

Reasoning from the Resurrection
www.aubeacon.com

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 need 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)**