

# The Historicity of Our Faith

## *1 Corinthians 15*

Christianity is a historical faith. By studying the historical facts of our faith, we can be certain it is the way, the truth, and the life.

Reason magazine: holocaust

Eyewitness testimony: how many people to all agree?

Documentation for gov't authorities

World events: the rings in the puddle

### **I. Did Jesus Exist as an Historical Character?**

A. Lack of Archeology

No personal writing, no sculpture, no physical conquest, no house

Silly things such as golden crown of thorns in Notre Dame Cathedral, Shroud of Turin

But evidence cooperates: City of Nazareth, bones of crucified people

B. But many quotes for his people

Bible: could be biased, but its claims are borne out

Lawrence Mykytiuk: Jewish rabbi's who did not like Jesus claimed he was a magician or led people astray. None of them claimed he didn't exist.

93 AD Josephus: From Palestine, speaks of unlawful execution of James, the brother of Jesus, called the Messiah.

116 AD Tacitus, Roman Senator said Nero falsely blamed persons called Christians, who's founder was put to death by Pilate

Pliny the Younger: early Christians sang songs as if to a God.

Suetonius spoke of early Christians being expelled from Rome.

### **II. Was Jesus Truly Resurrected?**

Show: Naked Archeologist: Simacha Jacobovici: ossuaries of Jesus

A. An empty tomb

Remember: They knew what death looks like, guard in front of tomb

possibilities: Lost body? Swoon theory?

Romans stole body? Jews stole body Mt. 28:13?

B. The tenacity of his followers

Acts 5:29 Peter and the Apostles replied, We must obey God rather than man.

Eyewitness testimony

1 Cor. 15:1-8 Apostles saw him, 500 people in Galilee

1 John 1:1-4

Martyr and torture of Apostles and disciples (except John)

### **III. The Growth and Influence of Christianity**

A. Daniel 2:44 and Rome, Europe, World

Racial Justice, Gender justice (Gal. 3:28)

B. Best Influence

Treatment of women

Care for mankind: children, justice, economic, democracy