



Blackfoot Church of Christ

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Why Is It Thought Incredible that God Raises the Dead?

by Edwin Crozier

Today's reading is Acts 26.

Once again we discover Christianity did not succeed because the ancients were superstitious people who just accepted any crazy notion...like resurrection. The ancients understood people don't come back from the dead. In fact, this was the sticking point for Christianity from the beginning. Folks, in general, weren't gullible or superstitious. As soon as resurrection got mentioned, that is when they thought Paul was crazy. That being said, Paul asks a great question. If God is real, why is it considered incredible that He could and would raise the dead in exceptional circumstances? People who accepted Christianity aren't saying the dead are raised all the time. They are simply saying they have seen enough evidence to confirm God has raised the dead and specifically has raised Jesus from the dead. And that is the key. The folks who accepted Christianity didn't do so because of superstition or gullibility. They did so because of the signs, testimony, and evidence. They saw enough to override their general rejection of resurrection to accept Jesus'. They didn't become Christians because they believed resurrection just happened all the time or could happen for any reason. In fact, if they believed that, Jesus would have had no special claim whatsoever. Rather, they recognized resurrection doesn't happen in general, but it did happen in this instant. They knew that gave Jesus a special claim on their lives; so they surrendered their allegiance to Him. Believing in God doesn't mean

you believe resurrection just happens all the time. But it does mean you should at least be open to consider the evidence that it happened in one really important case. If you would like to talk more about that evidence, let us know. We'll be glad to discuss it with you.

A Word for Our Kids

Hey kids, many critics believe you have to check your brains at the door to become a Christian. They claim Christianity only took root because of ancient superstitions that made people gullible for Christianity's incredible message. We should note two things about this. 1) As I shared with your parents, the ancient people weren't superstitiously gullible. They didn't accept Jesus's resurrection simply because they thought anyone could get resurrected at any time. They thought the idea was incredible, but some of them were convinced by the incredible evidence. 2) Christianity's message really is incredible. It is a big deal to claim Jesus rose from the dead. If He didn't, then the basis of Christianity is lost. If Jesus didn't rise from the dead, there is absolutely no reason to be a Christian. But, if He did, then we have every reason to surrender our lives and allegiance to Jesus as our King. If He conquered death, He will conquer all enemies. We want to be on His side. And the critics understand if Jesus really was raised from the dead, that has some pretty significant consequences. For many of them, it is the consequences that keep them from accepting the resurrection. They don't reject resurrection because it is shocking that God can raise the dead. They often reject it because if it happened, it means they have to give Jesus control. Many people want to maintain their own control. So, they reject the resurrection and then turn around and act like they have logical reasons for rejecting it. As you grow up. Examine the evidence for yourself. Don't just assume one way or the other. Truth has nothing to fear. But don't buy the dismissive claims of the critics just because they are so vehement and intimidating. Don't let them bully you. Jesus's resurrection is incredible. Praise the Lord for it!

Faith Overcomes Doubt

Sword Tip #2028

by Joe Price

28 And Peter answered Him and said, "Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water." 29 So He said, "Come." And when Peter had come down out of the boat, he walked on the water to go to Jesus. 30 But when he saw that the wind was boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink he cried out, saying, "Lord, save me!" 31 And immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him, and said to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?" (Matthew 14:28–31, NKJV)

The reciprocal tension between faith and doubt is displayed in the marvel miracle when Jesus (and Peter) walked on water. Confident in Christ's command, Peter got out of the boat and walked on water toward Jesus. Then, fear found a place in his heart as he focused on the wind and waves instead of on Jesus, and he wavered in doubt. Faith gave way to dread and doubt. Peter was being pulled in two different directions. His faith in Jesus compelled him to do what would be unthinkable and impossible (walk on water). But fear caused him to doubt. Jesus said Peter lacked trust when he doubted and began to sink ("little faith"). Jesus immediately saved Peter, which reassures us in times of doubt. When doubt tests our faith, let us remember that victory over this world's spiritual dangers is through faith in Christ (1 Jno. 5:4-5). Trust and obey His word. Do not let doubt pull you away from Christ.

Prayer Requests & Announcements

- James White is in the hospital
- Ross, Debbie, and Rachel will be returning from AR later this week
- Ray & Ginger will be returning from Montana later this week
- Ray & Ginger, as Ray deals with Alzheimer's Symptoms
- Larry, Leukemia Diagnosis
- Jaella Kreh during her pregnancy
- Keep April in your prayers as she deals with health issues
- The Christians in the Philippines
- David Finch is preaching this week (8/16-8/19). He is here to discuss working with the congregation.
 - Sunday 10:00/11:00/2:30
 - Monday-Wednesday 7:30

Worship Assignments

Today

Song Leader – Tom Mitchell

Lord's Table – Ben Palmer

Wednesday

Song Leader – Ben Palmer

Blackfoot Church of Christ
370 North Shilling Ave.
Blackfoot, Idaho 83221

Meeting Times:

Sunday Morning Classes 10:00AM
Sunday Morning Worship 11:00AM
Wednesday Evening 7:30PM



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