

## JESUS IS ALIVE – TRUE OR FALSE?

*If Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still under condemnation for your sins  
1 Corinthians 15:17*

### The “swoon theory”

Have you seen the Mel Gibson film, *The Passion of the Christ*?

“Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged.” John 19:1

“His appearance was so disfigured beyond that of any man and his form marred beyond human likeness.” Isaiah 52:14

“Clearly, the weight of historical and medical evidence indicates that Jesus was dead (even) before the wound to His side was inflicted ... Accordingly, interpretations based on the assumption that Jesus did not die on the cross appear to be at odds with modern medical knowledge.”

Journal of the American Medical Society

### Affirmative Evidence for the Resurrection of Christ – (The Three E’s)

#### EARLY

*For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Peter and then to the Twelve. After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born.*

*1 Corinthians 15:3-7*

#### EMPTY

The tomb was empty. No one ever claimed it was anything but empty!

Had the Romans or Jewish leaders taken the body, they would have produced it to prove he was dead.

The Disciples had nothing to gain and everything to lose by stealing the body. Why would they want to live a life of deprivation and suffering and then be tortured to death for a lie? If this had been a charade, certainly one of them would have broken ranks under torture and told the truth.

#### EYEWITNESSES

History clearly shows that after Jesus’ Resurrection on what we call “Easter Sunday”, the followers of Christ were boldly proclaiming Jesus is alive. Suddenly, these once-cowardly men are transformed into people filled with courage, willing to fearlessly proclaim to their death that Jesus had conquered the grave. People will not die for their religious beliefs if they know their beliefs are false!

### A Powerful Persuasive Equation

EARLY ACCOUNTS + an EMPTY TOMB + EYEWITNESS TESTIMONY = certainty that JESUS was resurrected!

*“I am the resurrection and the life, he who believes in Me will live, even though he dies.” Jesus, John 11:25*

