

**THE BIG IDEA: When it come to the grave, there is no doubt that Jesus walked out.**

### The Take-Off

Fake news.

Those 2 words can spark a debate like none other, right?

They can be used to discount something that we don't like or to cause us to distrust sources that we don't like

At the end of the day, they can leave us wondering what's real and what isn't

Paul found himself battling a bit of fake news in his letter to the Christians in a city named Corinth, and it's funny that we'll read about it today on April Fool's Day because some were saying that the resurrection might have been fake news

I had a friend who ran for student body president in high school and the only 3 words I remember from his speech were, "Facts don't lie!"

Facts are facts, right?

Sometimes facts are strange - like the kind of facts that would help you win a bar bet. Here are a few:

- Most toilets flush in E flat.
- Approximately 40,000 Americans are injured by toilets each year.
- "Almost" is the longest word in English with all the letters in alphabetical order.
- It is impossible to sneeze with your eyes open.
- No piece of square paper can be folded more than 7 times in half.
- The Romans used to clean and whiten their teeth with urine.
- There are more plastic flamingos in the U.S, than real ones!
- A duck's quack doesn't echo, and nobody can figure out why.
- Andy's evil neighbor Sid from Toy Story returns briefly as the garbage man in Toy Story 3.
- Cats sleep for 70% of their lives.
- More monopoly money is printed each year than real US currency.

Facts can help us deal with fake news, and that's exactly what Paul used to help the Corinthians see that the resurrection of Jesus - undoubtedly the greatest all in moment in the history of the world - happened.

Before we even get to our main text, let's address the obvious question: why does it even matter?

Do you ever watch the news and think, "Who cares?" We can get so tired of the rhetoric that we stop wanting to try to understand any of it. We simply click the remote to Friends reruns, right?

Paul lays it out pretty well in **1 Cor. 15:14** when he tells us that our faith is useless if there wasn't a resurrection.

The grave was the ALL IN - chips to the middle of the table - moment for God, and Paul's response to the "fake newscasters" is found in **1 Cor. 15:20**: BUT IN FACT...

He's telling the believers - people can speculate all they want and try to make it look like the resurrection is fake news or that God was just bluffing, but I'm going to show you the facts.

As my high school friend said, "**Facts don't lie!**"

## **1. Facts don't lie!**

- a. There are some things that don't make a strong foundation: feathers, feelings, opinions, pillows, quicksand
- b. Foundations need to be strong and they need to be at least the size of the building's footprint
- c. Why was Paul able to write verse 20 with so much confidence?
- d. Because he'd laid the foundation with 4 irrefutable facts in verses 3-8. Here they are:
- e. Fact 1: **Jesus died** (v. 3)
  - 1 Cor. 15:21 holds no power as a promise if Jesus didn't actually die
  - Some would claim that maybe he didn't die on the cross (the Swoon Theory)
  - If Jesus only kind of died, then we can only kind of live
- f. Fact 2: **Jesus was buried** (v. 4)
  - History records this, tours are taken of the tomb
  - Every religion recognizes that there was a man named Jesus who died and was buried
  - You don't have to even follow Jesus to accept this as fact
- g. Fact 3: **Jesus rose** (v. 4)
  - This is where agreement stops, or at least agreement about how to explain the empty tomb

- Many have made up theories to explain how the body disappeared, and yet all of them admit that... THE BODY DISAPPEARED!!
  - Some say the body was stolen, or the disciples went to the wrong grave, or that the disciples made the whole thing up
  - But let me ask you something? How long can you keep up a lie?
  - [ILL: Silver Odyssey instead of the gym]
  - But these men went to their deaths - painful deaths - because they were convinced
  - What convinced them? The fourth fact.
- h. Fact 4: **Jesus appeared** (vv. 5-8)
- They saw Him! Alive after the cross.
  - If you saw a dead man alive, you'd never be convinced that it wasn't real, and these men did
  - Paul is basically saying "Don't believe me? Find one of these hundreds of eyewitnesses and ask them."
  - In a court of law, this evidence would be overwhelming.
- i. Paul's response to the "fake news" about the resurrection? BUT IN FACT!!!

## 2. 3 Bold Statements

- a. Some of you are wondering, So what?
- b. These 4 facts allowed Paul to make **3 bold statements** about the resurrection.
- c. NUMBER ONE: **It's real** (v. 20)
- Understand first and foremost that the man who wrote verse 20 didn't want it to be true
  - He spent his life trying to kill Christianity
  - Like Lee Strobel in The Case for Christ, trying to disprove the resurrection proved it
- d. NUMBER TWO: **It's relevant** (v. 22)
- It didn't just happen a long time ago like a historical event
  - It matters to US that HE rose because now He gives us life
  - To those in the grave it matters that there is a way out
- e. NUMBER THREE: **It's recognizable** (v. 58)
- My life changes because He lives
  - Stand firm, give yourself fully to the work
  - Romans 8:11 / resurrection power in our bodies!

### The Landing

**When it comes to the grave, there is no doubt that Jesus walked out**

Let me close with a vision that the Lord gave to me this week

[A drowning man taking his first breath]

Resurrection isn't reserved - it isn't hidden

His story becomes our story

**1 John 1:1-3** / what we've seen becomes what we say

When we come alive, our changed lives become more evidence of God's ALL IN moment and leaves **no doubt that**

**Jesus walked out** of that grave

Let's pray.