The Bedrock of Our Faith: Christ’s Resurrection

*John 20:1-10*

*NAS* ***John 20:1*** *Now on the first day of the week Mary Magdalene came early to the tomb, while it was still dark, and saw the stone already taken away from the tomb. 2 And so she ran and came to Simon Peter, and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken away the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid Him." 3 Peter therefore went forth, and the other disciple, and they were going to the tomb. 4 And the two were running together; and the other disciple ran ahead faster than Peter, and came to the tomb first; 5 and stooping and looking in, he saw the linen wrappings lying there; but he did not go in. 6 Simon Peter therefore also came, following him, and entered the tomb; and he beheld the linen wrappings lying there, 7 and the face-cloth, which had been on His head, not lying with the linen wrappings, but rolled up in a place by itself. 8 So the other disciple who had first come to the tomb entered then also, and he saw and believed. 9 For as yet they did not understand the Scripture, that He must rise again from the dead. 10 So the disciples went away again to their own homes.*

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Angelo L. Tolentino / Morning Service / Meeting at The Classical Academy Online High School / Oceanside, CA / March 27, 2016

Intro:

* ***Preaching Point: God gave this passage to you this morning so that you would \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.***
1. **Believe the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, John 20:1-3**
	1. The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_’s Testimony, M\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
	2. The C\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_’s Testimony, P\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
	3. The S\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_’s Testimony, T\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
	4. The O\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_’s Testimony, J\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Quote:

“Lives lived under the greatest discouragements in the face of the most appalling terrors, their master having recently perished as a malefactor by the sentence of a public tribunal. His religion sought to overthrow the religions of the whole world. The laws of every country were against the teaching of his disciples. The interests and passions of all the rulers and great men in the world were against them. The fashion of the world was against them. Propagating this new faith, even in the most inoffensive and peaceful manner, they could expect nothing but contempt, opposition, revilings, bitter persecutions, stripes, imprisonments, torments and cruel deaths. Yet this faith they zealously did propagate; and all these miseries they endured undismayed, nay, rejoicing.

As one after another was put to a miserable death, the survivors only prosecuted their work with increased vigor and resolution. The annals of military warfare afford scarcely an example of the like, heroic constancy, patience and unclenching courage. They had every possible motive to review carefully the grounds of their faith, and the evidences of the great facts and truths which they asserted; and these motives were pressed upon their attention with the most melancholy and terrific frequency. It was therefore impossible that they could have persisted in affirming the truths they have narrated, had not Jesus actually rose from the dead, and had they not known this fact as certainly as they knew any other fact.

If it were morally possible for them to have been deceived in this matter, every human motive operated to lead them to discover and avow their error. To have persisted in so gross a falsehood, after it was known to them, was not only to encounter, for life, all the evils which man could inflict, from without, but to endure also the pangs of inward and conscious guilt; with no hope of future peace, no testimony of a good conscience, no expectation of honor or esteem among men, no hope of happiness in this life, or in the world to come…

Now, though, in a single instance, a good man may fall, when under strong temptations, yet he is not found persisting, for years, in deliberated falsehood, asserted with the most solemn appeals to God, without the slightest temptation or motive, and against all the opposing interests which reign in the human breast. If, on the contrary, they are supposed to have been bad men, it is incredible that such men should have chosen this form of imposture; enjoining, as it does, unfeigned repentance, the utter forsaking and abhorrence of all falsehood and of every other sin, the practice of daily self-denial, self-abasement and self-sacrifice, the crucifixion of the flesh with all its earthly appetites and desires, indifference to the honors, and hearty contempt of the vanities of the world; and inculcating perfect purity of heart and life, and intercourse of the soul with heaven.  It is incredible, that bad men should invent falsehoods, to promote the religion of the God of truth. The supposition is suicidal.

If they did believe in a future state of retribution, a heaven and a hell hereafter, they took the most certain course, if false witnesses, to secure the latter for their portion. And if, still being bad men, they did not believe in future punishment, how came they to invent [that] which was to destroy all their prospects of worldly honor and happiness, and to insure their misery in this life? From these absurdities there is no escape, but in the perfect conviction and admission that they were good men, testifying to that which they had carefully observed and considered, and well knew to be true.”[[1]](#footnote-1)

* 1. The M\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_’s Testimony, 1 Corinthians 15:6-7
1. **Believe the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_[[2]](#footnote-2), John 20:4-8**
	1. External Evidence:

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| **Author** | **Time** | **Earliest Copy** | **Difference of Years** | **Number of Copies** |
| Aristotle | 384-322 BC | 1100 AD  | 1400 years | 5 |
| Julius Caesar | 100-44 BC | 900 AD | 1000 years | 10 |
| Homer (Illiad, Odyssey) | 900 BC | 400 BC | 500 years | 643 |
| Plato | 427-347 BC | 900 AD | 1200 years | 7 |
| New Testament | 50-100 AD | 200 AD Earliest Copies (Mark) to earlier than 600 AD | 100-500 years | 5,300 Greek Manuscripts; 10,000 Latin Vulgates, 9,300 other versions totaling 24,000 manuscript copies |

* 1. Internal Evidence:
1. **Believe the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, John 20:9-10**
	1. The Prophecies:
	2. The Fulfillment:
	3. The Implications:

Conclusion:

1. Greenleaf quoted by <http://www.creationstudies.org/Education/simon_greenleaf.html> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. <http://www.creationstudies.org/Education/simon_greenleaf.html> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)