

# Any questions?

“To the modern materialist, death is the cessation of being. According to the mythical view of the ancients, when we die we devolve into a ghostly shadow of our present selves. Reincarnationists believe that our souls continuously return dressed up in other bodies. The followers of Plato contend that the body is a prison; at death, the prisoner escapes as a mere individual human spirit. Hindus believe that the body is merely an illusion and that the only thing that ultimately survives is an impersonal cosmic consciousness. Only in a biblical worldview do we become greater after death than we were before. Only in Christianity are our lowly bodies transformed into glorious, resurrected bodies, like unto Christ’s resurrected body.”

**These slides are available at**

**[www.fbcweb.org/sermons.html](http://www.fbcweb.org/sermons.html)**

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The critical importance of Christian foundations to prevent de-contextualization of thought (philosophy/logic) & WOG (theology/BD).

- Failure to establish the correct foundation leads to great vulnerability—spiritually and psychologically.
- Believers who fall always do so because of some defect in their foundation either in the area of philosophy (logic, rationality, categorical thinking, becoming sensate) or in the area of Bible doctrine (false teaching, carnality, noetic effects of sin).
- Resurrection of Jesus more than any other doctrine can establish a permanent unassailable foundation.
- One of the most common problems is when believers make peripheral issues their foundation.

# Theological/Doctrinal Foundations : Eschatology (24)

## The Future Resurrected Body

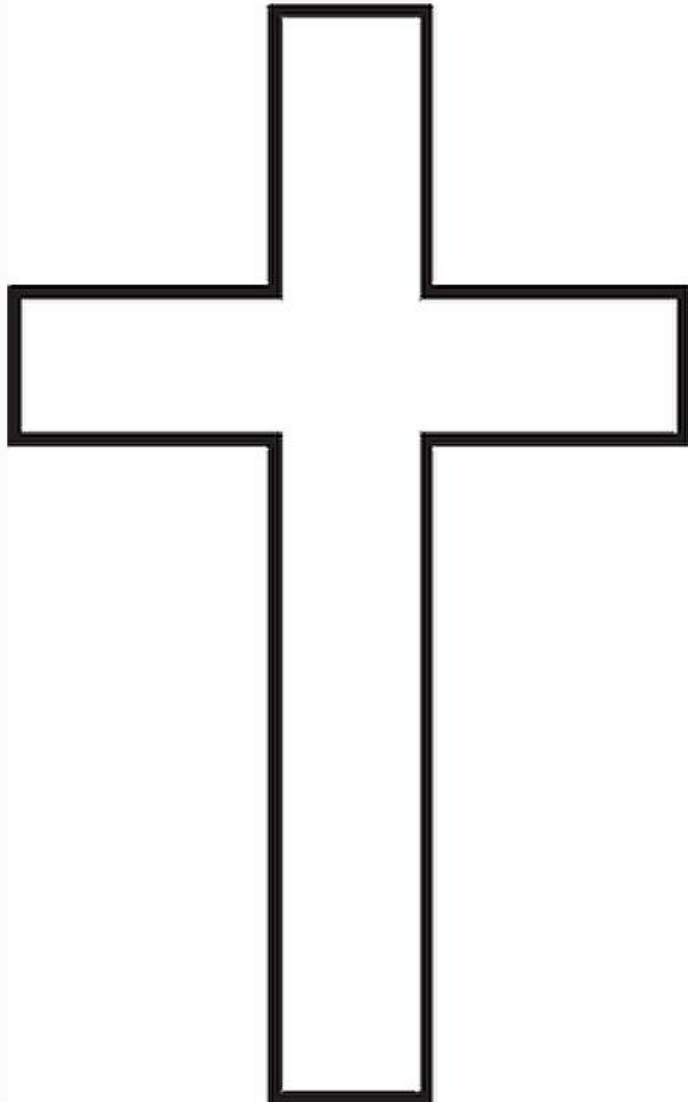
**Matthew 22:30** "For in the resurrection they neither marry, nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven.

**Background knowledge (I.C.E.) makes it clear that**

- ✓ The likeness is not in the *ontological* sense.
- ✓ The likeness is not in the *locational* sense.
- ✓ The likeness is in a *functional* sense in that the angels do not marry.
- ✓ Angels cannot smell, enjoy good music, etc.
- ✓ One of the reasons for the institution of marriage was to deal with the problem of people dying. Be fruitful and multiply!
- ✓ Resurrection life is immortal life.
- ✓ Will you be with your spouse in the resurrection life?

# Preparation for Bible Class – Spiritual Life Foundations

## #1 Salvation – The Work of Christ



### 4 WORD PICTURES:

**Propitiation** → **Temple**  
**Redemption** → **Market-place**  
**Justification** → **Courtroom**  
**Reconciliation** → **Family**

**= SAVED BY GRACE!**

# Preparation for Bible Class – Spiritual Life Foundations

## #2, Life by Grace, Romans 6

**Romans 6:1** What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace might increase? <sup>2</sup> May it never be! How shall we who died to sin still live in it?

**Romans 6:14** For sin shall not be master over you, for you are not under law, but under grace.

**Romans 6:19** . . . For just as you presented your members *as* slaves to impurity and to lawlessness, resulting in *further* lawlessness, so now present (παρίστημι) your members *as* slaves to righteousness, resulting in sanctification.

\* The only ability God is looking for in us is “availability.”

# Preparation for Bible Class – Spiritual Life Foundations

## #3: Growth in Grace

**2 Peter 1:2** Grace and peace be multiplied (πληθυνθείη, aorist passive optative) to you ~~in~~ by means of the [epignosis] knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord; <sup>3</sup> seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence.

## Resurrection Special #23:

### Matthew 27-28 – The Cross and the Resurrection

**Matthew 27:45** Now from the sixth hour darkness fell upon all the land until the ninth hour. <sup>46</sup> And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?" that is, "My God, My God, why hast Thou forsaken Me?"

**Matthew 28:6** . . . He has risen . . . And they departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy and ran to report it to His disciples. <sup>9</sup> And behold, Jesus met them and greeted them. And they came up and took hold of His feet and worshiped Him. <sup>10</sup> Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and take word to My brethren to leave for Galilee, and there they shall see Me."

## The Development of the Four Gospels

1. Matthew was written by the apostle Matthew who was an eyewitness to the life of Christ. The material in Matthew was arranged thematically (A.D. 30-42) to deal with early Jewish challenges to Jesus as the Messiah.
2. Luke was written by Luke for the needs of Paul as the church advanced to the Gentiles. Luke was not an eyewitness. He was an historian who produced a Gentile edition of Matthew.
3. Mark was written by Peter's secretary John Mark as he recorded Peter's lectures on the life of Christ in Rome (60-62). At the same time Peter approved of the publication of Luke.
4. John was written by John as a theological addendum.
5. All documentary theories should be rejected. Church testimony is unanimous for the above. No need for document Q. These sources go back to the disciples of the Disciples.
6. All of the gospels were written by eyewitnesses or approved of by eyewitnesses.



## Matthew 27:45-46: Four Grand Accomplishments of the Cross

1. **#1, Christ's work of propitiation (ἱλαστήριον, temple image), Rom. 3:24-25; 1 John 2:1-2; 4:10.** This word was well known in previous generations. To propitiate somebody means to appease his anger or wrath. This term has in it the idea of placating the wrath of God. Jesus by his death propitiated the anger or wrath of God (analogous language—not univocal, or equivocal terms). This term is also used of the mercy seat, Heb. 9:5. On the Cross Jesus Christ took all of the wrath of God for each of us. As a result, God can now look favorably on us.

**Romans 3:24** being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus; <sup>25</sup> whom God displayed publicly as a **propitiation** in His blood through faith. *This was* to demonstrate His righteousness, because in the forbearance of God He passed over the sins previously committed;

## Matthew 27:45-46: Four Grand Accomplishments of the Cross

**2. #2, Christ's work of redemption (ἀπολύτρωσις, market-place, business transaction).** This word means to buy back. The emphasis here is buying us out of our sorry sinful state. While propitiation focuses on the wrath of God which was placated by the cross; redemption on the plight of sinners from which they are ransomed by the cross. Ransom is the right concept. It is a price of release. We have all been ransomed by Christ. He paid the price for our freedom from the slave-market of sin.

**Romans 3:24** being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus;

## Matthew 27:45-46: Four Grand Accomplishments of the Cross

- 3. #3, Christ's work of justification (δικαίωσις, courtroom term), Rom 3:28; 5:18; 8:34.** Note the logical order: propitiation appeases the +R wrath of God, then in redemption He frees us from the slave market of sin, and then He justifies us. Justification by faith alone was the cardinal doctrine of the Reformers. This must be understood as *judicial* justification.

**Romans 3:28** For we maintain that a man is justified by faith apart from works of the Law.

**Romans 5:18** So then as through one transgression there resulted condemnation to all men, even so through one act of righteousness there resulted justification of life to all men.

## Matthew 27:45-46: Four Grand Accomplishments of the Cross

4. **#4, Christ's work of reconciliation (καταλλαγή, family term), Rom 5:10-11.** We have gone from the temple, to the slave-market, to the lawcourts and now we are in the home and with our family and friends. Reconciliation is the opposite of alienation, and many people nowadays refer to themselves as alienated. As society becomes more "kosmotized" the factions and alienation only increases. Reconciliation means to have peace with God. We have been adopted into His family and we can address Him intimately as 'Abba, Father.' We now have unhindered access to God and His grace.

**Romans 5:10**, For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. <sup>11</sup> And not only this, but we also exult in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.

# The Resurrection

- God has seen fit in His providence to provide undeniable historical proof for the greatest event in human history.
- Resurrection establishes the truth of Christianity at its core and makes Christianity unassailable and unaffected by any and all peripheral issues.
- Every trace of evidence for the resurrection is also evidence for our eventual resurrection. He conquered the grave and so will we. Because of JC we can face the future without fear.
- Resurrection sets Christianity apart from all religions of the world. Christianity does not require blind leap of faith in the dark.

## **THOSE 4 INDISPUTABLE HISTORICAL FACTS**

1. These historical facts enjoy support from over 3,400 worldwide scholars from 1972 to the present (atheists, agnostics, cynics, revisionists, moderates, conservatives, liberals):

- #1 – Jesus’ burial by Joseph of Arimathea.
- #2 – The empty tomb discovered by women.
- #3 - Christ’s postmortem appearances as experienced by disciples.
- #4 - Origin of Christianity—i.e. the disciples’ belief in Jesus’ resurrection.

2. Historiography (philosophy of history) is the means of establishing historical proof. It is odd that even the eight Ivy League schools in all degree programs (BA, MA, PhD) have only one course (between them all) of philosophy of history in their religion and philosophy courses.

#1 - What are the facts to be explained?

#2 - What is the best explanation of those facts?

Scope, power, plausibility, less ad hoc, illumination.

3. Today the relevant historical facts are largely agreed upon by critics—almost universally.

## **Alternate hypothesis #1: Fraud theory #1 (by disciples).**

Problems:

- ✓ The disciples: really believed they saw Jesus Christ; their lives were transformed; they were willing to endure imprisonment and suffering based on their 1<sup>st</sup> hand information, cf. Acts 2:29-32; 3:14-15; 4:2; 5:30; 10:39-41; 13:29-37; 17:22-32.
- ✓ Conversion of unbeliever Paul.
- ✓ Conversion of James. James was later stoned to death illegally by the Sanhedrin for his faith in Christ (cf. Josephus). He went from hating everything his brother stood for to calling himself a bondservant of the LJC, James 1:1.
- ✓ Within weeks of the resurrection, an entire community of at least ten thousand Jews were willing to give up their very own theological traditions that had given them their national identity (Sabbath worship, sacrificial system, Passover meal to Lord's Supper, baptism in the name of Father, Son, and HS).



## **Alternate hypothesis #2: Fraud theory #2: someone other than the disciples stole the body**

### **Problems:**

- ✓ Empty tomb did not convince disciples (women, Peter, Thomas).
- ✓ Empty tomb would not have convinced Paul or James.

## **Alternative Hypothesis #3: “Witnesses went to the Wrong Tomb”**

Problems:

- ✓ Does not account for appearances.
- ✓ Location was known.
- ✓ Historicity of Joseph of Arimathea.
- ✓ Would not convince disciples
- ✓ Would not convince James or Paul.

# Alternate Hypothesis #4: Apparent Death (Swoon Theory)

## Problems:

- ✓ Plausibility? Survive 3 days without medical attention? Single-handedly roll away an enormously heavy tombstone, subdue an armed guard, stroll around on pierced feet and with a chest wound then seduce disciples into thinking He is the Lord of life.
- ✓ James and Paul?
- ✓ Blood and water?

## Alternate Hypothesis #5: Hallucinations.

What are the problems with this theory?

- Christ appeared to many people during a long period of time—many weeks—who had no expectations (they were filled with fear and doubt) and were made up of plenty of different personality types.
- Does not account for hallucinations suddenly disappearing.
- Hallucinate walking and eating with Him?
- Empty tomb?
- Paul and James?

# Natural Hypothesis #6: Delusions

What are problems with this hypothesis?

- ✓ Requires a certain state of mind.
- ✓ Paul and James?
- ✓ Empty tomb?

## Natural Hypothesis #7: The Passover Plot

Jesus, Joseph, and an unidentified Jew deliberately plotted his crucifixion and resurrection. Problems:

- Regurgitation of the Swoon Theory
- Hugh Schonfield's book (1965).
- Runaway best seller.
- Hailed by Time and by scholars such as Barclay.
- Variations: Jesus survives; doctor in the tomb; Jesus went to Egypt; married Magdalene; fought at Masada; and retires as a monk at Qumran.
- Most of these outlandish theories are sucked up by the media and those who are kosmotized.

## Alternate Hypothesis #8: The Twin Hypothesis

Jesus had a twin brother, Hurome, who was separated from Jesus at birth and does not see Him until the crucifixion. He sees Jesus, concocts a messianic vision, steals the body and pretends to be the resurrected Christ. If you are wondering why nobody knew about Jesus' twin brother that's because their real baby got accidentally switched with one member of a pair of identical twins. So the person that we call Jesus wasn't really Mary's child at all and his twin brother grew up independently of him.

- ✓ Origin: Use of Bayes' theorem in response to implausibility of all other natural hypotheses. I would agree that it is more plausible than other *natural* hypothesis. What if you had a friend who died and you saw get buried and later you saw someone down the street that looked just like him.
- ✓ However, many problems: switching babies? wounds? in Jer. at the right time? body builder? motivation?

## **Natural Hypothesis #9: Muslim Hypothesis**

From a Muslim perspective, Jesus was never crucified and thus never resurrected. The words “God raised him up unto Himself have often been taken as Jesus as taken up alive to heaven without dying.” There are a number of candidates that are offered as substitutes for Christ (Judas, Pilate, Simon, a disciple).

Muslims believe Jesus escaped the cross by being taken up to heaven and that one day he will come back to play central role: kill Antichrist, kill all pigs, break the cross, destroy synagogues and churches, establish the religion of Islam, live for 40 years, and then be buried in the city of Medina beside the prophet Muhammad.



## Natural Hypothesis #10: Watchtower Hypothesis

- Denial of deity and the bodily resurrection.
- Jesus was created by God as the archangel Michael
- He became a man and after crucifixion he was re-created as an immaterial spirit creature.
- Physical resurrection is viewed as hopeless eternal humiliation (in heaven as man = lower than angels)
- Human body of Jesus was disposed of by Almighty. Either dissolved into gasses or preserved somewhere as the grand memorial of God's love.
- The body in which he was nailed at the cross was not the same body he appeared to disciples. He came in a variety of disparate bodies—like angels or spirits (exception was made for Thomas).

# The Problems with naturalism/physicalism/scientism

1. Naturalism is the overriding belief that the physical natural world is all there is—the sum of reality. This is the only *a priori* that keeps someone from accepting the resurrection of Jesus Christ.
2. Prevalent view today. If something cannot be tested empirically then it has no meaning—or reality.
3. What are some of the problems with physicalism?
  - ✓ It is a philosophical objection
  - ✓ Science has its own limitations
  - ✓ No way to test this claim. It flunks its own test.

## Quiz

**Which of the following provides a correct description of *naturalism*?**

A- Most opposing theories offered to date adequately account for Jesus' resurrection.

B- The natural world is all there is.

C- Although Jesus rose from the dead, it was by natural causes.

D – Eating all natural foods without preservatives is the best diet one can have.

## Quiz

**Some critics claim that science has shown that resurrections are impossible. Why is this position false?**

A- Scientists are always biased by their atheism and their conclusions should always be rejected.

B- Although scientific studies may reveal that resurrections are impossible, we must accept Jesus' resurrection on faith alone.

C- Science has only shown that resurrections are impossible by *natural causes*.

D- All of the above.

## Quiz

**If a skeptic told you that he could never believe that Jesus rose from the dead because his experience tells him that when people die they stay dead, how might you respond?**

A- My experience from the Bible tells me differently. So our experiences cancel each other out.

B- His experience shows that the dead do not return to life by natural causes. However, this does not eliminate the possibility of God raising someone from the dead under special circumstances.

C- His experience shows him that 5,000 cannot be fed by five loaves of bread and two fish. However, it happened. Therefore, his reasoning is problematic.

D- All of the above.

## Quiz

**Skeptics will sometimes claim that even if God exists He cannot violate the laws of nature. What could you say in response?**

A- Nature is all there is. God exists and is, therefore, included in the definition of nature. Thus, His actions within nature do not violate nature's law.

B- The fool has said in his heart, "There is no God."

C- God does not desire to violate nature's laws and Jesus' resurrection fits in well with those laws.

D- If God created the universe and its natural laws, there is no reason why He could not suspend or override those laws if He wanted to.

## Quiz

**If a skeptic suggested that science can explain everything and, thus, we do not have to appeal to a god, what might you say in response?**

A- Science is unable to answer the evidence for Jesus' resurrection. This attests to the extraordinary evidence for it.

B- Since appealing to a god can explain everything, we do not have to appeal to science for answers.

C- What we know from medicine, history, and psychology disprove natural explanations for Jesus' resurrection.

D- A & C.

## Quiz

**If a skeptic said that only what science proves is true, you might respond with which of the following?**

A- Since science cannot prove this position it cannot pass its own test.

B- I am only referring to religious matters, not science. So your objections fails.

C- Near death experiences (NDE's) are proof from science that resurrections are possible.

D- All of the above



## Quiz

**If a skeptic said, “I’ll grant we can know that something happened. But we cannot say that Jesus rose,” how should you respond?**

A- We can make this conclusion because the inspired Word of God reports it.

B- Since all the evidence points to a resurrection and no plausible opposing theories exist, Jesus’s resurrection is the only plausible solution to account for the known facts

C- That’s a good point. I can see why you’re not a Christian.

## Quiz

**Skeptics frequently appeal to problem passages in the resurrection accounts in the Gospels. What is a good way to respond to this tactic?**

A- This objection is irrelevant, because we know that the Bible is inspired and have no need to answer critics who claim that the Bible contains errors.

B- Jesus' resurrection would be disproved if the Bible contains errors, since it is our best source regarding the resurrection accounts.

C- A minimal facts approach keeps us focused on facts, which both sides admit. Problem passages, even in the resurrection accounts, don't at all undermine these minimal facts.

D- This objection is irrelevant, because the majority of scholars believe that Jesus rose from the dead.

# The “Hypothesis” of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ (from purely an historical perspective)

1. Great explanatory scope. The resurrection of Christ explains why the tomb was empty, why the disciples had post-mortem experiences of seeing Jesus, why the Christian faith came into being.
2. Great explanatory power. The resurrection of Christ explains why the body of Jesus was not in the tomb, and why people repeatedly saw Him alive. It explains their willingness to be tortured and murdered for this faith.

3. It is not ad hoc. It is not contrived; it only requires one hypothesis: God exists. Even that need not be an additional hypothesis if you already believe in God.
  
4. Plausibility. It is in accord with accepted beliefs. Christians readily accept that *naturally* dead men do not rise. Given His unparalleled life, wisdom, claims, and prophecy, the resurrection serves as divine confirmation. Christ was either God or a blasphemer.

5. Illumination Thus, it is in accord with accepted beliefs and provides illumination to *all* facts.
6. It far outstrips all rival theories in meeting the canons of 1-5 above. This is why alternate theories continue to be abandoned for the last 200 years. This is precisely why all other theories have not attracted wide scholarship and most “pop” theories have been almost universally rejected.

All alternate theories fail miserably to meet the canons of history as to the best explanation.

- 1) Explanatory scope.
- 2) Explanatory power.
- 3) Plausibility.
- 4) Less ad hoc.
- 5) Illumination.
- 6) Outstrips all rival theories.