

The Value of Believing in Jesus

- *Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for if you do not believe that I am He, you will die in your sins." Jn. 8:24*
- *And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day." Jn. 6:39-40*
- *But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: Jn. 1:12*

Jesus the Son of God – by Prophecy

- One of the most unique qualities about the Bible is prophecy. A huge risk on a human level
- *when a prophet speaks in the name of the Lord, if the thing does not happen or come to pass, that is the thing which the Lord has not spoken; the prophet has spoken it presumptuously; you shall not be afraid of him. Deut 18:22*

Time Would Fail Me to Speak of ...

- City of Birth: Bethlehem Mt. 2:4-6
- Mistreated and put to death. Isa 53
- Born of a Virgin. Isa 7:14; Friend would betray Ps 41:9
- 30 Pieces of Silver Zech 11:12 Sentenced to die. Isa 53:9
- Stripes Given. Isa 53:4-5 Mocked and Insulted Ps 22:6-8
- Money returned/Potters Field Zech 11:12-13
- Accused by False Witnesses Ps 27:12
- Silent when accused. Ps 53:7
- Betrayed for 30 pieces of silver Zech. 11:12
- Smitten, Spat upon. Is 50:6
- Die with Sinners Isa 53:9
- Hands and Feet Pierced. Ps 22:16
- No Bones Broken Ps 34:20
- Lots cast for Garments Ps 22:18
- Buried with the rich. Isa 53:9

The Last Word – 440 bc

- *Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet Before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord. 6 And he will turn The hearts of the fathers to the children, And the hearts of the children to their fathers, Lest I come and strike the earth with a curse.* “ Mal 4:5-6
- *Behold, I send My messenger, And he will prepare the way before Me. And the Lord, whom you seek, Will suddenly come to His temple, Even the Messenger of the covenant, In whom you delight. Behold, He is coming, Says the Lord of hosts. Mal 3:1*

The Fulfillment of Prophecy

- Prophecy had little value unless we can trust their historical fulfillment.
- Those who mock and scoff seek to undermine faith by attacking this.
- God foresaw this weakness and shored it up:
- Even calls it by name:
- Cunningly devised fables (myths).

Peter's Affirmation

- *For we did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but **were eyewitnesses of His majesty.** 17 For He received from God the Father honor and glory when such a voice came to Him from the Excellent Glory: "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." 18 And **we heard this voice** which came from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain. 19 And so **we have the prophetic word confirmed,** 2 Pet. 1:16-19*

Can We Trust Their Affirmations?

- *If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater; I Jn 5:9-10*
- Courts, Physicians, Teachers, News, Christians
- Eyewitness testimony is never questioned unless it can be proven that they are:
- Not Competent
- Motivated by fear, greed, power, popularity
- Not Honest:
- Sufficient Numbers (mouth of 2-3 witnesses)

Can we Trust the Apostles Jesus Chose?

For I think that **God has displayed** us **apostles,** **last,** as **men condemned to die,** we have been made **a spectacle to the world** and to angels and to men. 10 We are **foolish** for the sake of **Christ,** but you are wise in Christ! You are strong! You are distinguished! You are **dishonored!** 11 To the present hour we are **hunger and thirst,** and we are **poor** and **beaten,** and **homeless.** 12 And we are **working with our own hands.** Being reviled, we endure; 13 being persecuted, we endure; 14 being defamed, we entreat. We have been **made as the world,** the offscouring of all things until now. 1Cor 4:9-13

Any Motivation to Lie Here?
Greed? Popularity? Power?

Sufficient Numbers

- He was seen by **Cephas**, then by **the twelve**. 6 After that He was seen by **over five hundred brethren at once**, of whom the greater part remain to the present, but some have fallen asleep. 7 After that He was seen by **James**, then by **all the apostles**. 8 Then **last of all He was seen by me also**, as by one born out of due time. 1 Cor 15:5-8
- Paul, A very special and distinguished Witness.
- He already had everything.
- He actually lost everything
- How do we explain this change? There is only one thing that would cause it: “**He truly saw Jesus!!!**”

- *If anyone else thinks he may **have confidence in the flesh, I more so**: 5 circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a **Hebrew of the Hebrews**; concerning the law, a **Pharisee**; 6 concerning zeal, **persecuting the church**; concerning the righteousness which is in the law, **blameless**. Phil 3:4-6*
- *And I **advanced in Judaism beyond many of my contemporaries** in my own nation, being more exceedingly zealous for the traditions of my fathers. Gal 1:11*
- *Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom **I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ** Phil 3:8-9*

Luke: A True Historian (Inspired)

- *Inasmuch as many have taken in hand to set in order a **narrative of those things which have been fulfilled among us, 2 just as those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses** and ministers of the word **delivered them to us**, Luke 1:1-4*
- Luke affirms that He will build on the narrative (the truth of the gospel of Jesus Christ).
- The fulfillment of the prophecies!
- Based first on the eyewitness testimony of the apostles who delivered these truths to us.
- Luke has assessed everything they have said, and confirms that by independent testimony it is true.

Luke: A True Historian (Inspired)

- *it seemed good to me also, having had perfect understanding of all things from the very first, to write to you **an orderly account**, most excellent Theophilus, **4 that you may know the certainty of those things in which you were instructed.** Luke 1:1-4*
- Luke did exactly what we would want done.
- As an independent researcher, he interviewed all the witnesses.
- Then gave his own unbiased and inspired account of Jesus' life.

The Apostle John

- *And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are **not written in this book**; 31 but **these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ**, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.
Jn. 20:30-31*
- *That which was from the beginning, which we have **heard**, which we have **seen** with our eyes, which we have **looked upon**, and our hands have **handled**, concerning the Word of life 1Jn. 1:1*

While the World Accuses Us

- We are not a superstitious people.
- We went to the same schools, learned the same thought processes, have the same logical mind, and use the same scientific method they use.
- Like a court of Law, we have assessed the witnesses for the defense (Jesus is the Christ the Son of God) and the witnesses for the prosecution, cunningly devised fables and superstitious acceptance.
- As one of the members of the Jury, we have the testimony of God and the denials of men.
- If Christianity were not true, I for one would reject it.

Both God and Paul Saw This Clearly

And if Christ is not risen, then **our preaching is empty and your faith is also empty.** 15 Yes, and **we are found false witnesses of God**, because we have testified of God that He raised up Christ, whom He did not raise up — if in fact the dead do not rise. 16 For if the dead do not rise, then Christ is not risen. 17 And if Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins! 18 Then also those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. **19 If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable.** ... 32 If, in the manner of men, **I have fought with beasts at Ephesus, what advantage is it to me? If the dead do not rise, "Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die!"** 1 Cor 15:29

Serious Nature of the Consequences

- *If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater*; for this is the witness of God which He has testified of His Son. 10 He who believes in the Son of God has the witness in himself; **he who does not believe God has made Him a liar, because he has not believed the testimony that God has given of His Son** I Jn 5:9-11
- *The times of ignorance therefore God overlooked; but now he commands men that they should all everywhere repent*: 31 inasmuch as he has appointed a day in which he will judge the world in righteousness by the man whom he hath ordained; whereof **he has given assurance unto all men, in that he has raised him from the dead.** Acts 17:30-31