

The PROOF of Christianity

How do we know Jesus is real?

I Corinthians 15:1-11

Introduction:

#1 The proof of PERSEVERANCE 1-2

1 Now I make known to you, brethren, the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received, in which also you stand, 2 by which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain.

I John 2:19 They went out from us, but they were not really of us; for if they had been of us, they would have remained with us; but they went out, in order that it might be shown that they all are not of us.

3 categories of people: believers, non-believers and make-believers

#2 The proof of the BIBLE 3-4

3 For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,

Fact #1 Christ died for our sins and was buried

Isaiah 53:5-6 He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities... Each of us has turned to his own way; But the Lord has caused the iniquity of us all to fall on Him.

Fact #2 Christ was raised on the third day

The "Scriptures" prove that Jesus is God

1st Micah 5:2 But as for you, Bethlehem ... One will go forth for Me to be ruler in Israel. His goings forth are ...From the days of eternity.

2nd Malachi 3:1 Behold, I will send my messenger and he shall prepare the way before me

3rd Zechariah 9:9 Rejoice greatly, O Jerusalem: behold, thy King cometh unto Thee: He is just, and having salvation: lowly, and riding upon. . .a colt, the foal of an ass:

4th Zechariah 13:6 What are these wounds in Thine hands? Then he shall answer, Those with which I was wounded in the house of my friends

5th Zechariah 11:12 And I said, give me my price; So they weighed for my price 30 pieces of silver

6th Zechariah 11:13 I took the thirty pieces of silver, and cast them to the potter in the house of the Lord

7th Isaiah 53:7 He is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth

8th Psalm 22:16 they pierced my hands and my feet

#3 The proof of the APPEARANCES 5-8

5 and that He appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. **6** After that He appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time, most of whom remain until now, but some have fallen asleep; **7** then He appeared to James, then to all the apostles; **8** and last of all, as it were to one untimely born, He appeared to me also.

Acts 1:3 To these Jesus presented Himself alive, after His suffering, by many convincing proofs, appearing to them over a period of forty days, and speaking of the things concerning the kingdom of God.

v5 - Peter

v6 - more than 500

v7 - James

v8 - Paul

What some say...

1st - the wrong tomb -

2nd - a wishful hallucination -

3rd - swooned -

4th - stole His body -

#4 The proof of a CHANGED LIFE 9-11

9 For I am the least of the apostles, who am not fit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. **10** But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me did not prove vain; but I labored even more than all of them, yet not I, but the grace of God with me. **11** Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

What changes does God make in a life?

1st Disclosure of your own sinfulness

1 John 1:8 *If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves, and the truth is not in us.*

10 *If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.*

2nd Dependence upon God alone

3rd Dedication to serve others

4th Devoid of self

Conclusion:

Matthew 12:30 *He who is not with Me is against Me*

Acts 17:31 *God... has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead*