

WHY DOES IT MATTER WHETHER THE RESURRECTION IS TRUE?

There are many claims that various gods exist, but only one God cared enough to become a man and died on our behalf. Of the 99 names of Allah in Islam, not one of them is either Father or Love. Buddha did not come and personally indwell his disciples. No other religion besides Christianity will tell you of a God who loves his people so much that he will endure the hellish pain of the cross in order for us to know him personally.

The God of Christianity offers not merely a way for coping with the evil in the world, then escaping from it by fading into oblivion. Christianity offers a real solution to our problem of death and our longing for a life of love forever. Clearly, Christianity stands immeasurably above all religions. It's the only religion that offers us fulfillment of the deepest desires of our heart. In fact, it's the only true religion in existence. All others are either poor attempts at a solution to our problems, corruptions of Christianity or incomplete religions offering no real hope.

Now let's get to the crux of the matter. The resurrection of Jesus is the key to all these promises of Christianity. None of the promises of eternal life with a loving God have any meaning unless the resurrection actually occurred. Christianity is just another pretty story of hope without substance unless Christ really died and rose again from the grave to defeat death and to demonstrate that, through him, we can do the same thing. To put it bluntly, Christianity is worthless unless the resurrection is objectively true—a real event that actually happened at a given time and in an identifiable place in world history.

No other religion backs up its claims with such remarkable evidence as we find for the historical accuracy of Christianity. And this is absolutely crucial to our belief because it provides a basis for reason to lead us to the truth.

--Taken from *Evidence for the Resurrection*, ©2009 Josh McDowell Ministry and Sean McDowell, Chapter 9