

THE 4 WANTS

Acts 26

Part 4

“YOU WANT PROOF”

It is found in the resurrection

Presented by

Pastor Justin Greene

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Lee Strobel writes: “The empty tomb, as an enduring symbol of the Resurrection, is the ultimate representation of Jesus’ claim to being God. The apostle Paul said in 1 Corinthians 15:17 that the Resurrection is the very linchpin of the Christian faith: ‘If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins.’”

Theologian Gerald O’Collins put it this way: ‘In a profound sense, Christianity without the resurrection is not simply Christianity without its final chapter. It is not Christianity at all.’¹

The Resurrection is the supreme vindication of Jesus’ divine identity and his inspired teaching. It’s the proof of his triumph over sin and death. It’s the foreshadowing of the resurrection of his followers. It’s the basis of Christian hope. It’s the miracle of all miracles.” *The Case for Christ*, Lee Strobel, p. 276

¹Gerald O’Collins, *The Easter Jesus* (London: Darton, Longman & Todd, 1973), 134, cited in Craig, *The Son Rises*, 136.

REMINDER

- You want **connection**.
- You want **purpose**.
- You want **forgiveness**.
- You want **proof**.
- Paul continually lifts up one **supernatural** proof that Christ has the power to **fulfill** His promises ... the **resurrection** (Acts 17:31; 23:6; 26:23).
- Jesus was dead ... **really, really dead**.
 - The punishment was **severe**.
 - The executioners were **skilled**.
 - The witnesses were **accurate**.

A side note - Two questions:

 - 1) Isn't God killing His son just **child abuse**?
 - 2) Why not just remove **sin**?
- Jesus was buried in a **tomb**.
 - The tomb was in a known **location**.
 - The tomb was **secure**.
 - The tomb was **empty**.

- He was seen by a **multitude**.
 - He was seen by **individuals**.
 - He was seen by large **groups**.
 - These **witnesses** would give their lives for this **testimony**.

WRAP

- This event was **supernatural**. The resurrection has changed **lives** and impacted **cultures**.

What will you do with **Christ**?