

THE "SO WHAT" OF THE EMPTY TOMB

- 1 Corinthians 15 -

For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, 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. For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.

vv 3-9



Joseph of Arimathea, a respected member of the council, who was also himself looking for the kingdom of God, took courage and went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Pilate was surprised to hear that he should have already died. And summoning the centurion, he asked him whether he was already dead. And when he learned from the centurion that he was dead, he granted the corpse to Joseph.

Mark 15:43-45



But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. But one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once there came out blood and water.

John 19:33-34

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Now there was a man named Joseph, from the Jewish town of Arimathea. He was a member of the council, a good and righteous man, who had not consented to their decision and action; and he was looking for the kingdom of God. This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then he took it down and wrapped it in a linen shroud and laid him in a tomb cut in stone, where no one had ever yet been laid. It was the day of Preparation, and the Sabbath was beginning. The women who had come with him from Galilee followed and saw the tomb and how his body was laid.

Luke 23:50-55



The next day, that is, after the day of Preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate and said, "Sir, we remember how that imposter said, while he was still alive, 'After three days I will rise.' Therefore order the tomb to be made secure until the third day, lest his disciples go and steal him away and tell the people, 'He has risen from the dead,' and the last fraud will be worse than the first." Pilate said to them, "You have a guard of soldiers. Go, make it as secure as you can." So they went and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone and setting a guard.

Matthew 27:62-66



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vv 3-9



And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain vs 14



And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain



We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified about God that he raised Christ, whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised



And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins vs 17



Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished vs 18



If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied vs 19



If the dead are not raised, "Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die."



Because Christ has been raised, the preaching of the gospel is not an exercise in futility. Because Christ has been raised, your faith is not in vain. Because Christ has been raised, you're not a fool worshiping a false god nor a blasphemer for failing to worship the true God. Because Christ has been raised, you're no longer dead in your trespasses. Because Christ has been raised, all who have died in Him are in fact experiencing that which they hoped for in Him. Because Christ has been raised, you're not a pitiful, delusional human being.

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.



And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him, if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel

Colossians 1:21-23



Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand



INCARNATION



INCARNATION LIFE



INCARNATION LIFE DEATH



INCARNATION LIFE DEATH RESURRECTION



INCARNATION LIFE DEATH RESURRECTION SESSION



INCARNATION LIFE DEATH RESURRECTION SESSION RETURN



Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, vs 58



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