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THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS

Christianity falls and stands with the resurrection of the founder Jesus Christ. If Jesus would not have resurrected, than he is a liar as well as his followers. Also in that case there would not be any difference with the other religions whose founders, for example Mohammed and Buddha, are dead.

In 1 Corinthians 15:14-15 and 17-18 the apostle Paul shows us the consequences if Jesus would not have risen from the dead:

"and if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain. Yea, and we are found false witnesses of God; ..."

"and if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins. Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished."

Above demonstrates the importance to proof the resurrection of Jesus Christ. The evidence is the following:

1. The empty sepulchre

- a) The absence of worshipping Jesus close to his sepulchre;
- b) The enemies of the christians have never shown the body of Jesus;
- c) The reference that women discovered that the body had disappeared (the witness of women had no value in that culture);
- d) The sepulchre was sured with a heavy stone, was sealed and guarded. An eventual apparent death of Jesus would not have made him able to leave the sepulchre, especially after all the scourging and torturing. Also the disappointed followers of Jesus would have had no opportunity to steal the body.

2. The appearances of Jesus

"and that he was seen of Cephas [Peter], then of the twelve: after that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; ... After that, he was seen of James; then of all the apostles. And last of all he was seen of me [Paul] also, ..." (1 Corinthians 15:5-8)

It is not going here about a spiritual appearance, because Jesus did eat before his disciples (Luke 24:43) and they could handle Him (Luke 24:39).

3. The characteristics of the followers of Jesus Christ after his resurrection:

- a) They changed from betrayers and pitiful cowards in convinced preachers and died as martyrs decades later;
- b) They gave up practices and convictions of their religion, such as sacrifice services, the circumcision, etc. and established the celebration of the Lord's supper.

Conclusion: Jesus Christ is truly risen! Amen! Alleluia!