

## Proofs of the Resurrection

The resurrection of Jesus Christ is a fact of history – not simply the wishful thinking of Christianity's devoted followers. What is the evidence? *Easter!* Despite the fact that the observance was named for a Celtic goddess and that western commercialism has greatly obscured its true meaning, the greater part of the world still remembers the resurrection of Jesus Christ on Easter. But W.H. Griffith Thomas, in his excellent article on the resurrection, listed six other forensic proofs for the factual nature of the literal, bodily resurrection of Christ. They are listed and briefly explained below.

1. The life of Jesus itself is proof of the resurrection, because he repeatedly predicted His resurrection (see Matthew 12:38-40; 16:21; 17:9, 23; 20:19; 27:63). Either Jesus was a liar, deluded, or He was a righteous man who was telling the truth and did indeed rise.
2. The empty grave is proof of the resurrection. The myth that disciples stole Him away was debunked by Matthew in the first century (28:11-15). The swoon and recovery theory is too ludicrous to merit refutation. Christianity is the only religion to observe an empty tomb.
3. The transformation of the disciples is proof of the resurrection. They had lost all hope after seeing Him arrested, convicted, and executed. Yet three days later hope returned, and they went on to give their lives (in John's case, sixty more years) preaching a resurrected Christ.
4. The early church is proof of the resurrection. Those believers existed to preach one central truth – the resurrection.
5. The witness of Paul is proof of the resurrection. Here was an enemy of the Gospel, a persecutor of the church, and a murderer of Christians. Yet, He saw Jesus and was transformed into the early church's stoutest defender. To what does Paul himself attribute this change? A meeting with the resurrected Christ.
6. The Biblical record is proof of the resurrection. It not only declares the resurrection to be true and bases all Christian truth upon its testimony, but it records ten separate appearances of the risen Christ to his disciples.

*Be not faithless, but believing.*

*Pastor Bud Talbert*