

Reasons Ministries

Thinking About the Resurrection

This morning in church we sang a new song. Overall, it had good theology and was written by a well known contemporary song writer. There was one line, however, that caught my eye and ear. It went like this, "The cross was enough, the cross was enough . . ." As I thought about that line, there is a sense where it is true. The cross is enough because it tells us that God loves us, and the cross is enough when we think about the how Jesus demonstrated his love to us. And, the cross is enough as a payment for our sin. But, is the cross really enough?

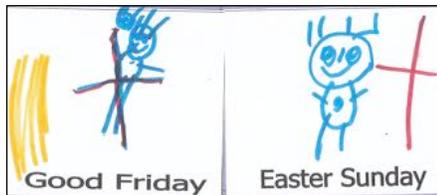
What if Jesus had only died on the cross, but had not been raised? He then would still be dead just like everyone else. Sure, Jesus lived a noble life, taught with great wisdom and he even did miracles, but if he was still dead, would anything he had done have really mattered?

The simple answer? No! If Jesus was still dead, as Paul pointed out in 1 Corinthians 15: 14 ". . . then all our preaching is useless, and your trust in God is useless. . . . 17 And if Christ has not been raised, then your faith is useless, and you are still under condemnation for your sins. 19 And if we have hope in Christ only for this life, we are the most miserable people in the world." So in reality, at least according to Paul, the cross is not enough!

So when you take Jesus' crucifixion, the most singular act of love and selflessness, and add his resurrection, the

then we have

is enough that Jesus
But now, we need to
we know he was
numerous books have
debates have been



Jesus Christ, in a few lines I cannot summarize all the evidence. But two key evidences for the resurrection of Christ are the eyewitness accounts and that those same eyewitnesses, were willing to die for what they witnessed.

In 1 Corinthians 15, Paul recites the names of numerous disciples and skeptics who were eyewitnesses to the resurrection. These disciples and skeptics (including Jesus' own half-brother, James) saw Jesus in various places and situations. Luke tells us in Acts 1:3 "During the forty days after his crucifixion, he appeared to the apostles from time to time and proved to them in many ways that he was actually alive." Note the word, *proved*. Concerning his appearances Paul reports that Jesus appeared before more than 500 eye witnesses at the same time, many of whom were still alive; meaning that those very people could be looked up and questioned as to what they saw. It was this message that those eye witnesses carried around the then known world, and it is this same message they were willing to die for, and indeed many of them did. Would you die for something you knew was a lie? They knew Jesus had been raised, witnessed it themselves and were more than willing to die for that truth!

While the cross was vital, only when paired with the resurrection of Jesus is it enough! Yes, he is alive! And we who believe in him will live with him forever! This is our our hope and our message. I hope you have a wonderful celebration of our risen Lord this Easter Sunday! He is risen! He is risen indeed!

Reasons Ministries' Mission

The mission of Reasons Ministries is to *equip believers to know what and why they believe so they can stand firm in the Christian faith, be effective tools in God's hand for reaching those that do not yet know Christ, and to be able to apply practical apologetics to everyday life.*

Got Questions??

About God and the problem of suffering?

The Bible's reliability?

The uniqueness of Christ?

What is a worldview?

Christianity vs. Other Religions

Basic Apologetics?

Evolution vs. Creationism

**I can help with answers!
Give me a call or send me an email! I would love to come to your church for a weekend of ministry.**

Contact Information:

Rev. David Holdcraft
9217 Trentham Lane
Louisville, KY 40242

email:

david@reasonsministries.com
reasonsministries@bellsouth.net

Web:

www.reasonsministries.com

Twitter:

[@davidholdcraft](https://twitter.com/davidholdcraft)

Phone:

502-594-9885

David, thank you for working us into your schedule. The weekend was informative, challenging, uplifting and very profitable for our congregation. You did what we asked you to do and more. Thank you.
—Rev. John Zwirn, Kokomo, IN



Question: Why do bad things happen to Christians? Why doesn't God protect us from evil? Doesn't he care about us? Part II.

Answer: If you remember, in my last newsletter, I spent some time dealing with the problem of evil also known as the problem of suffering. But instead of simply dealing with this issue philosophically, I spoke of how this problem was personal with us; my wife, Beth's, cancer diagnosis.

Since that last letter, my wife has done well with her chemotherapy treatments (5 done with one to go) and still has a very good prognosis. For this we thank God. What I did not mention in my last letter was that my sister, Doreene, also had cancer. On February 15, 2012, my sister, who was only 57 years old, went to see her Lord. I was reminded, after seeing my father die of how real and final death is. If we were not dealing with enough, now, we are dealing with the fairly rapid decline of my wife's parents.

Now, I know, what we are enduring is not uncommon from what you have dealt with in one way or another. My point is, the problem of suffering or the problem of evil, when it gets personal, versus theoretical, can be hard to deal with. This is why, it is important for us to know the truth about suffering and evil when things are going well so that when things are not going well our faith is not catastrophically shaken. How do we guard our faith when going through times of suffering? **First**, we need the right perspective. Too often, we see suffering as God punishing us for some-thing we have done. While God does use the experience of suffering to get our attention

and remind us that he is there and even to refine us (see James 1), because Jesus took the wrath of God that we deserved when he died on the cross, we need to realize that God is not mad at us. He loves us as a loving parent cares for his/her own children. As Jesus pointed out in Luke 13 and Matthew 5, suffering/evil affects both the believer and nonbeliever alike. Despite what some preachers falsely declare, God has never promised us complete protection from the vicissitudes of life. If you doubt this, review the litany of troubles that Paul listed in Romans 8. No, God is not angry with us. Jesus took the Father's wrath toward us and our sin upon himself when he died on the cross.

Second, we will guard our faith through times of suffering by staying close to God. Instead, far too often we become angry at God for not answering our prayers the way we want. This anger leads us to a greater distance from God and even a disappointment with God. Job struggled with this as he endured the hellish existence brought upon him by Satan. As recored in the latter chapters of Job, God questioned Job, reminding Job of how puny he was and how great God is. Job had allowed his circumstances to color his view of God. In the end he repented and his relationship with God was restored.

It takes work, but staying close to God, despite what our feelings tell us, is vital for enduring and even overcoming the suffering in our lives. As we make the choice daily to stay connected to God through prayer, Scripture and staying connected to his body, the church; and as we remember that God is not angry at us; we will endure and even grow through times of suffering.

About David



- 18 Years of Pastoral Ministry. Ordained and Licensed through the Ohio Valley District of the Christian & Missionary Alliance (C&MA)
- Adjunct Professor @ Indiana Wesleyan University at the Louisville, KY Campus since 2001. Have taught 11 different courses and over 800 students (many courses were in Bible and Apologetics).
- Graduate of Toccoa Falls College with a B.A. in Missiology and Alliance Theological Seminary with a Masters in cross-cultural and theological studies.

- Additional Masters level work at TFC and Columbia International University
- Serving on Ohio Valley District Licensing Ordination & Consecration Committee and as a District Presbyter
- Started Reasons Ministries in November 2008
- Married 32 years to Beth with three adult children and two adorable grandchildren.

Prayer Needs:

- Please pray for speaking opportunities for me in 2012.
- Please pray for God to provide increased financial support for the ministry.

Recent & Upcoming Events:

October 26, November 2, 9, 16, 2011 — Taught 4 Doctrine Classes at Northeast Christian Church in Louisville, KY.

May 2, 2012 — Presentation on the Trinity at Northeast Christian Church in Louisville, KY.

??? 2012 — Perhaps an apologetics or doctrine weekend at your church this coming year? Call me, I look forward to talking with you!

Great Resources:

Please Convince Me
Jim Wallace

<http://www.pleaseconvinceme.com/>

Jim Wallace is a former atheist and is a cold case detective in Los Angeles. He came to Christ in 1996 after applying some the same evidential principles that he used in solving crimes to the claims of Christ.

Jim produces a weekly podcast that is available from iTunes. His web site has a wealth of information that will enable you to better understand your faith and be better able to defend your faith.

Apologetics 315

I just found another great resource, that is worth viewing pertaining to the resurrection:

<http://www.apologetics315.com/>

Here you will find 10 short videos dispelling 10 common myths concerning the resurrection featuring Dr. Mike Licona, an expert on the resurrection of Jesus.