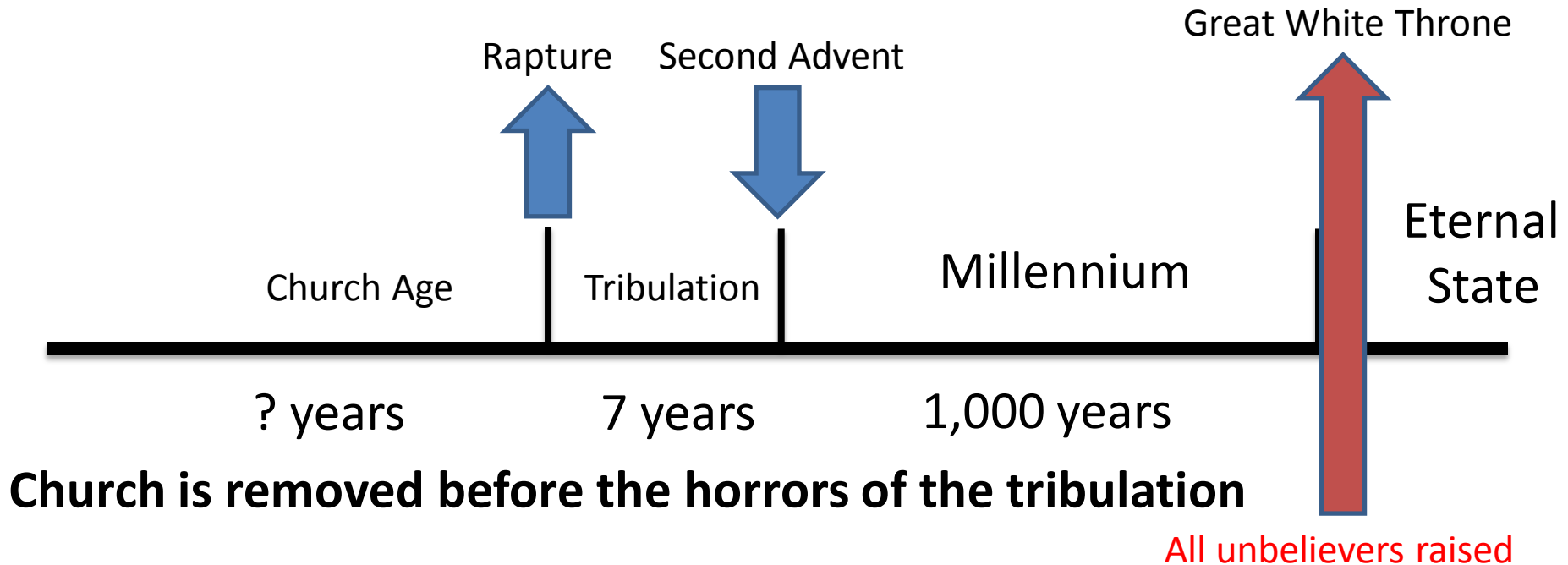


Any questions on
historiography or
resurrection in the last
4 classes?

**These slides are available at
www.fbcweb.org/sermons.html**

Doctrinal Foundations: Eschatology (5) The Rapture

1 Thess. 4:16-17, For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: ¹⁷ Then we which are alive *and* remain shall be raptured (from ἀρπάζω) together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord [cf. John 14:1-3] ¹⁸ Wherefore comfort (παρακαλεῖτε) one another with these words.



Preparation for Bible Class

Foundations for the Spiritual life

#1- Salvation. Positional truth (PT): at the moment of belief in Christ, the new believer is united with Christ in His death, burial, resurrection, and ascension. PT is the believer's unconditional everlasting relationship with God. This position (standing) is an absolute. It is not progressive, emotional, or related to any human merit.

- **Ephesians 2:5** even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), ⁶ and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly *places*, in Christ Jesus, ⁷ in order that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

Preparation for Bible Class

Foundations for the Spiritual Life

#2 Daily spiritual life – presenting ourselves to the Lord rather than the pernicious OSHGEN

Romans 6:11 Even so consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus. ¹² Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body that you should obey its lusts, ¹³ and do not go on presenting the members of your body to sin *as* instruments of unrighteousness; but present (παριστάνετε) yourselves to God as those alive from the dead, and your members *as* instruments of righteousness to God. ¹⁴ For sin shall not be master over you, for you are not under law, but under grace.

Preparation for Bible Class

Foundations for the Spiritual Life

#3 - Spiritual maturity—growing in divine viewpoint,

1 Corinthians 2:16 For who has known the mind of the Lord, that he should instruct Him? But we have the mind of Christ. (also see Philip 2:5)

- ✓ Function of the mind – to seek the Truth.
- ✓ Function of the will – to seek the Good.
- ✓ Only in Christianity is there true freedom.

The greatest enemy is evil (human viewpoint). Absence of God = meaningless, no purpose to life, frantic search for happiness, all about the moment, all about temporal life issues, enslaved to the Zeitgeist.

Resurrection – 5 – The Cross/Death of Christ – Historiography; Spiritual applications in 1 Peter

Historiography

1. The earliest testimony, 1 Corinthians 15:b3-5a:

ὅτι Χριστὸς ἀπέθανεν ὑπὲρ τῶν ἁμαρτιῶν ἡμῶν κατὰ τὰς γραφὰς
καὶ ὅτι ἐτάφη
καὶ ὅτι ἐγήγερται τῇ ἡμέρᾳ τῇ τρίτῃ κατὰ τὰς γραφὰς
καὶ ὅτι ὤφθη

That Christ died on behalf of our sins according to the Scriptures
and that He was buried
and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures
And that He appeared.

2. The importance of the resurrection of Jesus Christ,

- ✓ **1 Corinthians 15:17** and if Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins. ¹⁸ Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. ¹⁹ If we have hoped in Christ in this life only, we are of all men most to be pitied.

- Many Christians are afraid of considering the evidence (or don't think it is worth the time) due to influences of fideism. This certain was not true of Paul—a true doctrinal scholar!

- **There are two categories of illumination and conviction: the inner conviction of the HS w/BD & external historical evidence—historiography.** Facts are essential, but there is more to it than *mere* facts—there is volition and consequences.
- Rom. 10:17
- Acts 4:8-13.
- John 14:16-18; 16:7-15; 20:29.
- Romans 8:16 The Spirit Himself bears witness (συμμαρτυρεῖ) with our spirit that we are children of God,
- ✓ External evidence of Jesus' resurrection confirms the truth we have received via God's revelation.

Historiography

1. **There is outstanding evidence for the historicity of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.**

- ✓ There is more historical evidence for the life, death, and resurrection of JC than historical evidence of any other ancient person.
- ✓ This evidence has been used to lead many to Christ. This evidence is great in removing intellectual barriers.
- ✓ Understanding Christological historiography enables the believer to build a solid case for the resurrection of JC.

- ✓ There is a great need for apologetics as the media (ABC, Time) continues to distort Christianity by liberal “Christians.”
- ✓ There is no amount of evidence that can overcome a heart problem (-vol), Acts 4.
- ✓ This evidence is also a great benefit in aiding the faith of the believer as he is faces ridicule of the kosmos for believing Christianity is true rather than just another myth.
- ✓ Other systems (Mormonism, Islam) depend upon subjective experience.
- ✓ Christianity is unique in its historicity.

- 2. Five historical principles speak to the Resurrection.**
 - a. Multiple, independent sources support historical claims.
 - b. Attestation by an enemy supports historical claims.
 - c. Embarrassing admissions support historical claims.
 - d. Eyewitness testimony supports historical claims.
 - e. Early testimony supports historical claims.

- 3. Minimal facts approach considers only data that meet two criteria:**
 - a. The data are strongly evidenced.
 - b. The data are granted by virtually all scholars on the subject, even the skeptical ones.

- 4. The minimal facts approach avoids the side issues related to the inerrancy of the gospels. What are other side issues?**

5. There are nine sources of very early testimonies to the disciples' claims of witnessing the risen Jesus that can be categorized under *POW!*

- a. P – Paul, Acts 9.
- b. O- Oral tradition, 1 Cor. 15:3-5; Gal 1-2; Acts 2.
- c. W- Written tradition
 - 1. Gospels and Acts.
 - 2. Apostolic Fathers: Clement, Polycarp.

- 6. We have at least 7 solid sources that attest to the original disciples' willingness to suffer and die for their claim that Jesus rose from the dead. Liars make poor martyrs.**
- a. #1, Acts (cf. 9:26-30; 15:1-35).
 - b. #2, Clement of Rome (30-100). Mentions Paul and Peter's sufferings and martyrdom.
 - c. #3, Polycarp (69-155) noted how the apostles suffered and were martyred for the faith. Polycarp also suffered martyrdom.

- d. #4, Ignatius (35-98) notes how the disciples were fearless after the resurrection.
- e. #5, Dionysius of Corinth (170) writes on the martyrdom of the disciples
- f. #6, Tertullian (200) speaks of martyrdom of Paul and Peter.
- g. #7, Origen (230-250) speaks of how fearless the disciples were in the face of certain death because they witnessed the resurrection

- 7. - Vol is always looking for a way out. Three major attempts of –vol to explain away the resurrection of JC: legends, lies, and lapses. 3 types of legends:**
- a. #1, Embellishments. This theory posits that the disciples never claimed to see the resurrected Christ. Like with the game of telephone, the story was embellished over time (cf. Gautama).
 - b. #2, Nonhistorical literary style where the authors never meant the resurrected to be taken literally (e.g. Aesop's fables).
 - c. #3, Mythical like in other religions. Claim: Christians copied stories of risen saviors (e.g. Osiris, Tammuz, Adonis, and Marduk).

8. Bankruptcy of embellishment legend theories.

- a. Requires a great deal of time for legends to grow.
- b. Original disciples claimed resurrection from beginning.
- c. Paul claimed to have seen Jesus very early.
- d. James claimed to have seen Jesus.
- e. Ad hoc. Critics need evidence for assertions.

9. Failure of nonhistorical genre theories.

- a. There is no indications that apostles wrote parabolically.
- b. It cannot account for the empty tomb.
- c. It cannot account for conversion of Paul. A fable would not have convinced Paul, an educated man, that Jesus had risen from the dead. He certainly would not have “apostatized” from Judaism for a fable.
- d. It cannot account for the conversion of skeptical James. A fable would not have convinced devout James.

- e. The sermons of Peter and James are historical. They both claimed that Jesus' body did not decay in the grave like David's.

- f. The response of the critics imply that early church understood the resurrection of Jesus to be historical. The Jewish leaders accused the disciples of stealing Jesus' body. Later Celsus (170), a critic, suggested that resurrection was by magic.

10. Failure of the theory that posits that the resurrection story is a variation of myths in other religions.

- a. Details of myth stories are vague and unlike resurrection of Jesus Christ. Aesculapius was struck by lightning and ascended to heaven. Baccus and Hercules and others rose to heaven after violent deaths.
- b. The first account of alleged parallels or dying and rising gods are at least 100 years after the reports of Jesus' resurrection. Therefore the disciples were not copying. Only Osiris predates Christianity. He was consigned to nether world. He was not resurrected or appeared to anyone.

11. There are also two fraud theories that are employed by liberals in an attempt to explain away the resurrection.

12. Fraud #1: Disciples lied or stole the body. Problems:

- ✓ The disciples of Jesus claimed to have seen the risen Jesus because they really believed they had seen Him.
- ✓ Their lives were radically transformed to the point where they were willing to endure imprisonment, sufferings, and even martyrdom. They boldly proclaimed the risen Christ in the face of severe persecution and death.
- ✓ Every single disciple insisted to their dying breaths that they had physically seen Jesus bodily raised from the dead ones. No one turned “state’s evidence.”

- ✓ Their willingness to suffer continuously and die for the gospel points to their integrity.
- ✓ Paul would not have been convinced by such a fraud. This would have been the first thing he expected.
- ✓ Fraud would not have convinced James, who rejected him before resurrection. He like Paul was convinced by an appearance of the risen Lord.
- ✓ Due to problems with Paul and James very few scholars hold to this anymore.

13. Fraud #2: Someone other than the disciples stole the body. When the disciples discovered that the tomb was empty, they simply concluded that Jesus was risen. Problems:

- ✓ Empty tomb would not have convinced Paul. He would have suspected foul play.
- ✓ Empty tomb would not have convinced skeptic James.
- ✓ The empty tomb did not lead Jesus' followers (except John) to believe He had risen from the Lord.
- ✓ Mary Magdalene jumped to conclusion that someone stole the body.

- ✓ Peter was not convinced upon seeing the empty tomb.
- ✓ Thomas was unconvinced by reports of empty tomb and appearances of Christ to others.
- ✓ This theory would only call into question the cause of the empty tomb, not the Resurrection itself.
- ✓ Does not explain appearance of Jesus to Paul and James and their subsequent conversions.
- ✓ It was the appearances that convinced friend and foe alike, the empty tomb convinced no one.
- ✓ The wrong tomb theory has the same problems as above.

- 14. Swoon theory (apparent death theory) Perhaps Jesus did not die to begin with, so there was no Resurrection.** Could the soldiers have mistook him for being dead when He had fallen into a coma? Maybe they were bribed to take Him down. He could have recuperated and showed His nailed scared hands to the disciples afterwards. Problems:
- ✓ JAMA article on Jesus Christ.
 - ✓ Blood and water from side, Jn 19:34-35.
 - ✓ Does not account for them believing that He possessed a resurrected body.

- ✓ This theory would require: a mutilated Christ to push the stone away with pierced hands, and walk blocks on pierced feet, and then appear to disciples in his mutilated state, and convince them He was the risen Prince of life. Alive? Barely. Risen? No. Disciples looked forward to getting their resurrected bodies after seeing Jesus. Is this possible by them seeing His limping, bleeding, pale, pain-racked body?

- ✓ Cannot account for Paul's dramatic reversal of worldviews. Paul claimed that his conversion was the result of experiencing a glorious appearance of the risen Jesus. A swooned Jesus, even if healed, would not appear gloriously.

- 15. The challenge of naturalism.** Naturalism views the natural world as the sum of reality. Problems:
- ✓ Scientific method is limited in its ability to observe and test.
 - ✓ To claim that truth is found only in what science can test and prove is self-refuting.
 - ✓ All that science can show is that men do not come back to life *by natural means*.
 - ✓ Only takes a single justified example to show that there is more to reality than the physical world.

Ready for Quiz?

There is no Consensus among Historians **On the Definition of History**

A. True.

B. False.

God does not place a priority on believers
understanding history

A. True

B. False

What is Historiography

- A. Questions about history and questions of history
- B. Is both philosophy and method
- C. Is history of the philosophy of history and writings about the past
- D. All of the above

True of False: If Jesus did not rise from the dead, Christianity is false and we should live accordingly.

A.TRUE

B.FALSE

**Horizons do not play a significant role in doing history—
they are easy to transcend**

A. True

B. False

Historians who reject the resurrection of Jesus Christ
have some good historical arguments against
Jesus Christ rising from the Dead

- A. True
- B. False

Islam has some good historical arguments against Jesus Christ rising from the Dead

- A. True
- B. False

What is the role of evidence when sharing your faith with others?

- A. To remove emotional barriers.
- B. Evidence serves to prove that Christianity is true beyond all doubt.
- C. To remove intellectual barriers.
- D. The apostles never used evidence when presenting Christianity and neither should we.

What is the *Principle OF Enemy Attestation?*

- A. When an unsympathetic source doesn't like what is being said.
- B. A source that does not sympathize with a certain person, message, or cause affirms something about it
- C. Jesus and Paul agree that we should share the good news of the resurrection with unbelievers.
- D. All of the above.

What is the “minimal facts” approach?

- A. Only using facts that can be established by non-Christian sources.
- B. Only using facts that can be established from the four Gospels.
- C. Only using facts that are strongly attested and are accepted by nearly every scholar who studies the subject
- D. Only using facts that all cultists believe.

Why is the “minimal facts: approach” effective?

- A. It enables me to present a strong case for Jesus’ resurrection without having to study much.
- B. It enables me to present a strong case for Jesus’ resurrection without assuming that the New Testament is inspired or even trustworthy.
- C. It helps keep the dialogue from diverging into less important issues and allows me to focus on the most important topic and the gospel.
- D. B&C are true

If a skeptic said, “I don’t believe that Jesus rose from the dead because I don’t believe the Bible,” you might respond with which of the following:

- A. It is not a matter of evidence. It is a matter of faith.
- B. Ask why he does not believe the Bible and address his objections.
- C. God said it. I believe it. That settles it.
- D. I have not based my case for the resurrection on the inspiration or even the general trustworthiness of the Bible

Why do most scholars hold that Jesus' disciples claimed that He rose from the dead and that they truly believed it?

A- The New Testament teaches this and it is inspired.

B- Most scholars do not hold that the disciples believed it: only that they claimed it.

C- Several sources attest that they willingly suffered and some even died for their beliefs.

D- Foxe's *Book of Martyrs* reports the sufferings and martyrdoms of all the apostles.

How many ancient sources attest to the willingness on the part of the original disciples to suffer and die for their beliefs?

Nine ancient sources attest to the disciples' claim to have seen Jesus rise from the dead. These can be easily presented in three categories. What are they?

Regarding the evidence for Jesus' resurrection, what distinguishes the disciples and Muslim terrorists, who also willingly suffered and died for their beliefs?

A- Muslim terrorists die because they believe the *Qur'an*, while the disciples rejected it.

B- The willingness on the part of the people to suffer and die for their cause proves nothing, since people of conflicting beliefs cancel each other out.

C- Muslim terrorists kill unwilling hostages in the process, whereas the disciples never used force.

D- Muslim terrorists die for what they believe is true, while the disciples died for what they knew was either true or false.

How do we know that the disciples suffered *willingly* for their beliefs?

A – We don't know that they suffered willingly; only that they suffered.

B- They continued to preach the gospel in the face of continuous threats, severe persecutions, and even death

C- This is always a price to pay for success.

D- The early Church historian Eusebius reports that all of the disciples willingly suffered and died.

True or False. The willingness of the disciples to suffer and even die for their beliefs establishes the *truth* of their beliefs.

A – True

B- False

Which two Apostolic Fathers report that the apostles were dramatically impacted by Jesus' resurrection.

Paul probably received the creed in 1 Corinthians 15 within how many years of Jesus' crucifixion?

A – 5

B- 10

C- 20

D- 30

Which of the following is the earliest report we have of Jesus' resurrection appearances?

A – 1 Corinthians 15

B- Mark 16

C- Matthew 28

D- Josephus, *Ant.* 18:3.

The Cross—Spiritual Applications From First Peter

1. 1 Pet 1:10-12. The Cross, the Angelic Conflict, and Testing. 3, the resurrection—regeneration and the new life.

- ✓ Christ and His Cross are the center of human history, 1:10-12.
- ✓ Note the positive volition of the OT prophets.
- ✓ Note the interest of the angels in the incarnation, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Unpacking all of this opens up the purpose of human history

- ✓ Divine historiography and the angelic conflict.
 - ❖ Original creation of the heavens, angels, and earth.
 - ❖ Fall of Satan and judgment on the earth.
 - ❖ Restoration of the earth.
 - ❖ Creation of man.
 - ❖ Fall of man into the kingdom of darkness.
 - ❖ Promise of Redeemer. This becomes the thread of all history.

- ✓ Human history is about God reversing the curse of the Fall of man. These are things angels long to see.
 - ❖ Reverse spiritual death by making man spiritually alive again by providing eternal spiritual life with capacity to live and serve God.
 - ❖ Reversing physical death with resurrected bodies. Abolish decay, disease, deformity, & death.
 - ❖ Reversing the curse of creation by restoration of all things.

- ❖ Transfer man from kingdom of Satan to kingdom of God.
- ❖ Dethrone Satan as the king of this earth.
- ❖ Reversal of all consequences of sin by God's program of redemption.
- ❖ Take man from being at enmity with God to being at peace with God.
- ❖ Destruction of the old heavens and earth.
- ❖ Creation of new heavens and earth.

- ✓ The longing/desire (παρακύψαι) of angels, 1 Pet. 12:12.
- ✓ They learn of God's grace, but they will never feel the joy of our salvation.
- ✓ They are spectators not participants.
- ✓ They are fascinated with our salvation.

- ✓ They are fascinated with God's love and grace. They are fascinated with God's wisdom displayed in the theatre of human history.
- ✓ The wonder of God's grace coming to sinful men and transforming them. They cannot say "he died for our sins" but they can sing praise and glory to Him for redeeming man in matchless grace, cf. Rev. 5:8-14.
- ✓ They are always learning of God's grace in human history, but never like in the church age, Eph. 3:8-10

2. 1 Peter 1:17-25. Our priceless redemption and the Cross. Note the reference to the resurrection, 21.

3. 1 Peter 2:18-25. Christ, our Example. In unjust suffering we are to take up our crosses and glorify God.

✓ **Matthew 16:24** Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.

4. 1 Peter 4:1-2. Breaking the OSN and living in the will of God rather than the lusts of the flesh.