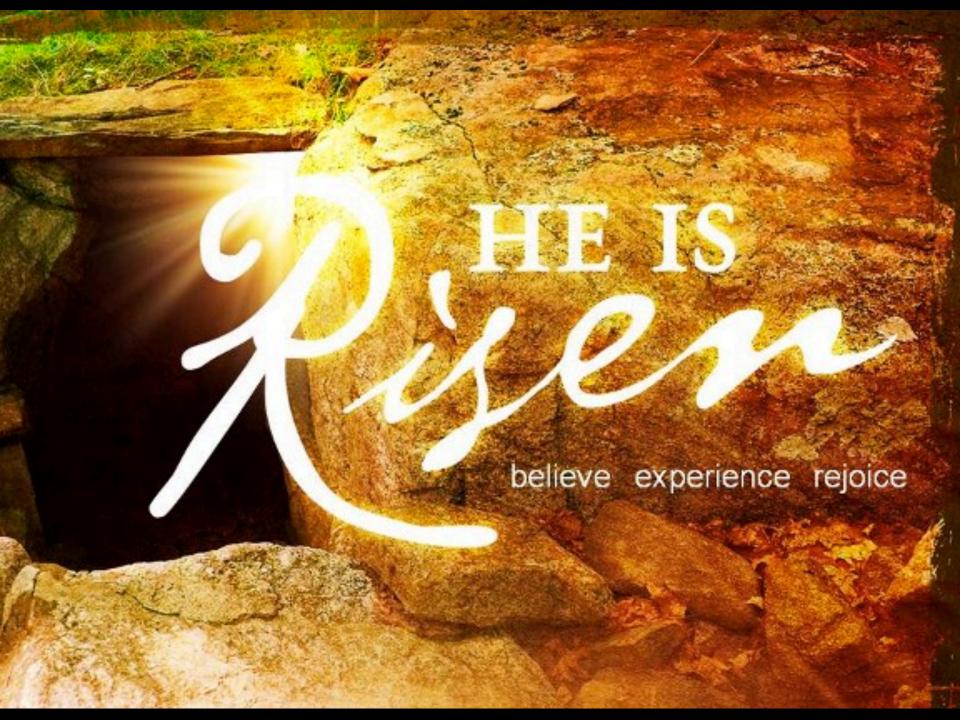


Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live,

(John 11:25 ESV)



And if Christ has not been raised,
your faith is futile and you are still in your sins.

Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished.

If in Christ we have hope in this life only,
we are of all people most to be pitied.

But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead,
the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins.

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On the fact of the resurrection of Jesus Christ is suspended everything which makes the gospel the good news.

Strike that out, and what have you left?

Some beautiful bits of moral teaching, a lovely life marred by tremendous mistakes about himself and his own importance and his relationship to men and to God, but you've got nothing left that is worth calling the gospel.

Alexander Maclaren

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and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve.

Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles.

Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me.

(1 Corinthians 15:5-8 ESV)

If one is to assail the historicity of the Resurrection and therefore the deity of Christ, one must conclude that there was a conspiracy — a cover-up if you will — by eleven men with the complicity of up to five hundred others. To subscribe to this argument, one must also be ready to believe that each disciple was willing to be ostracized by friends and family, live in daily fear of death, endure prisons, live penniless and hungry, sacrifice family, be tortured without mercy, and ultimately die — all without ever once renouncing that Jesus had risen from the dead.

**Chuck Colson** 

After more than 700 hours of studying this subject, and thoroughly investigating its foundation, I have come to the conclusion that the resurrection of Jesus Christ is one of the most wicked, vicious, heartless hoaxes ever foisted upon the minds of men, or it is the most fantastic fact of history.

Josh McDowell

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## 1. The Reality of Forgiveness

It will be counted to us who believe in him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord, who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification.

(Romans 4:24-25 ESV)

And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.

(Acts 4:12 ESV)

## 1. The Reality of Forgiveness

## 2. The Reality of our Faith

Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

(1 Corinthians 15:58 ESV)

What do I gain if, humanly speaking, I fought with beasts at Ephesus? If the dead are not raised, "Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die."

## 2. The Reality of our Faith

# 3. The Reality of our Future

But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

