (Isaiah. 7:14; Matt. 1:23)*

(3) *He was born in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2; Matt. 2:5)*

(4) *He was crucified (Isaiah 53:12; John 19:17-30)*

(5) *He had none of His bones broken while on the cross (Psalms 34:20; John 19:33-36)*

As evangelical believers we take no stock in what cults like the Jehovah's Witnesses say as they mistranslate John 1:1 in an effort to show that Jesus was not divine, but only "a god." When John 1:1 says, "The Word was *with* God;" that's exactly what it means. This passage of Scripture says that although Jesus was truly God, He possessed a distinct personality within the Godhead and had communion with the Father and the Holy Spirit.

Thomas and the other disciples were assembled together early, the second week after the resurrection, when Jesus appeared to them. Although Thomas has been called "doubting Thomas," this designation is not fair to him. He was a good disciple, but he wanted proof of Christ's resurrection from the dead. Thomas had seen Jesus walking around on earth, yet was forced to accept the fact that He had been laid in a tomb. And now he was having a little problem with his faith. Thomas needed to feel the nail scars in His hands and touch His flesh before he believed. Because Thomas did not believe his own eyes and what he saw, Jesus asked Thomas to touch him. Awestruck, he responded by shouting "My Lord and my God!" Muslims, cults, and many world religions say that Jesus is not God, but only a good and kind moral teacher. So, why did Thomas say, "My Lord and my God?" The answer is simple. Only the God of creation and life could be resurrected after He was entombed. This is what Paul the Apostle is speaking of in I Corinthians 15:14. Paul's faith and trust in Christ was strong. He would not entertain doubt and unbelief from those who were saying "Christ was not resurrected."

Millions of people throughout the world do not believe Jesus was resurrected, or that He is God. Those of us who continue to believe in the Mighty One of Israel who died for our sins will celebrate this Easter season by offering devotion and praise to our *Lord and Savior, Jesus, the Christ*. **Let us shout from the rooftops, proclaiming that JESUS IS ALIVE!!!!** What about you? Has your faith and confidence in Christ grown weak? Now is the time to renew your mind. Now is the time to restart, recharge and regain your faith and confidence in Christ.

