

The death of Christ and its impact on me.

Let's kind of back into the message this morning. How do we know that this 2000 year old story has anything to do with us today? Can it really be true??

Historical value of the New Testament: over 24,000 copies of early New Testament manuscripts are known to be in existence today

- I claim to be an historian. My approach to Classics is historical. And I tell you that the evidence for the life, the death, and the resurrection of Christ is better authenticated than most of the facts of ancient history . . . E. M. Blaiklock *Professor of Classics Auckland University*
- For the New Testament and Acts, the confirmation of historicity is overwhelming. Any attempt to reject its basic historicity, even in matters of detail, must now appear absurd. Roman historians have long taken it for granted. A. N. Sherwin-White *Classical Roman Historian*
- If the New Testament were a collection of secular writings, their authenticity would generally be regarded as beyond all doubt. F. F. Bruce *Manchester University*
- Homer

With this said, we ask, what does this Bible say about Jesus

- **The Apostle Paul tell us in 1 Corinthians 15:3** For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures, 5 and that He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve. 6 After that He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once, of whom the greater part remain to the present, but some have fallen asleep. 7 After that He was seen by James, then by all the apostles. 8 Then last of all He was seen by me also, as by one born out of due time.
- **Acts 5:34** Then one in the council stood up, a Pharisee named Gamaliel, a teacher of the law held in respect by all the people, and commanded them to put the apostles outside for a little while. 35 And he said to them: "Men of Israel, take heed to yourselves what you intend to do regarding these men. 36 "For some time ago Theudas rose up, claiming to be somebody. A number of men, about four hundred, joined him. He was slain, and all who obeyed him were scattered and came to nothing. 37 "After this man, Judas of Galilee rose up in the days of the census, and drew away many people after him. He also perished, and all who obeyed him were dispersed.38 "And now I say to you, keep away from these men and let them alone; for if this plan or this work is of men, it will come to nothing; 39 "but if it is of God, you cannot overthrow it; lest you even be found to fight against God."
- **Josephus - Antiquities 18, 3.** Now there was about this time Jesus, a wise man, if it be lawful to call him a man; for he was a doer of wonderful works, a teacher of such men as receive the truth with pleasure. He drew over to him both many of the Jews and many of the Gentiles. He was [the] Christ. And when Pilate, at the suggestion of the principal men amongst us, had

condemned him to the cross, those that loved him at the first did not forsake him; for he appeared to them alive again the third day; as the divine prophets had foretold these and ten thousand other wonderful things concerning him. And the tribe of Christians, so named from him, are not extinct at this day.

- I think that one of the most convincing proofs to me is that of the rapid spread and faithfulness of the early Christian faith. Not only did the faith of the early followers of Christ continue, but it prospered in spite of 300 years of the most powerful government in the world trying to get rid of it. –Read Fox’s Book of Martyrs! Other than the Jews, also God’s people, there has been no other greater persecution.

From the middle of the 1st century all of the way to 325 A D when Constantine became a “Christian.”