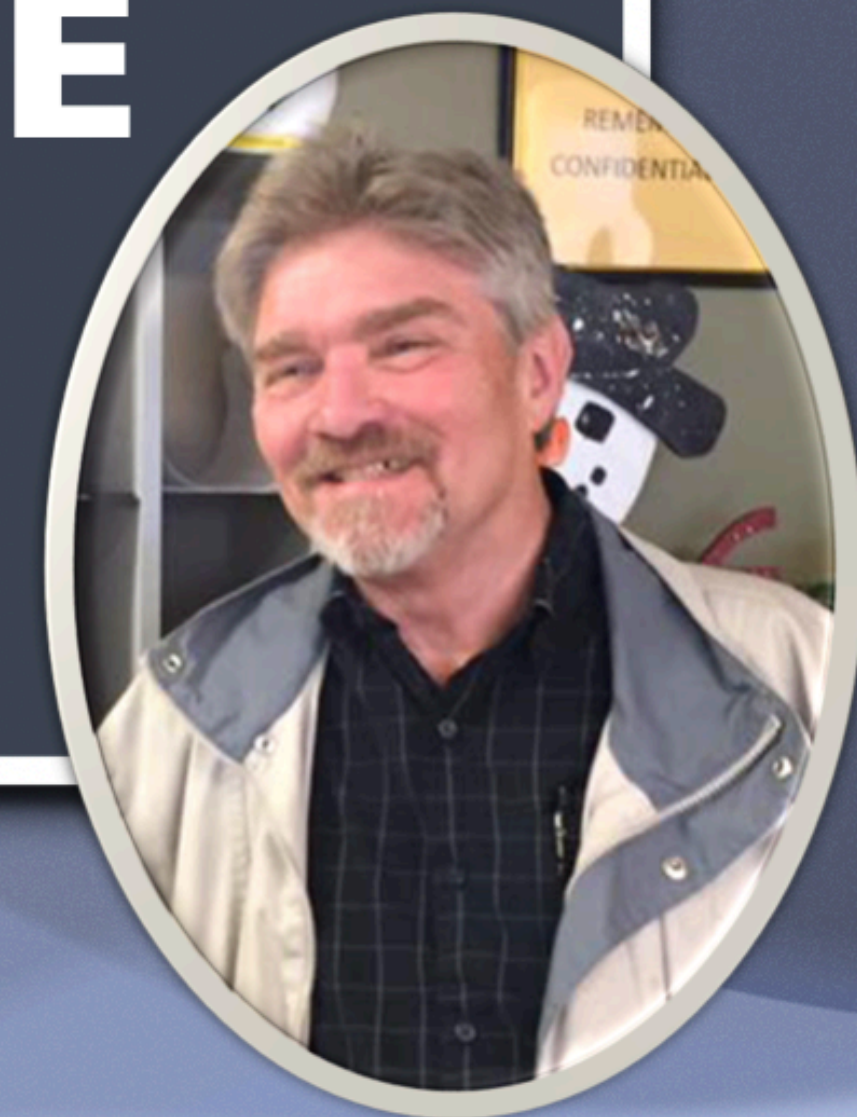


“CHURCH OF CHRIST MEETING @ 9500 AR 5, ALEXANDER AR. 72002”

TODAY’S LESSON

# “ARGUMENTS FOR THE EXISTENCE OF GOD”

By Boyce Barger



HYMNS

581

527

9

377

318

194



*Sunday evening lesson live stream  
4:00 PM CDT March 10, 2024*



<https://www.youtube.com/user/donmcclain11/live> / <https://www.bryantchurhofchrist.com>



# A Defense of the Resurrection of Christ

By

Direct Evidence, Indirect Evidence, & Consideration of Alternate Theories

# Direct Evidence of the Resurrection of Christ

## Evidence of the Empty Tomb

1. The empty tomb is necessary, but not sufficient evidence.
2. No one argued that the tomb was not empty
3. (Mt 27:55-61) The women knew that Jesus was truly dead, that He was buried, and knew where His body was. (Mt 28:1)
4. The religious leaders understood the problem of the empty tomb and bribed the soldiers (Mt 28:11-15)
5. If Jesus' body had not been either stolen or resurrected, the Jews could have destroyed Christianity right here because the body would still be there.
6. BTW, Joseph of Arimethea is an un-interviewed witness. (Mt 27:59,60) who can testify that Jesus was truly dead.

***Conclusion: The tomb was empty.***

# The Evidence of Many Witnesses

## 1. Mary Magdalene (Jn 20:1-18)

A. When a reporter includes details which could weaken his story in the eyes of the immediate audience, it strengthens the veracity of the account

B. A woman's testimony was held in low esteem and not allowed in Jewish court.

C. If this was a lie, the author would have made the reporter a highly esteemed male to make his lie more believable. *My vote would have been for Joseph of Arimathea*

D. 1. These were "meetings", not "appearances"

# The Evidence of Many Witnesses

## 2. The Holy Women

A. (Matthew 28:5-10)

## 3. The Apostle Peter

A. Peter's meetings are mentioned in John 20:3-9; 21:15-18; Mk 16:7 (the angel), and by Paul in I Cor. 15:5

B. John arrived at the tomb ahead of Peter, but Peter rushed into the tomb (Jn 20:3-8).

C. Much detail is included in the NT accounts, spec., the fact of the folded burial clothes, Peter and John running, John stopping but Peter going in. False accounts avoid detail. Detail is hard to remember and transmit to others.

4. The 2 Disciples on the Emmaus Rd (Lk 24:13-35)
  - A. One named "Cleopas"
  - B. Spent hours walking, in conversation, having a meal.
5. The 10 Apostles (Lk 24:36-49; \*Jn 20:19-23)
  - A. Thomas was absent
  - B. They spoke and shared a meal
  - C. They examined His body
  - D. Upon hearing of it, Thomas doubted
6. The 11 Apostles including Thomas (Jn 20:24-31)
  - A. The testimony of Thomas, the doubter
7. The 7 Apostles (John 21)
  - A. Fishing in Galilee
  - B. They share a meal

8. The Great Commission (Mt 28:16-20; Mk 16:14-18)

A. The Commission helps explain the explosive growth of Christianity after the resurrection

B. If anyone else had delivered this commission, it would have had no impact. But, it was given by the resurrected Christ!

C. Jesus gave the commission after He had revealed Himself to a multitude of witnesses in many different ways.

9. More than 500 at one time!

A. 1 Cor. 15:6

B. Paul writes about 20 years after. He has known many of the witnesses and most are still living.

10. The changed life of Jesus' own brother

A. John 7:5

B. 1 Cor 15:7

C. Wrote the letter of James



11. The final ascension witnesses

A. Acts 1:4-11

B. All of the living apostles were present, too

12. All together, Jesus was present talking and travelling with disciples, eating and meeting with them for 40 days (Acts 1:1-3)

A. Plenty of time to be seen and to interact with many witnesses

13. The changed apostles

A. Prior to the resurrection they are hiding, confused, frightened.

B. After seeing the resurrected Christ they are fearless and bold

14. The Apostle Paul (Acts 22:14-16; 1 Cor 9:1; 1 Cor 15:8)

A. Saw Jesus decades after the Ascension

Tradition states that 10 of the original apostles died as martyrs, as did Paul who is reported to have been beheaded by Caesar Nero.

What motivated these to continue preaching and living for Christ if not the miracle of the resurrection?

Paul endured 5 floggings, 3 shipwrecks, a stoning, poverty, and years of ridicule. He came from a place of status and financial security to a place where he deemed himself and others “fools for Christ’s sake” and “the offscouring of the earth”. WHY ??????

The Direct Evidence is clear- They Had Seen Jesus !

