

# Word Religions

Catholic	Lutheran	Other Protestant	Non-Christian
Roman [West] Orthodox [East]	LCMS ELCA WELS ELS	Methodist Baptist Presbyterian Assembly of God 7 <sup>th</sup> Day Adventist Episcopalians	Unitarians [No Trinity/ universalist] Mormons [No Trinity or Divine Jesus] Jehovah's Witness [No Trinity or Divine Jesus] All Cults [Reject Jesus] All Lodges [Reject Jesus] Islam [Reject Jesus as the Son of God] Judaism [Reject Jesus as the Son of God]

Divine Mercy	Trinity, Frbt [LCMS] Trinity, Nrfd [LCMS] Bethel [ELCA] 1 <sup>st</sup> English [ELCA] Emmanuel [WELS]	Hope [Methodist] Berean [Baptist] Congregational [UCC] Faribault [Church of Christ] Faribault [7 <sup>th</sup> Day Adventists] Faribault [Assemblies of God]	Faribault [JW] Faribault [Mormon] Northfield [Unitarian] Elks/Eagles [Lodges]
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## Defense of the Resurrection

*12 Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? 13 But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. 14 And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain. 15 We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified about God that he raised Christ, whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. 16 For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised. 17 And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. 18 Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. 19 If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied.*

### 1 Corinthians 15:12-19

The Scriptures themselves speak about the Resurrection of Jesus as a HISTORICAL event and if it is not an event in history then we are without hope. We had better be able to defend the resurrection of Jesus.

## Unit 2 Lesson 4

1. No body / Eyewitnesses to the resurrection.
  - a. All that was needed to stop Christianity in the 1<sup>st</sup> century was the body of Jesus.
  - b. Christianity was a thorn in the side of the Roman Empire and for the Jewish religion. The people preaching were eyewitnesses to the events and they were willing to die for what they were preaching which is not a normal response across the board for a bunch of people if they are lying.
  - c. The story of the guards was one that was punishable by death for them yet they were promised protection.
  
2. Other theories don't hold water [theft, Jesus wasn't dead, body was moved, mistaken grave site, hallucination theory]
  - a. Theft/body moved
    - i. Enemies have no motive to move the body
    - ii. Friends have no power to move the body
    - iii. Grave robbers would not have left clothing in the tomb neatly folded
  - b. Jesus didn't die (the Swoon theory)
    - i. Spear account of blood and water separating is an indication that he was dead
    - ii. Romans were great executioners
    - iii. The sightings of Jesus were of him in control not staggering around after a near death experience and then moving a rock that a group of women couldn't move.
  - c. Mistaken grave site
    - i. That many people didn't remember where they put the body – seems unlikely
    - ii. All that was needed to stop Christianity was the body of Jesus the guards should have been able to produce it.
  - d. Hallucination theory
    - i. Again just get the body
    - ii. Hallucinations are not consistent between people yet there were many people who saw Jesus after the resurrection.
  
3. The Nazareth Decree [est. 49 A.D.]
  - a. It was declared that anyone who disturbed a dead body from in the grave would be put to death. Why? Reports of Jesus resurrection were causing problems and they didn't want it to happen again

The resurrection is the central event in Christianity. The faith lives or dies on the basis of the resurrection. Many have attempted to have Christianity without the resurrection and what they quickly have is nothing. Why should I listen to the words of Jesus about morality if his words in regards to the resurrection are false?