

Resurrection Devotions

☐ Monday - Let Us Reason Together!

Is believing in the resurrection intellectual suicide? Is it a blind leap of faith? Do you have to leave your brain at the door when you enter the Christian Church? "No!" Though the cults and man-made religions discourage honest investigation and demand unquestioning obedience, the Lord says to the honest inquirer, "Come now let us reason together" (Isa. 1:18). Christianity is a quest for truth. Read Psalm 119:160

☐ Tuesday - They Would Not Recant!

The resurrection of Jesus Christ is an historical fact, authenticated by over five hundred eyewitnesses, over forty days, during at least ten post-resurrection appearances of Christ (1 Cor. 15:3-8). The most noteworthy eyewitnesses, of course, were the apostles (Jn. 20:19-29). What changed these men from cowards (Mt. 26:69-75), to men of great courage? (Acts 4:18-20; 5:40-42). The answer is that they had seen the empty tomb and the linen wraps, but more importantly they had seen Christ Himself, risen from the dead! The religious leaders were waiting for even one of them to say they had made it all up, so that they could tell the world it was all a hoax! But, instead, the disciples accepted cruel torture and death, rather than recant of what they had seen with their own eyes. Peter writes, "For we did not follow cleverly devised tales when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of His majesty" (2 Pet. 1:16). "How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord, is laid for your faith in His excellent Word!" (Hymn). Read 1 Corinthians 15

☐ Wednesday - Hostile Witnesses Converted!

If the sceptics today say the disciples were biased witnesses for the resurrection, then certainly we must classify Saul as a hostile witness. But now, if Jesus did not rise from the dead, then who appeared to Saul on the road to Damascus and turned the biggest persecutor of the church into the world's greatest evangelical preacher? (Acts 9:1-16). And what shall we make of others who have set out to attack and disprove the resurrection and yet their minds were changed under the influence of the Spirit by the evidence (e.g. British archaeologist Sir William Ramsey, English journalist Frank Morison, and renowned author Josh McDowell, etc.). These men were confronted by the risen Lord and they believed. Jesus is the Rock, and there is no nut too hard for Him to crack. Christian, if you know a nut like that, pray specifically for his or her personal confrontation with the risen Lord! Read Acts 9:1-16

☐ Thursday - Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus!

Nikolai Bukharin was a communist leader and a committed atheist who, with Lenin, led the Russian Revolution in 1917. In 1930 Bukharin addressed a large assembly in Kiev on the topic of atheism. He spoke for over an hour, repeatedly thundering, "There is no God!" After laying down all of his arguments, thinking his proofs were airtight, he arrogantly stepped back and asked, "Are there any questions?" A deathly silence covered the audience. Finally, one old man rose to his feet and shouted, "He is risen!" and the whole auditorium erupted with, "He is risen indeed!" Bukharin was humiliated. "All that is necessary for evil to triumph is that good men do nothing" (Edmund Burke). "Stand up, stand up for Jesus, ye soldiers of the cross!" (Hymn). Jesus is risen! Let's proclaim it to the nations! Read Psalm 2:1-4

☐ Friday - Power to Really Live!

"There is power, power, wondering-working power, in the blood of the Lamb!" (song). That miracle detergent can wash away the deepest stain of sin (1 Jn. 1:7; Rev. 7:14). "There is a fountain filled with blood, drawn from Emmanuel's veins; and sinners plunged beneath that flood, lose all their guilty stains" (hymn). But the cross leaves us with more than just a clean slate. There is power for us in Christ's resurrection. The apostle prayed that he might really "know [Christ], and *the power of His resurrection*" (Phil. 3:10). Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me shall *live*..." (John 11:25), really *live* (Jn. 10:10), a qualitatively new *life* (Rom. 6:4; 2 Cor. 5:17). Resurrection power is power for living! Read John 11:1-44