



BIBLEWAY MINISTRIES

MAKING A DIFFERENCE—THE BIBLE WAY



Easter: Understanding “The Why”

Recently the speaker at my training seminar emphasized the importance of knowing “the why” as opposed to only knowing “the what.” It’s easy to know what has happened: The weather outside is hot. A child is misbehaving. A horrific car accident has occurred. An airplane crash has claimed 120 lives.

When we know it is the middle of summer, this “why” helps us understand the hot outside temperature. When we learn a child has suffered from parental neglect, this helps us understand his or her misbehavior. When we discover a motorist was driving too fast for weather conditions, it helps us understand why the car accident occurred. When a plane crashes, investigators spend thousands of man-hours in an effort to understand why it happened.

Perhaps you are thinking to yourself, *so what?* Allow me to explain to you “the what” premise for this article: On this Sunday in April, we celebrate Easter. Unfortunately, there are still many who don’t understand “the why!”

Christians celebrate Easter because it commemorates the resurrection of Jesus from the dead. History has confirmed Jesus lived and died. The Bible provides us with a lot of information about His horrific death. (Matthew 27:33–35; Mark 15:20–25) This “why” helps us to understand what happened in His last hours of human life on earth.

Christians should have a climate of joy in their lives. When others dig a little deeper and microscopically examine “the why” behind our joy, they should find the Apostle Paul’s words in 1 Corinthians 15. Paul said this:

And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. 15 More

than that, we are then found to be false witnesses about God, for we have testified about God that he raised Christ from the dead. But he did not raise him if in fact the dead are not raised. 16 For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either. 17 And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. 18 Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost. 19 If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are to be pitied more than all men. But our joy lies in the fact, “Christ has indeed been raised from the dead. . . .” (1 Corinthians 15:14–20)

Paul helps us to understand “the why”: Preaching would be useless if we proclaimed a dead Savior. Faith in a dead Savior would be useless if we could not trust Him when we faced death ourselves. Our claims to eternal life would be false or misleading. We would have no permanent forgiveness for our sins. Those who died and put their hope for eternal life in Jesus would have believed in vain because their hope was sealed in the grave with Him. We would have no grounds for boldness in our spiritual convictions, because our foundation is based on a man who paid with His life for claims He could not prove.

Everything changes with the Resurrection of Jesus. This event proved that Christ had defeated Death. It also assures us we will experience life after death.

Today as we celebrate Easter, let us remember “the why” is not new Easter bonnets, Easter eggs, or even little kids saying Easter speeches. Easter eggs will spoil; Easter bonnets will wear out; and most of us will forget the Easter speeches. The joy of eternal life through the risen Jesus Christ is a “why” worth celebrating!

- Dr. L.W. Edwards

.341 is a sensational batting average. Maintain this for your career, and you'd rank within the Top 15 in Major League Baseball history. But apply this same percentage to your accuracy in journalism, and you'd be out of a job faster than you could write a resignation letter.

One young journalist learned this lesson the hard way. Between 1995 and 1998, Stephen Glass, associate editor for *The New Republic*, wrote 41 articles. In the beginning, the twenty-something writer's career took off like a rocket: A large publisher approached his agent to sign a book deal with him. Several screenwriters wanted to take his stories to the big screen. Glass's salary approached \$150,000 a year with all of his writing contracts.

But the rocket didn't stay airborne for long. Others began to question the authenticity of Glass's articles because of missing or vague details. *The New Republic* conducted an investigation on Glass's writing, and discovered the details were missing because Glass had made most of them up. To avoid getting caught by the fact checkers, he had created fake backup materials such as letterheads, memos, faxes, phone numbers, notes, diagrams, voice mails, email addresses, a business card, and even a business website. Investigators finally concluded 27 of Glass's 41 articles (66%) had used fake material.

The truth came out — it always does — and Glass's world of falsehood shattered. The young editor lost his job and contracts, and faded into obscurity.

Some dismiss the Resurrection of Jesus as a fraud on the same level as Glass's fake journalism. They question the historicity of Joseph of Arimathea, who gave Jesus a proper burial. They cast doubt on the security of Jesus' tomb. They challenge the trustworthiness of the women who witnessed the empty tomb. They suggest the Gospel writers didn't have their facts straight, and no one knew the real location of Jesus' grave.

If the critics are right and Jesus is still in the grave, then Christianity doesn't just shatter. It collapses. But if Christians are right and Jesus is really alive, then Christianity is the only belief system worth embracing. Yes, the stakes are that high.

Author and academician Gary Habermas summed up his case for the Resurrection of Jesus with two questions: "First, did Jesus die on the cross? And second, did He appear later to people? If you can establish those two things, you've made your case, because dead people don't normally do that."

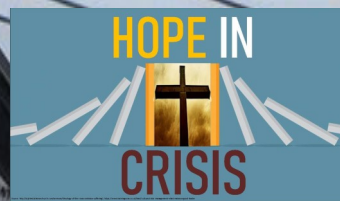
Few people will argue with Jesus' death. Anyone

who lived 2,000 years ago had to die at some point. The real question is whether the claim of His appearances after His death is valid.

Reason 1: Differences in Secondary Details

One unlikely piece of evidence which supports the Resurrection is the challenges made about the different secondary details of the empty tomb as described in the four Gospels.

For example, Matthew says Mary and Mary Magdalene came to the tomb. Then there was an earthquake, and an angel rolled away the stone and sat upon it. Mark says the women saw a young man sitting inside the tomb. Luke says they saw two men standing by them. John does not mention an angel at the tomb. It says Mary Magdalene came and found the stone had been rolled away, and then she ran to tell others. . . . [Full Article](#)



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