

Main Idea: Easter is about The Good News...

1Cor. 15:1 ¶ Now I would remind you, brothers, of **the gospel** I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand,

1Cor. 15:2 and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.

Easter is about the good news preached:

- Rom 10:14-17 (not lifestyle, philosophy, experience, action) - propositional truth

Easter is about the good news received:

- Gal 1:6-9 (it is not malleable) - contextual

Easter is about the good news you rely upon

- Col 1:21-23 (it is not a prayer you pray but a seat you stand on) - affect your life

Easter is about the good news that can save you

- Rom 1:16-17 (only the gospel saves) - better than elections, promotions, relationships, trophies

of an empty tomb.

1Cor. 15:3 ¶ For I delivered to you as of **first importance** what I also received: that **Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures,**

1Cor. 15:4 **that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures,**

1Cor. 15:5 and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve.

1Cor. 15:6 Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep.

1Cor. 15:7 Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles.

1Cor. 15:8 Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me.

1Cor. 15:9 For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.

1Cor. 15:10 But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me.

1Cor. 15:11 Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

its about an event in space time history - 1 Jn 1:1-4; acts 26:21-29

Implication: Are you willing to look?

1Cor. 15:12 ¶ Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead?

this is the only faith that is based on an empirically verifiable event in history

four minimal non-supernatural, historical facts,

supported by multiple independent sources

attested to by unsympathetic and hostile enemies

brought forth through embarrassing circumstances of eyewitness testimonies

who were alive to verify through it cost them their lives

the meaning may be beyond the scope of history but not the facts themselves

(3-4) 1- the death of Jesus -

4 gospels,

non christian jewish historian Josephus

Roman historian Tacitus

Greek Satirist Lucian of Samosata

as well as the Jewish Talmud

nothing on virtually anyone from classical history - no war memos, notes from

Herod or even some of the biggest events in history -

The destruction of Pompeii, a large city and its

environs including Herculaneum, completely

destroyed and tens of thousands of people vaporized

by a volcanic eruption. An event comparable in terms

of shock to 9/11, and one that happened just 250km

from the Roman capital. This must be recorded

EVERYWHERE. Only no. It isn't. Only one source from near the the time talks about it. internet pseudo critics need a new argument.

John Dominic Crossan, non-Christian critical scholar and co-founder of the Jesus Seminar, states, "That he was crucified is as sure as anything historical can ever be."

(4) 2 - the empty tomb -

*Jn 20:1-2 - embarrassing detail cause its true
matt 27:57-66 - enemies apologetic was that they stole the body*

(5-6) 3 - the claim of eyewitnesses seeing Him -

Eleven early sources testify to the willingness of the apostles to suffer and die for their belief in the resurrection. [42] For example, we know extra-Biblically that Jesus' brother James was stoned to death by the Sanhedrin and that the apostle Paul was beheaded in Rome under Nero. [43] Many people will die for what they believe to be true but no one willingly suffers and dies for what they know to be false. Again, liars make poor martyrs. This important point should not be confused by an appeal to modern-day martyrs who willingly die for their religious beliefs. Making this comparison is a false analogy: "Modern martyrs act solely out of their trust in beliefs that others have taught them. The apostles died for holding to their own testimony that they had personally seen the risen Jesus. Contemporary martyrs die for what they believe to be true. The disciples of Jesus died for what they knew to be either true or false."

(7) 4 - the impact on everyone - Jn 7:1-5; James 1:1

Application: Are you willing to believe?

1Cor. 15:13 But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised.

1Cor. 15:14 And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain.

1Cor. 15:15 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.

1Cor. 15:16 For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised.

1Cor. 15:17 And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins.

1Cor. 15:18 Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished.

1Cor. 15:19 If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied.

1Cor. 15:20 ¶ **But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead,**

are you willing to concede that it could be true? to say no is not about evidence but about a presupposition

Hume says a miracle is most improbable

- its true its improbable for a man to naturally be raised from the dead

His death is proof positive of His claims

- Matt 12:39-41; 16:21; 17:22-23; 20:17-19:27:63-64

the significance and impact of the empty tomb is the same today as it was 2000 years ago

are you willing to believe -

main Idea: *Easter is about the good news of an empty tomb*

Implication: *are you willing to look?*

Application: *are you willing to believe?*

Articles for further study:

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/4-reasons-to-believe-in-the-empty-tomb>

<http://www.icr.org/ChristEmptyTomb/>