



I. If Christ has not been raised from the dead, it would be _____ to follow Him.

And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain. v. 14

II. Historical evidence abounds, so you can base your belief on _____ .

But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead ... v. 20a

1. Jesus was considered dead by his enemies and executioners.
2. The tomb was secured by a Roman guard, stone and seal.
3. There were multiple post-resurrection appearances to hundreds of eyewitnesses.
4. Many who met the resurrected Savior died a martyr's death.
5. Jesus foretold His death and resurrection.

III. The Resurrection is rock solid, so building your life on anything else would be _____ .

And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. Matthew 7:26

So DON'T BE FOOLED ...

God's standard is perfection, and your sin has _____ you to pay a penalty of death forever.

... as it is written: "None is righteous, no, not one ... for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. Romans 3:10, 23

Jesus volunteered to _____ the penalty for your sin by His death on the cross.

... but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Romans 5:8

Jesus rose from the dead to _____ that He conquered death, and He offers you the free gift of eternal life.

"Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life." John 5:24

ON THE HISTORICITY OF JESUS

What did non-Christian authors say about Jesus?

Strikingly, there was never any debate in the ancient world about whether Jesus of Nazareth was a historical figure. In the earliest literature of the Jewish Rabbis, Jesus was denounced as the illegitimate child of Mary and a sorcerer. Among pagans, the satirist Lucian and philosopher Celsus dismissed Jesus as a scoundrel, but we know of no one in the ancient world who questioned whether Jesus *lived*.

According to New Testament scholar James Dunn, nearly all modern scholars consider the baptism of Jesus and his crucifixion to be historically certain. He states that these “two facts in the life of Jesus command almost universal assent” and “rank so high on the ‘almost impossible to doubt or deny’ scale of historical ‘facts’ they are obvious starting points for an attempt to clarify the what and why of Jesus’ mission.”

Josephus’ *Antiquities of the Jews*, written around 93–94 AD, includes two references to the biblical Jesus in Books 18 and 20.

About 20 years after Josephus we have the Roman politicians Pliny and Tacitus, who held some of the highest offices of state at the beginning of the second century AD. From Tacitus we learn that Jesus was executed while Pontius Pilate was the Roman prefect in charge of Judaea (A.D. 26-36) and Tiberius was emperor (A.D. 14-37)—reports that fit with the time frame of the gospels. Pliny contributes the information that, where he was governor in northern Turkey, Christians worshiped Christ as a god. Neither of them liked Christians—Pliny writes of their “pig-headed obstinacy” and Tacitus calls their religion a destructive superstition.

John Warwick Montgomery says: “If our ‘Christ of faith’ deviates at all from the biblical ‘Jesus of history,’ then to the extent of that deviation, we also lose the genuine Christ of faith. As one of the greatest Christian historians of our time, Herbert Butterfield, has put it: ‘It would be a dangerous error to imagine that the characteristics of an historical religion

would be maintained if the Christ of the theologians were divorced from the Jesus of history.’”

Historical References to Christianity

Josephus, *Antiquities*, Book 18, ch. 5, par. 2: This is an interesting reference to John the Baptist and his execution at Macherus at the hands of Herod Antipas.

“If we apply to the New Testament, as we should, the same sort of criteria as we should apply to other ancient writings containing historical material, we can no more reject Jesus’ existence than we can reject the existence of a mass of pagan personages whose reality as historical figures is never questioned.”

—Historian Michael Grant

Trajan, Roman Emperor (Pliny the Younger, *Epistles* 10:97): This is a letter from the Emperor to Pliny, telling him not to punish those Christians who are forced to retract their beliefs by the Romans. He tells Pliny that anonymous information about the Christians is not to be accepted by Roman officials.

Macrobius, *Saturnalia*, lib. 2, ch. 4: Pascal (*Pensees*) mentions this quote of Augustus Caesar as an attestation of the slaughter of the babes of Bethlehem.

Justin Martyr, in *The First Apology*: Justin quotes Roman Emperor Hadrian’s letter to Minucius

Fundanus, Proconsul of Asia Minor (chs. 68-69), dealing with the accusations of the pagans against the Christians. Justin also quotes Roman Emperor Antoninus Pius’ letter to the General Assembly of Asia Minor (ch. 70), saying that officials in Asia Minor are getting too upset at the Christians in their province, and that no changes will be made in Antoninus’ method of dealing with Christians there. And a letter from the Roman Emperor Marcus Aurelius to the Roman Senate was added to the manuscript by one of Justin’s disciples (ch. 71), where the Emperor describes Christians in fighting action in the Roman army.

Juvenal, *Satires*, 1, lines 147-157: Juvenal makes a veiled mention of the tortures of Christians by Nero in Rome.

Seneca, *Epistulae Morales*, Epistle 14, “On the Reasons for Withdrawing from the World,” par. 2: Seneca, like Juvenal, describes the cruelties of Nero dealt upon the Christians.

Hierocles (Eusebius, *The Treatise of Eusebius*, ch. 2): This quote by Eusebius preserves some of the text of the lost book of Hierocles. In this quote, Hierocles condemns Peter and Paul as sorcerers.

—Material taken from various sources

COMING UP AT CHRIST CHAPEL

Here’s a glimpse at what you need to know for this week. Like to plan ahead a little more? Pick up a copy of *The Source* at a stand around campus or near the exits, or visit www.ccbcfamily.org/events. They’re your source for everything going on at Christ Chapel.

LOOKING FOR A WAY TO GIVE BACK?

Serving others is a major part of our mission at Christ Chapel. We are actively working with a number of local organizations to fight human trafficking, bring relief and hope to those in need, mentor in public schools and more. Interested in joining us? Find a complete list of serve opportunities at www.ccbcfamily.org/serve.

SIGN YOUR KIDS UP FOR AN OUT-OF-THIS-WORLD SUMMER KAMP! Known at Christ Chapel as the best week of the summer, Kids Kamp is an all-out blast with a rockin’ live band, funny skits, new friends, awesome games, crafts and even a game show. Made for kids who are entering Grades 1-4 this fall, we’d love for your children to be a part of it this June 19-22! Learn more and sign up at www.ccbcfamily.org/events.

STRENGTHEN YOUR MARRIAGE AT RE|ENGAGE.

Husbands and wives, whether you’re struggling to get along or wanting to grow from a good to a great marriage, re|engage is a weekly group that meets so that you can have a safe place to work on your relationship. Check it out any Sunday at the Fort Worth Campus or any Wednesday at the West Campus. Visit www.ccbcfamily.org/reengage for details.

WE’VE GOT AWESOME SUMMER MUSICALS FOR KIDS!

MusiCamp is a phenomenal week for kids that’s all about music and the arts. In just five days, they sing, dance, play instruments and learn an entire musical from accomplished teachers. The camp, happening this July 9-13, is designed for children going into Grades 1-6. Read about this year’s musicals and register at www.ccbcfamily.org/events.

INTERESTED IN ADDING MORE

COMMUNITY TO YOUR LIFE? Meeting all over Fort Worth and Parker County, home groups get together on a regular basis to study the Bible in a low-key, welcoming environment. Visit www.ccbcfamily.org/homegroups to learn more about them and find one close to you.

PRETEENS, GO ON AN ADVENTURE THIS JUNE.

We are counting down the days until Adventure 56!, a camp experience made just for incoming fifth and sixth graders. We’re taking over Mainstay Farm in Cleburne, TX this June 7-8 for two days of epic games, activities, worship and adventure. Register today at www.ccbcfamily.org/events.

YOUNG ADULTS, MAKE RENOVATE YOUR WEDNESDAY ROUTINE.

If you’re a college student or young professional looking for community, we’d love to meet you at Renovate! Every Wednesday we tailgate at 6:15 p.m. (which equals free dinner for you) and then worship at 7 p.m. in the Chapel at the Fort Worth Campus. Learn more at www.renovateftw.org.

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