

# IMPACT

**I** **M**ust **P**ersonally **A**cknowledge **C**hrist **T**oday  
Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; in *all your ways acknowledge Him* and He shall direct your path.  
Proverbs 3:5-6

**Passage:** I Corinthians 15:3-8 “For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures, and that He was seen by Cephas (Peter), then by the twelve. 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. After that He was seen by James, then by all the apostles. Then last of all He was seen by me (Paul) also, as by one born out of due time.”

In our last IMPACT, we saw that one of the many infallible proofs for the resurrection of Christ were the testimonies of over 500 eye witnesses who saw the risen Lord on separate occasions over a span of 40 days and declared this in a dangerous environment.

**History also verifies the truth of Christ's resurrection.** “Sir William Ramsay, who spent 15 years attempting to undermine Luke's credentials as a historian, and to refute the reliability of the New Testament, finally concluded, ‘Luke is a historian of the first rank.... This author should be placed along with the very greatest of historians.’” Luke wrote, “The former account I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach, until the day in which He was taken up, after He through the Holy Spirit had given commandments to the apostles whom He had chosen, to whom He also presented Himself alive after His suffering by many infallible proofs, being seen by them during forty days and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God.”<sup>1</sup>

“The resurrection ‘could not have been maintained in Jerusalem for a single day, for a single hour, if the emptiness of the tomb had not been established as a fact for all concerned.’ Both Jewish and Roman sources and traditions admit an empty tomb. Those resources range from *Josephus to a compilation of fifth-century Jewish writings called ‘Toledoth Jeshu.’* Dr. Paul Maier calls this ‘*positive evidence from a hostile source, which is the strongest kind of historical evidence.* In

essence, this means that if a source admits a fact *decidedly not in its favor*, then that fact is genuine. If all the evidence is weighed carefully and fairly, it is indeed justifiable, according to the canons of historical research, to conclude that the sepulcher of Joseph of Arimathea, in which Jesus was buried, was actually empty on the morning of the first Easter. And no shred of evidence has yet been discovered in literary sources...or archaeology that would disprove this...”<sup>2</sup>

“Thomas Arnold, formerly Professor of History at Rugby and Oxford, one of the world's great historians: ‘I know of no one fact in the history of mankind which is proved by better, fuller evidence of every sort, *to the understanding of a fair enquirer*, than the great sign which God hath given us that Christ died, and rose again from the dead.’” Why didn't the Jewish and Roman authorities simply produce Christ's body to silence His followers? The removal of His body from the tomb in the presence of a Roman guard was a direct affront to the authority of Rome and to the Jewish leaders!

## The Resurrection , Part 2

**The evidence from the “broken Roman Seal” and the moved great stone** in the presence of Roman guards verifies the truth of Christ's resurrection.<sup>3</sup> [Penalty—crucifixion]

**The evidence of the grave clothes and folded napkin.**<sup>4</sup> The folded handkerchief indicated that the departure of Jesus from the tomb was not in haste for fear of discovery by the guards.

**The evidence of the disciples changed lives and the conversion of Saul, the Christian killer, to Paul, the Christian martyr!** Why would they flee when Christ was alive in Gethsemane and then endure such prolonged hardship if they were not convinced that He arose from the grave as He said He would?<sup>5</sup>

Christians have a living hope that is closer to becoming reality with each passing day! Even so come, Lord Jesus!

<sup>1</sup> Acts 1:1-3 <sup>2</sup> Josh McDowell; Read Matthew 28:10-15; Dr. Paul Maier: Dept. of History at Western Michigan Univ. <sup>3</sup> Matthew 28:2; Mark 16:4; Luke 24:1-10; John 20:1-2 <sup>4</sup> John 20:6-7 <sup>5</sup> Galatians 1:13-17