

Fact Sheet for **“Why Do We Believe?”**

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04/01/2018

We live in a time when science fiction and fantasy are in so much of the media. We've become used to it. But this is not reality. Why do we believe in Jesus Christ... in His resurrection? Is this reality? Why do trust His words in John 3:16 or John 14:6?

Today is April Fools Day. Have Christians been fooled? Have we been believing in Christ for eternal life when in reality we just *psst* disappear?

This is actually a good question to ask because it will lead us to solid reasons why we believe in Christ. I could take this in several different directions this morning, but I want to narrow it down. Let's look at two humanly impossible truths this morning that are right at the heart of our answer to the question, “Why do we believe?”

1st – The Bible is absolutely true

It tells us about God, our sin, salvation by faith in Christ, and eternal life. But if God did not inspire the words of the Bible it would have been humanly impossible to write! It took more than 1,500 years to write. Over 40 different human authors contributed. Yet there are no contradictions in it, and it has never been shown to contradict either scientific fact or history.

But it doesn't stop there. In the first four verses of that Ezra 1 Cyrus, king of Persia, gives a command to rebuild the temple that had been destroyed by the Babylonians. But the interesting part is that Isaiah, over 150 years earlier, had predicted that the temple in Jerusalem, which had then not yet been destroyed, would be rebuilt. And Isaiah named Cyrus as the one who would give this command (Isaiah 44:28). That would have been like Abraham Lincoln having written of President Trump by name and telling about something specific he would do! This would be humanly absolutely impossible! Only God could do this! Let me give you a test that is so much easier to do. “What have I got in my pocket?” We can't even know something as simple as this. Isaiah wrote something that would have been impossible to write by himself. God had to have given him those words. And this happens over and over again in the Bible.

No other religion in the world has this! We know by this that the words of the Bible were inspired by God and are therefore absolutely true. The Bible tells us about Jesus' words, His death and Resurrection. It tells us about eternal life for those who have asked God for forgiveness of their sins through Christ. But there is a second humanly impossible truth I want you to consider.

2nd – Jesus predicted His own resurrection on the third day

Jesus specifically told His disciples on three occasions about His death and His resurrection. Those conversations were recorded by Matthew, Mark, and Luke. It was about one month before the last Supper when Jesus began telling His disciples specifically about this. They were north of the Sea of Galilee and would be traveling down to Jerusalem. It was on this journey that He would make these predictions.

1st – Matthew 16:21; Mark 8:31; Luke 9:22

2nd – Matthew 17:22-23; Mark 9:30-32; Luke 9:43b-45

3rd – Matthew 20:17-19; Mark 10:32-34; Luke 18:31-34

Jesus had predicted when He was going to die, where He was going to die, how He was going to die, *and* His resurrection on the third day.

But stop and think about it. *If* Jesus was *not* God the Son.... *if* He was only a fake.... He may have been able to accurately guess *when* and *where* he was going to die. He even *may* have been able to accurately guess *how* He was going to die. But it would have been totally impossible for Him to accurately predict that He would rise again on the third day! When we die physically we die. We don't come physically alive again after several days. If Jesus had not risen everything He had been telling His disciples would have been shown to be a lie. His disciples would have walked away knowing they had been duped. There would be no Christianity.... No church.

But Jesus knew he was going to rise again on the third day, and it happened just like He had said. That evening Jesus appeared to 10 of the 12 disciples. Judas had hanged himself and Thomas was not there. The 10 told Thomas about it.

ESV John 20:25 So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe."

We call Thomas "Doubting Thomas" but I am actually glad for his reaction. He was not going to believe that Jesus had risen from the dead unless he had undeniable proof. Later Jesus gave him that proof and Thomas believed.

ESV John 20:26-28 ¶ Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe." ²⁸ Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!"

The disciples chose martyrdom rather than deny Christ. James, the brother of Jesus who initially did not believe in Him, became the head of the church in Jerusalem. Other Christians chose death in the Coliseum rather than recant their faith. They knew why they believed.

I know why I believe. And I know what I believe is not a lie. I know, among other reasons, because of two humanly impossible truths.

1st – The Bible is absolutely true

2nd – Jesus predicted His own resurrection on the third day

Heaven and Hell are real. The Bible is absolutely true. Jesus did rise from the dead. The Gospel shows us the way to God. The Holy Spirit does indwell believers. And God's promise of eternal life is there for all who believe.

For the Christian the things we have considered confirm why they believe. For someone who has never asked Christ for forgiveness because of His death and resurrection, yours is the offer of eternal life through Him.