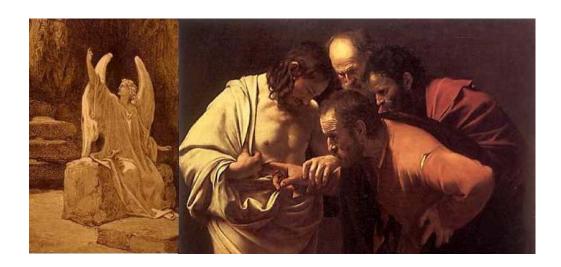
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The Resurrection of Jesus



.... I felt I had to write and urge you to contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to the saints. Jude 1:3 NIV

The Resurrection of Jesus

A student once asked a professor, "Why can't you refute Christianity?" The professor answered "for a very simple reason – the resurrection of Jesus Christ." Josh McDowell said that after 700 hours of studying on the subject of Jesus' resurrection and thoroughly investigating its foundation, he came to the conclusion that the resurrection of Jesus Christ is either one of the most wicked, vicious, heartless hoaxes ever foisted upon people, or it is the most important fact of history. Of course I agree with the latter, the resurrection is without question the most important fact of history. In addition, the resurrection of Jesus Christ validates every word or claim Jesus made in the New Testament. In John 14:6, Jesus said, "... "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." This single passage of scripture, uttered by Jesus himself, completely destroys the possibility of there being other religions that lead to God. It is with this understanding I believe Peter uttered the words to the elders and rulers of the Jews, referring to Jesus, in Acts 4:12, "Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved." Paul, with the same understanding, wrote to his son in the gospel in 1 Timothy 2:5, "For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus..."

It is because of Jesus' resurrection and the plain teaching of scripture, Christianity cannot mix with any other religion. In fact, the resurrection of Jesus coupled with the plain teaching of scripture renders all other religions false. For the Christian, the resurrection of Jesus is the very nucleus of our faith and must be defended at any cost, fair or foul. Paul said in 1 Corinthians 15:13-14, "If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith."

Saints, because Jesus rose that first Easter Sunday, we can rest assured of the following:

- 1. Our sin debt has been paid
- 2. All that Jesus said is true (He's coming back, he's preparing a place for us, because he lives we too shall live, etc.)

- 3. Jesus is with us always
- 4. No matter what any church goes through, the gates of hell will not prevail.

I'm so glad that tomb was empty; this is a truth I'll defend until the Lord calls me home!

God Bless,

Pastor D. M. Duncan

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