

"Outside the Camp"

One of the most persuasive arguments for the inspiration of the Bible is that it contains information which a writer could not have known without divine guidance. The hundreds of cases of fulfilled prophecy are sufficient to show that this type of information exists in the Bible.

Similarly, the biblical writers recorded information that was not yet discovered by scientific inquiry. The Old Testament sanitation laws are an example. Moses required that the Israelites were to bury human refuse "outside the camp" (Deut. 23:12-13 NKJV). This requirement may seem unremarkable to a modern reader, but Moses lived when the connection between disease and open sewage was unknown. Even his education in the court of Pharaoh (Acts 7:21-22) could not have provided him with the wisdom to issue such a decree. Egyptian medical science was so primitive that dung was often an ingredient in their medicines. Regarding Egyptian medical texts, Kenny Barfield explains: "Remedies were given...for such things as baldness, gray hair, and personal hygiene." The drugs to be used in these "medical" treatments included all kinds of excreta and urine. Waste products figure soft in the prescriptions that medical historians have labeled the Egyptian practice as "sewage pharmacology" (*Why the Bible is Number 1*, Baker, 1988, p. 19).

For hundreds of years, nations ignorant of Mosaic sanitation laws suffered devastating epidemics because they failed to dispose of human waste properly. Millions died from diseases associated with raw sewage until safe sanitation principles were discovered. Yet, what mankind "discovered" is Europe's Middle Ages had been in the Bible all along. How did Moses know that human waste should be buried in an uninhabited area? God told him!

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Apologetics Press, Inc.



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"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively [living] hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead," 1 Peter 1:3

June 7, 2009

The Resurrection ~ What It Means For Christians Today

A study of the resurrection gives the same hope to the child of God today as when first taught. However, there have always been some who have rejected the idea of a resurrection. Jesus, during His ministry, dealt with the Sadducees, who taught the "no resurrection" idea. One such account is recorded in Matthew 22:23-28. Jesus' response to them was, "Ye do err, not knowing the Scriptures, nor the power of God" (vs. 29, KJV). Paul created great dissension between the Pharisees and Sadducees because he mentioned the resurrection (Acts 23:6-10). The Pharisees believed in the resurrection and the Sadducees did not. The same response from the Sadducees can be seen in Acts 4:1-2 and Luke 20:7. When Paul was presenting the "Unknown God" to the idol worshippers in Athens (Acts 17), he spoke of the resurrection, and the result was that "some mocked" (vs. 32). Apparently

Agrippa didn't believe in the resurrection, since Paul asked him, "Why should it be thought a thing incredible with you, that God should raise the dead?" (Acts 26:8). Even among those who had been converted in Corinth, some were saying that there is no resurrection (1 Corinthians 15:12). Paul then proceeded to answer them with a number of consequences of a "no resurrection" theory, which we will discuss later in this article. Paul mentions two people, Hymeneus and Philetus, in 2 Timothy 2:17-18 who "have strayed concerning the truth, saying that the resurrection is already past, and they overthrow the faith of some."

Not only do we have record of some who did not believe in the resurrection, we also have record of some who were obviously enemies of the resurrection of Christ. The chief priests and Pharisees tried to prevent the resurrection of Christ (Matthew 27:62-66). When they could not prevent it, they made an effort to pervert it (Matthew 28:11-15). Despite such efforts, Jesus was raised from the dead by the power of God, giving hope that there will be a resurrection for every person facing death today.

EVIDENCES OF HIS RESURRECTION

Since the resurrection of Christ gives us the blessed assurance of our own resurrection, note briefly some of the evidences of His resurrection. The first evidence is the tomb. Matthew records that Joseph of Arimathea, a disciple of Jesus requested the body of Jesus; this was granted by Pilate. Joseph then placed Jesus' body, after wrapping it in a clean linen cloth, in his own new tomb. This event is recorded in Matthew 27:57-66. Then in Matthew 28, record is given of that tomb being empty (vs. 1-8). Evidence of the empty tomb is supplied by soldiers, religious leaders, and the disciples of Jesus. Another evidence of the resurrection of Christ is the many witnesses who saw Him following the resurrection. Read Paul's account of the witnesses to the resurrection as found in Acts 1:1ff. Jesus was present with His apostles just prior to His ascension. After His ascension, as plans were under way to replace Judas Iscariot, one of the qualifications for the replacement included being a witness to the resurrection of Christ (Acts 1:22). Peter, in his sermon re-

corded in Acts 3, said, "You killed the Prince of life, whom God raised from the dead: of which we are witness" (vs. 15). Similar statements can be found in Acts 4:33 and 10:40-41. Another evidence of the resurrection of Christ is the transformation of lives. Consider the changes that took place in the lives of men such as Paul and Peter. A dead Savior could never prompt such changes. And so it has been from that time until the present: a belief in the resurrection of Christ, giving proof that we too will be raised, has caused, and should cause, great change in all of our lives.

IMPORTANCE OF THE RESURRECTION

Why is there so much emphasis on the resurrection of Christ? Why is it so important to us? And why is our own resurrection so important to us? Consider the following observations. Christ's resurrection is the fundamental principle of the Gospel by which people are saved (Romans 1:16). A simple reading of 1 Corinthians 15 shows that death, burial, and resurrection of Christ are the fundamental principles of the Gospel. As well, some things of great importance to us will stand or fall with the fact of the resurrection. For example, the claims of Christ stand or fall with the resurrection. Jesus had said, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up" (John 2:19). He was speaking of His own body (vs. 21). If this claim failed, nothing else He said would have any credibility. The credibility of the Scriptures will stand or fall with the resurrection. Again, read 1 Corinthians 15. If Christ was not raised, and if we will not be raised, than 1 Corinthians 15 falls, and the rest of the Scriptures with it.

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Sunday Morning:
Bible Class: 10:00 AM
Worship: 11:00 AM

Sunday Evening:
Worship: 6:00 PM

7:00 PM



Visit our website at:

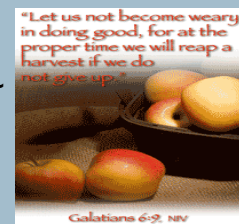
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- ◆ Bible Call
- ◆ Georgia Mission (Soperton Church of Christ, Soperton, GA)
- ◆ Bible Correspondance Courses & Tracts (By Request)

Works of Benevolence:

- ◆ Hospital Benevolence Basket ~ Orange Park Medical Center
- ◆ Raintree Village Children's Home (Valdosta, GA)



Works of Edification:

- ◆ The Black Creek Courier
- ◆ Black Creek Christian School
- ◆ Visitation Program
- ◆ Vacation Bible School
- ◆ Bible Classes For All Ages
- ◆ Keenagers Group (Over -50)



What Must I Do To Be Saved?

Hear the Gospel (Matthew 7:24-27; Romans 10:14,17) → Believe the Gospel (Mark 16:16; Hebrews 11:6) → Repent of My Sins (Luke 13:3,5; Acts 17:30) → Confess Christ (Matthew 10:32-33; Romans 10:9-10) → Be Baptized (Acts 2:38; 1 Peter 3:21) → Be Faithful Unto Death (Matthew 10:22; Revelation 2:10).



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Black Creek News....

The Sonship of Christ stands or falls with the resurrection. Paul said in Romans 1:4, **“And declared (to be) the Son of God with power, according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead.”** The very comfort that we, as saints, enjoy, relative to death will stand or fall with the resurrection. After Paul had explained some things about the resurrection to the Christians in Thessalonica, he concluded, **“Therefore, comfort one another with these words”** (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18). The preaching of the Apostles will stand or fall with the resurrection, because this message of salvation was based on the resurrection.

His resurrection is important to us because it enables Him to sit at the right hand of God. He serves as our mediator. **“For there is one God, and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus”** (1 Timothy 2:5). He also serves as our intercessor. **“Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us”** (Romans 8:34). Are you not glad to know that Christ, the One who died for you, is now pleading your case for you before the very throne of God? That would not be the case without the resurrection.

THE RESURRECTION - OF SPECIAL SIGNIFICANCE TO THE RIGHTEOUS

“Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live; and whosoever liveth and believeth in Me shall never die” (John 11:25-26). Paul affirms, in Colossians 3:4, **“When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with Him in glory”** (KJV). When the Lord returns, there will be a resurrection of all the dead. **“Marvel not at this; for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear His voice, and shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation”** (John 5:28-29, KJV). It is difficult for us to understand the concept of “everlasting” or “eternal”, since we have only known “time”. But when that resurrection comes, the righteous will be with God eternally. In this life, we have known pain, suffering, disappointment, heartache, and the fading of these human bodies, but at the resurrection, the righteous will be given incorruptible bodies. Paul states that this body is **“sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption”** (1 Corinthians 15:42). **“Who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself”** (Philippians 3:21). What a marvelous thing about which to think! When Christ returns, the righteous will be raised, given incorruptible bodies, and taken home with Christ to glorify God eternally. There they will enjoy the fellowship of the faithful of all ages eternally and be in the presence of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit eternally. Why would anyone not want to prepare for that?

CONCLUDING THOUGHTS

As Paul discussed the resurrection in 1 Corinthians 15, he listed seven consequences of a **“no resurrection”** theory - preaching is vain, faith is vain, the apostles are false witnesses, you are yet in sins, there is no hope for the faithful who have died, you are miserable here without hope for the future, and Christ is not dependable. But because Christ was raised, just the opposite is true, and we, as God’s faithful children, have the blessings that come with being in Christ here. We have the hope of an eternal home with Him when we are through here. Our major concern then should be whether we will be raised as individuals who are righteous (Matthew 25:31-40) or as those who are wicked (Matthew 25:41-46). God has invited every person to benefit from the death of His Only Begotten Son.

~ Sidney White

What Does God Search For?

The word search plays an integral part in our lives. As we are always searching for something it seems whether it’s a new car, new clothes, or a new restaurant being advertised in the local paper.

Have you ever pondered what does God search for? Also, what does the word “search” mean to God? I think the story of Noah and the Ark can teach us plenty regarding the subject.

In Genesis six, we see that God was searching for people who were not corrupt. What did God find? He found that people wanted to do evil continually in their hearts. For this God sought to destroy them and every living thing on dry land.

So we come back to the word “search”. What is God’s definition of it? I think it would be to seek what is in the heart. God looks at the heart of man and not the outward appearance. Now did God find someone who pleased Him? He certainly did. His name was Noah. And it says in Genesis 6:8 **“But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord”**. It must be that Noah lived the kind of life God desired. His heart was focused on doing good and not evil. In God’s search for a just man, Noah was found, eight souls were saved, nations were formed through Noah’s three sons, and the ark that was built out of gopher wood; found its resting place on the mountains of Ararat.

Think about this. What are you searching for in life? Because what you search for will determine how your life is lived and will ultimately decide if you have a place of refuge aboard the ark that is heaven bound.

What if God searches your heart, and yes be assured that He is, even as you read this article. What does He see? A heart which is open and ready to accept His invitation? Or maybe you’ve already accepted His invitation. In this case, I commend you and urge you to remain faithful. But what if your search has led you away from Him, left only to watch God possibly shut the door of the ark for good unless a change is made in your life. Good news awaits you. There is hope! Turn around, follow Jesus, and let Him be your guide to the Promise Land.

~ Brandon Smith - Lakeside Church of Christ



Servants For the Month of June

	A.M.	P.M.
Announcements	Larry Russell	Larry Russell
Scripture Reading	Gordon Richau	Gordon Richau
Song Leader	Sam Sipper	Steve Atnip, Jr.
Opening Prayer	Don Miller	Floyd Grace
Lord’s Table	Stanley Posey	Stanley Posey
Assistant	Don Shaw	
Assistant	Billy Smith	
Assistant	Stephen Hedgecock	
Assistant	Dennis Evans	
Sermon	Steve Atnip, Sr.	Steve Atnip, Sr.
Closing Prayer	Dick Morgan	Ted Copeland
Prepare Communion	(June) Marne Miller	(July) Brenda Russell
Cleaning the Building	(June) Marne Miller	(July) The Richau’s
Nursery Attendant	June 7 - Gail Workman (AM)	Glenda Smith (PM)



Keep Them In Your Prayers...

Black Creek Family:

Stephen Hedgecock, Antip family, Carolyn Lackey, Copeland family, Posey family, Morgan family, Dasher family, Shaw family, Sonny Best, Grace family, John Moore, the Dennard family, Dix family, O’Conner Vaughn, Blair family, Scriven family, Evans family, and Maloy family.

Away:

Pardue Family, Kay Van Horne, Jayne Imery (Carolyn’s son’s fiance), Glenn Tarrant, Maria Williams, Tom Sewell, Steve Holiday (Mary Dennard’s Nephew), Evan Chapman (5 yr. old who was just diagnosed with Leukemia), Thompson Family, Baxter & Mary Louis Forrester, Dwayne Seaman and family, Cindy Anderson, James Smith, Kay Taylor, Dorothy Wilson, Eileen Lacy, Donald Petteway, Robert Vaughn, Gerri West, Terry Thompson, Gary Bartlett, Sloan Hunter, Bob Melson, and Catherine Moon.



We are so happy that you have chosen to worship with us today. If you are visiting with us, please remain a bit after services so we can become acquainted and let you know how special you are to us. Also, if you have any questions concerning anything you saw in our services today, please ask any one of us here today. We will be more than happy to answer any of your questions.



Volunteer Work Lists: There is a list on the bulletin board for anyone who could volunteer to watch the little ones during service if the need is present.

Mailboxes: Please remember to check your mailboxes weekly.

Hospital Basket: We need to restock our snacks for the Hospital basket. If anyone can contribute, please see Billy Smith or Mary Register.

Ladies Bible Class: Come join the fun, learning and fellowship with Gay and the rest of the class. Our next class will be June 9th. **Ladies, if possible, please bring in cards and stamps.** Thank you to all of those who have already done so.

Volunteers Needed: Our VBS is coming up on June 22-26 from 7-9 PM. If you can volunteer your services for this year or have questions, see one of the ladies on the planning committee

Arlington Church of Christ: Is offering a 12-week course entitled **Historical Christian Evidences (Apologetics 1)** on Tuesday evenings starting on May 26th. For more information, see the bulletin board.

Children’s Home Food Truck: Will be stopping by the church building on either July 6 or July 7. The list of foods and items needed are posted on the bulletin board.

2009 Northeast FL Youth Conference: July 17-19 at Lakeside Church of Christ. The cost is \$15 per teen. You can register online, or see the bulletin board for more information.

Condolences: Our deepest sympathy goes out to the Pardue family due to the loss of Marie Pardue. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.

VBS: Chaffee Road Church of Christ is holding their VBS on Sunday, June 7, at 6 PM and from June 8-11 at 7PM.