

Reasoning from the Resurrection
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Introduction: The key to understanding God's will is the cross of Christ.

- A. God expects men to struggle with reason and come to know Jesus is the Son of God. **(Mt 16:13-17)**
 - 1. Jesus could have used miracles in a way no one would doubt who He is.
 - 2. Over and over He allowed men to struggle and dig deep to find Him.
 - 3. God's plan is to change hearts and that is a painful process that comes through struggle and reason. **(Acts 2:36-37)**
- B. Can you give a reason for the hope that is within you? **(1 Pt 3:15)**
 - 1. Those who are really seeking God will respond to this evidence.
 - 2. Each of us needs a solid assurance of the identity of Jesus. **(Jn 8:32)**

I. The powerful evidence of the resurrection

- A. God chose men who would be eyewitnesses. **(Acts 1:21-22; 10:39-42)**
 - 1. There is great power in eyewitness testimony.
 - a. Is the person giving testimony in a position to know the facts? **(1 Jn 1:1-3)**
 - b. Does he have an ulterior motive in telling his account? **(1 Cor 15:30-32)**
 - c. Is this person of good character? Is he reliable?
 - d. Are there other witnesses and do they agree? **(1 Cor 15:6)**
 - 2. There is great power in fulfilled prophecy. **(Psa 22:1)**
 - a. The words of Christ are recorded.
 - b. The words and actions of His enemies are recorded. **(Psa 22:6-8, 18)**
 - c. The details of crucifixion are recorded. **(Psa 22:14-17)**
 - d. How can these things be written over a 1000 years before the event and even before crucifixion was even invented?
 - 3. There is great power in miracles that accompanied the witnesses. **(Acts 2:32-33; 4:33)**
- B. Jesus is the Son of God. **(Rom 1:3-4)**
 - 1. Why is this so? Did not God raise others from the dead?
 - 2. Jesus claimed to be the Son of God. Did God raise an imposter?

II. We learn powerful truths about the life to come

- A. The resurrection and ascension of Christ was a factual event involving Jesus' physical body.
 - 1. Jesus' physical body was raised. **(Lk 24:39-45)**
 - 2. Jesus physically ascended on a cloud. **(Acts 1:9-11)**
 - 3. An angel of God tells us how this example will be repeated!
 - 4. John also tells us about how this future event will affect people that are now dead! **(Rev 1:7; Jn 19:32-37)**

- B. There will be a literal physical resurrection of all men who ever lived.
 - 1. Paul reasoned with unbelievers that they would be held accountable at the judgment day because of the resurrection of Christ. **(Acts 17:30-31)**
 - 2. Consider how Paul develops this reasoning with Christians. **(2 Cor 4:13-14; 1 Cor 6:14; Phil 3:20-21, 1 Jn 3:2)**
 - 3. Is this resurrection a figurative resurrection of a cause?
- C. These doctrinal truths cannot be compromised!
 - 1. There were some in the 1st century that improperly reasoned from scripture about these things. **(1 Cor 15:12, 2 Tim 2:15-19)**
 - 2. Before you write off controversy as unnecessary or label Paul as a “legalist” because he marked one over his teaching you should consider these situations.

III. We learn about the significance of the first day of the week

- A. Jesus was raised on the first day of the week. **(Mt 28:1-4)**
- B. The church was established on the first day of the week.
 - 1. The baptism of Christ was first preached on this day! **(Acts 2:38-39)**
 - 2. Pentecost always occurs on the first day of the week. **(Lev 23:15-16)**
- C. Churches were to take up a collection on the first day of the week. **(1 Cor 16:1-3)**
 - 1. Paul gave great emphasis to this day when he instructed Cornith and other churches concerning a specific contribution.
 - 2. The NASV properly gives the emphasis of the Greek text.
- D. The Lord’s supper was observed on the first day of the week.
 - 1. The apostles instructed Christians to be steadfast in this. **(Acts 2:42)**
 - 2. The term “breaking of bread” can describe the Lord’s supper. **(1 Cor 10:15-17)**
 - 3. The early Christians partook of the Lord’s Supper on the first day of the week. **(Acts 20:6-7)**

IV. Our conversion and life is found in the resurrection

- A. Jesus often mentioned that His followers would carry a cross. **(Lk 9:23; 14:27)**
 - 1. The cross means death! Look at the context of these verses.
 - 2. The cross also means life and purpose! We find life by dying.
- B. Our conversion and future walk of life is found in Jesus’ resurrection. **(Rom 6:3-8)**
 - 1. We become so identified with Jesus that we see the world like He did.
 - 2. We become pleased to suffer as He did and to give our lives in the service of others.
- C. We become so emptied of the things of this world that our glory is simply in the cross and the fruits that it brings. **(Gal 6:14)**

Invitation: Have you been crucified and resurrected? **(Jn 3:3-5)**