

Introduction - "The sound of the nails was beautifully haunting..."

Three BQs on this Easter:

BQ #1 - Did Jesus Christ really raise from the dead? Kreeft and Tacelli's Five and Only Five Options
(*Handbook of Christian Apologetics*, InterVarsity Press, 1994)

Jesus Died:

Jesus Rose

a.

Jesus Didn't Rise from the dead

b.

c.

d.

Jesus Didn't Die

e.

BQ #2 - What's at stake if he didn't rise from the dead?

(1 Corinthians 15:1-22)

BQ #3 - What real difference does it make in my life? The Results of Easter:

1. The resurrection of Jesus proves the ultimate truth that Christianity is true!
2. The resurrection of Jesus proves Good Friday worked!
3. The resurrection of Jesus proclaims Christ is Victor over Death
4. The resurrection of Jesus is a Guarantee of our life to come
5. The resurrection of Jesus proves that your sins are forgiven if you trust Him!
6. The resurrection of Jesus is the very source you have for your life now in Jesus
 - a. We were united with Jesus in his Death
 - b. As a result, sin has been completely atoned for in the wrath of God being poured upon Jesus.
 - c. We were united with Jesus in his Resurrection
 - d. As a result, we are given new life in Jesus Christ
 - i. Acts 5:18-20
 - ii. 2 Corinthians 5:16-17
 - iii. 1 John 5:11-13
 - vi. Galatians 2:20
 - v. John 3:36
 - vi. Romans 6:1-5

Application - "He is Risen! I am Risen Indeed!"

1 Corinthians 15:1-22

¹Now, brothers, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. ²By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain. ³For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, ⁵and that he appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve. ⁶After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. ⁷Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, ⁸and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born. ⁹For I am the least of the apostles and do not even deserve to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. ¹⁰But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me was not without effect. No, I worked harder than all of them yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me. ¹¹Whether, then, it was I or they, this is what we preach, and this is what you believed.

¹²But if it is preached that Christ has been raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? ¹³If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. ¹⁴And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. ¹⁵More 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. ¹⁶For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either. ¹⁷And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. ¹⁸Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost. ¹⁹If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are to be pitied more than all men. ²⁰But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. ²¹For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. ²²For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive.

Acts 5:18-20

¹⁸They arrested the apostles and put them in the public jail. ¹⁹But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the doors of the jail and brought them out. ²⁰"Go, stand in the temple courts," he said, "and tell the people the full message of this new life."

2 Corinthians 5:16, 17

¹⁶So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. ¹⁷Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!

1 John 5:11-13

¹¹And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. ¹²He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. ¹³I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life.

Galatians 2:20

²⁰I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Romans 6:1-23

¹What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning, so that grace may increase? ²By no means! We died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? ³Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. ⁵If we have been united with him like this in his death, we will certainly also be united with him in his resurrection.