

The Bodily Resurrection

OUT OF THE WORD

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When it comes to the historical resurrection of Jesus Christ as reported in the gospels, one can sensibly infer from the available evidence that the resurrection is a reasonable historical event.

Although this seems totally foolish to the skeptic and non-believer. Some have attempted to refute naturalistic theories that attempt to explain away the evidence for the resurrection of Christ. If the case can be made then just as Jesus said Himself before His crucifixion that His forthcoming resurrection would validate His claims (Matthew 12:38-40, 16:1-4,). Not only that, but the Apostle Paul declared that the resurrection of Christ Jesus was God's vindication of Christ's deity (Romans 1:3-4). In the book of Acts, the Apostle Peter claimed that Jesus' bodily resurrection was God's endorsement of Jesus' public ministry (Acts 2:23-32). When one looks at this context Jesus' bodily resurrection then becomes the primary validation of His radical claims about Himself and the vindication of His message of salvation. Before the birth of the church on the day of Pentecost in Acts chapter two, Judaism shared various views of the idea of a resurrection, for them the idea of resurrection was implicit at best. However, at Pentecost and following, the reality of the resurrection was made known explicitly in and through the crucified and bodily resurrected Jesus Christ. The main thrust of the preaching in the book of Acts is the bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. Before the Pentecost sermon by Peter, the apostles met in the upper room in Jerusalem, and there was one crucial order of business with which needed to be dealt. Before His death, the Lord Jesus had personally selected the disciples that he would train to become His apostles, and ultimately to whom He would give the keys to the kingdom. After Judas' office was filled (Acts 1:15-26), and they were filled with the Holy Spirit they preached as dying men to dying people. They preached what they had empirically verified to be objective truth. Post crucifixion and prior to the resurrection, the disciples cowered in fear, but after the resurrection and under the command of the Jewish Sanhedrin not to speak or teach in the name of Jesus; Peter and John answered and said to them, "Whether it is right in the sight of God to give heed to you rather than God, you be the judge; for we cannot stop speaking about what we have seen and heard." (Acts 4:19-20). The bodily resurrection of Jesus is a historical matter, for there were eye-witnesses of this account. The bodily resurrection is also a biological matter because the body of Jesus was mutilated and he clearly died. But do not forget the bodily resurrection is also a scientific matter, because death for Him was completely reversed, and this reversal of death was empirically verified by over five hundred people. So let us remember without the bodily resurrection there is no Christianity. Without the bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ, all you are left with is moral therapy churchism. If you have been buried with Christ at baptism (Romans 6), then you have been raised with Christ and now must walk in Christian holiness, bearing spiritual fruit for the Glory of God. Let us take heed to the old preacher Thomas Watson who said very well, "*We are more sure to arise out of our graves, than*

out of our beds.” **Happy Resurrection Day – from the First Christian Church in
Pinckneyville!**