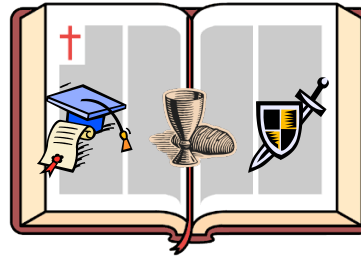


Resurrection



Is Jesus' resurrection credible?

1 Peter 3:15



“but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always **being ready to make a defense** to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence,”

Theological understanding (study)

Devotional encounter (meditation)

Apologetic defense (preparation)

Christian faith exists

The disciple's belief in Jesus' resurrection is the best explanation for the Christian faith.

The empty tomb and eyewitnesses to Jesus are the best explanation of the disciple's belief.

Jesus resurrection is the best explanation for the empty tomb and his appearances.

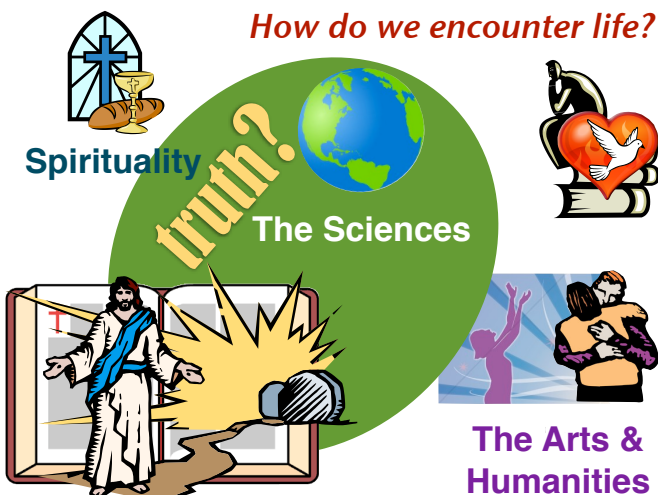
Challenging the challenges #1

It is impossible - A miracle is the most improbable explanation.

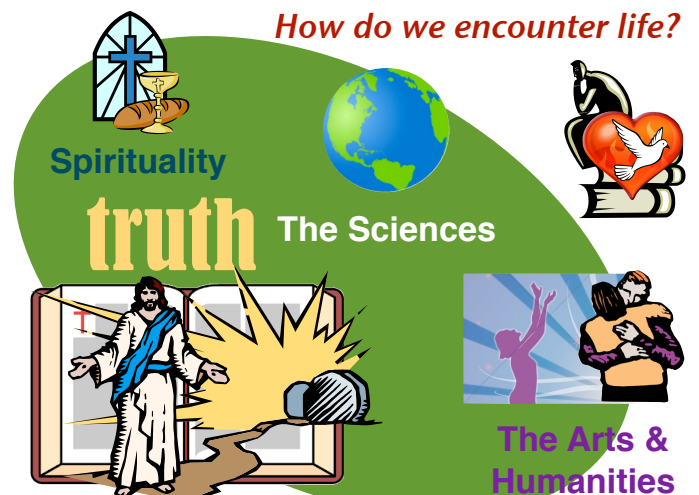
1. We give too little attention to the **limits** of and **bias** in historical criticism.
2. The **most important issues in life** will not and cannot be resolved through the scientific method.
3. **Presuppositions based on faith** are the foundation of ultimate truths.

Hebrews 11:3 “By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by that word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things which are visible.”

How do we encounter life?



How do we encounter life?



Challenging the challenges #2

The evidence is suspect - Only those with a faith bias give us the evidence.

Who was Jesus?

Liar
Lunatic
Legend
Lord

Challenging the challenges

The evidence is suspect - Only those with a faith bias give us the evidence.

1. The testimony does not have the **marks of bias or distortion**.
2. The nature of the evidence would **lead to a high incidence of faith**.
3. The testimony **bore the test of authenticity** in the 1st century.

1 Corinthians 15:6 "After that He appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time, most of whom remain until now, but some have fallen asleep."

Reasons to believe that the Gospel accounts of the resurrection can be trusted.

- They were distinct from Jewish views of resurrection.
- They described Jesus' new body as unique and not easily recognized.
- They failed to tie the accounts to the Old Testament.
- Women were the first witnesses.
- The emphasis is on Jesus' credentials not our benefits (which came later with Paul's writing).
- The early church was unanimous and convinced of it.
- The apostles lived for it and died for it.
- The alternative explanations are weak.

Theories to explain away the resurrection Assumptions

- The dead are not raised.
- The New Testament witness can not be trusted.
- The Christ of faith is real without the Jesus of history.

Objective hypothesis

- The Swoon Theory
- The Theft Theory
- The Wrong Tomb Theory

Subjective hypothesis

- The Hallucination Theory
- The Hypnosis Theory
- The Pagan Mythology Theory
- The Rise of Faith Theory

Problems with the resurrection of faith theory

1.

The disciples had lost their faith at the cross. There is no indication that they were trying to find some reason to hang on to it.

2.

The resurrection of Jesus is described as both an historical (space time) event and an experience of hope and power.

3.

Faith, according to 1 Cor.15 was based not on an existential encounter but on a historical event.

4.

Paul's writings assume that the resurrection was an established fact too soon after the event for it to be an evolved legend.

Challenging the challenges #3

It does not matter - Faith is based upon subjective feelings, and Jesus' ethics.

1. Authentic Christian faith is tied to **historical events** and the doctrine of their significance.
2. Subjective experience and social ethics are the essence of **world religion** not authentic Christianity.

1 Corinthians 12:2 "You know that when you were pagans, you were led astray to the mute idols, however you were led."

*The confusions
of postmodern Christianity*

Intellectual Openness /
Ideological Pluralism
(tolerance)

Objective Reason /
Subjective Emotion
(passion)

Spiritual Belief /
Social Behavior
(action)

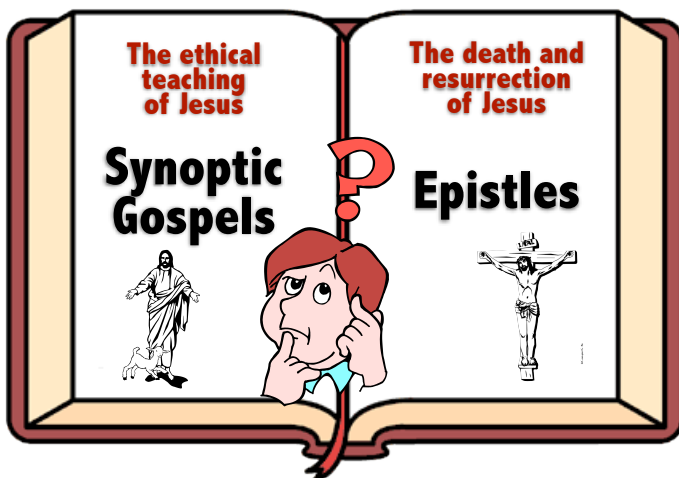
Ethical Responsibility /
Political Socialism
(community)

*The resurrection is central
to the Gospel message.*

1 Corinthians 15:1-5

“Now I make known to you, brethren, the gospel which I preached to you, . . . For I delivered to you as **of first importance** what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that he appeared to . . .”

What is of first importance to the Gospel?



*The resurrection authenticates
the atonement.*



1 Corinthians 15:17

“if Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins.”

Why is the resurrection important?

1. The authenticity of the Gospel story rests on it.
2. The hope of God’s Kingdom promises rise with it.
3. The presence of the living Christ requires it.
4. The meaning of history is tied up in it.

