



# NEWSLETTER

## DID JESUS REALLY RISE FROM THE DEAD?

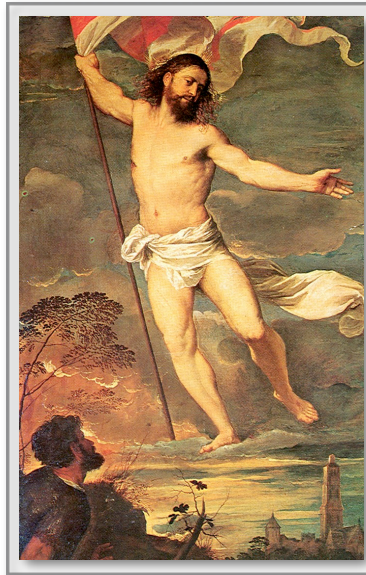
### *Answers to Three Common Objections to the Resurrection*

Easter has always been one of the Church's greatest days of celebration—and rightfully so. To quote the apostle Paul, “if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain. . . . If in this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied” (1 Cor. 15:14, 19). But, Easter is also a time when many critics of Christianity raise objections to the claim that Christ rose from the dead. Historically, there have been three major objections to the resurrection. This article will present those objections and give brief apologetic responses to each.

#### **1. The Swoon Theory**

One of the major objections to the bodily resurrection of Jesus is the swoon theory. Those who hold this theory claim that though Jesus was hung on the cross, he never actually died; he just “swooned”—kind of passed out or something. The soldiers took him down (so they say) and put him in the tomb, unaware that he was still alive. Then Jesus somehow escaped.

There are at least two major problems with this view. First of all, it ignores the gruesome details surrounding Christ's death. The Romans were known for perfecting the art of torture and capital punishment. What Jesus went through would have certainly killed him. Second, there is no way a



half-dead Jesus would've had the strength to roll away the stone from the tomb by himself; and even if he did, he would have never been able to make it past the guards. Jesus didn't “swoon”; he died.

#### **2. The Conspiracy Theory**

Another common objection to the resurrection is the conspiracy theory. This theory holds that Jesus really did die, but that after the burial his disciples stole his body from the tomb, and lied to everyone, telling them that Jesus had risen. They did this, so the argument goes, because they

wanted the Christian movement to continue. If everyone knew Jesus was dead, then they wouldn't be able to draw a crowd anymore.

Again, there are at least two major problems with this view. First, it would have been nearly impossible for these men to have gotten past the Roman guards surrounding Jesus' tomb. Second, and most important, is the fact that most of these disciples wound up being martyred for their faith. Are we supposed to believe that these men would be willing to face death without denying Christ all in the name of a lie they had concocted?

#### **3. The Hallucination Theory**

A third major objection to the resurrection is the hallucination theory. This theory says that the disciples merely thought they saw the resurrected Jesus, but really they were just hallucinating.

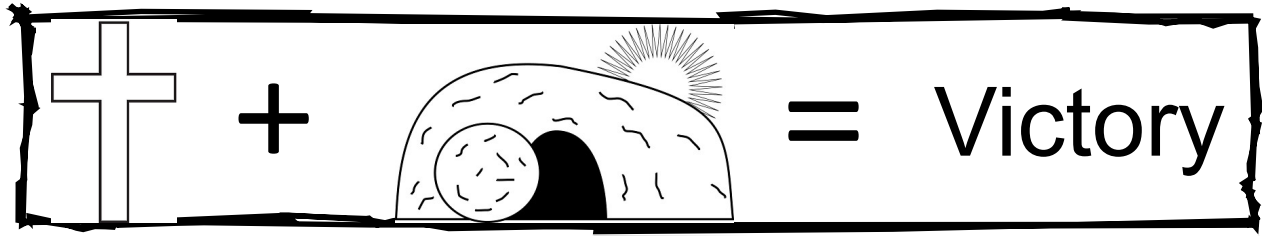


One problem with this theory is the fact that Jesus' body would've been in the tomb. Are we supposed to believe that the disciples hallucinated about the empty tomb *and* the resurrection appearances? Second, after his resurrection, Jesus appeared to multiple people in multiple places at

multiple times. Are we supposed to believe that *all* of these people had the *same* hallucination?

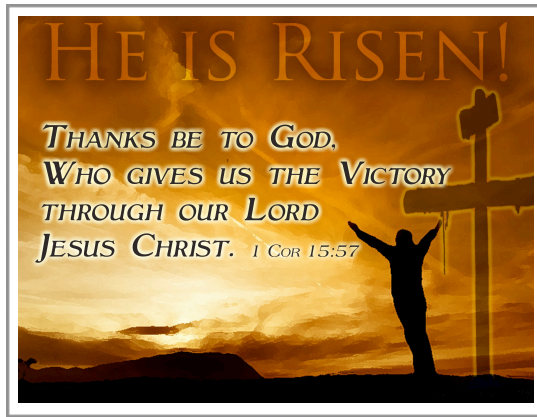
Brothers and sisters, these objections are lame. Let's celebrate this Easter with the confidence that Jesus really is risen!

## JESUS' VICTORY IS OUR VICTORY



When Christ came to earth 2,000 years ago it was for the purpose of dying on a cross as a sacrifice for the sins of those who would have faith in Him and be saved. As Christians, we celebrate this month the fact that Jesus rose from the dead winning the power over death and will one day come again to earth to complete the process of salvation by doing away with death forever. Hebrews 10:26 and 28 say, "But as it is, he has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself. Christ will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him."

These verses give us hope, and give us commands to follow. The hope is that he who promised is faithful and he will appear a second time. The commands are to (1) hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, (2) stir up one another to love and good works, (3) not neglect to meet together, and (4) encourage one another.



The Day is drawing near!

35, "Therefore do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward. For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God you may receive what is promised."

Verses 23-25 of the same chapter give us a challenge in light of the fact that Christ has won the victory over death: "Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near."

Why should we endure? Because of what is promised: eternal life with Christ who rose from the dead and is now seated at the right hand of God.

Jesus' victory over death secures the Christian's victory over death. Thanks be to God!

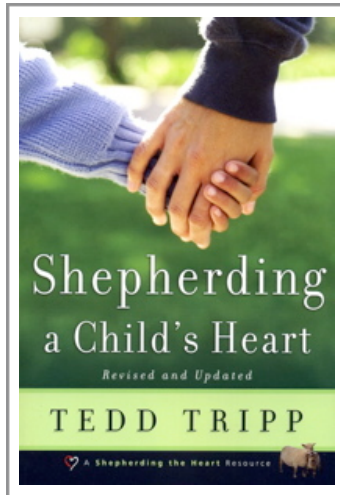


# SHEPHERDING A CHILD'S HEART



Everything we say and do flows from what's in our hearts. Luke 6:45 says, "out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks." As Christian parents, we know that our job includes more than making sure our children are fed, clothed, and taught things

such as how to read and write. Tedd Tripp, the author of *Shepherding a Child's Heart*, believes that "the central focus of parenting is the gospel. You need to direct not simply the behavior of your children, but the attitudes of their hearts." This book is useful for parents with children of all ages. Tripp's purpose is to lay out "a biblical vision for the parenting task: It involves being a kind authority, shepherding your children to understand themselves in God's world, and keeping the gospel in clear view so your children can internalize the good news and someday live in mutuality with you as people under God." We highly recommend this book. To order a copy through our church office, just let pastor Grant know you're interested.



## Upcoming Events

### April 6

We will have a business meeting this Wednesday night at 7:00pm.

### April 9

Marjorie Brown will be having an estate sale on this Saturday. Our church is in charge of food.

### April 16

Our youth group will be going to Clifty State Park to have lunch and do some hiking. See Pastor Josh for details.

### April 18

The ladies sewing group will meet on this Monday at 2:00pm. See Barbara Higgins for details.

### April 24

Easter Sunrise Service at 6:30 with breakfast to follow.  
Regular Easter Service at 10:30.

# EASTER BREAKFAST



Don't forget our sunrise service Easter Sunday morning at 6:30am in the Sanctuary. After the service, at 7:00am, we'll enjoy a great breakfast cooked by the BFBC men. Plenty of time will be given to go home, freshen up, and be back for our regular worship service at 10:30.

Remember, the sunrise service does not replace, but supplements, our regular morning worship service. We hope to see everyone at the sunrise service, the breakfast, and regular morning worship. See you there!



# PEOPLE WHO'D LOVE TO RECEIVE MAIL



### **Kali Burton**

2810 East 800 South  
Columbus, IN 47201  
Kali (Brenda Dean's granddaughter) is a teenager

who is battling cancer. She recently visited our church along with her father and brother. We had a special time of prayer for her. Let's let her know that we are continuing to pray.

### **Brady Lattire**

8481 N East Prong Rd  
Canaan, IN 47224

In May, Brady will be going on a year long tour to Afghanistan. Let's let him know that we are proud of him and his service for our country in the armed forces.

## Areas of Service

### **Deacon of the Month**

John Higgins (839-4905)

### **Church Cleaning**

Garry & Rosemary Jessup

### **Nursery Workers**

April 3 — Ingrid Peters

April 10 — Amy Combs

April 17 — Melisa Gaines

April 24 — Rosemary Jessup

### **Nursing Home Visitation**

No nursing home visitation this week due to Easter