

# The Reason for Our Faith

Colossians 3:1-4

## Introduction

Every service, we confess our faith in God, either with the words of the **APOSTLES' CREED** or the **NICENE CREED**. What we believe is important, because it shapes our life. At this time, more than ever, when our world is turned upside-down, it's especially important, because what we believe determines how we face **adversity**. **Why** we believe what we believe is just as important, especially now. If we don't know why we believe, our faith can be shaken. I don't know if you've noticed this, but while we may be "in this together", we tend to be **separate, alone**. It even seems like the world is less populated. There's a difference between being virtually together, able to communicate on-line and being **really together**, experiencing the **presence** of each other. We can hear a sermon on-line, but we don't get the full worship **experience** nor can we have **COMMUNION** unless we come together, because **Communion** is about the **Real Presence** of Jesus. However, even trapped in our homes, we're still in the world. We still have our **fallen natures**; through TV, radio, the newspapers and Internet, the **world** still attacks us; and the **devil** is still on the prowl. In this way, we **are in this together**. With all this going on, it's more important than ever to maintain our faith. We must find a reason for our faith and cling to it.

## Our Reason—The Resurrection

On the **APOSTLES' CREED**, the *Small Catechism* asks, *What is the basis of our faith and life in Christ?* Citing **Colossians 3:1-3**, the answer given is, *He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity*. Simply put, Christ's **RESURRECTION** is why we believe what we believe.

## An Unseen Basis

The first question some may have about this is, "How can you base your faith on something you can't prove to be a fact?" Let's look at the facts. Even **secular** historians admit that there was a Jesus of Nazareth that lived 2000 years ago, and that He was **crucified**. That's not in doubt. But what do others say about the **Resurrection**? Here are three theories.

### 1. The Disciples Stole the Body

Jesus' enemies wanted to be sure the disciples didn't steal His body and try to say He had risen from the dead, so they had **Pilate** post a guard. **Matthew** tells us what happened after the Resurrection (Read **Matthew 28:11-15**). **First**, non-believers were the first witnesses of the Resurrection. **Second**, Roman guards didn't fall asleep on the job. It was punishable by death. **Third**, look at how the disciples reacted when Jesus was arrested. They fled and hid in an upper room with the doors locked *for fear of the Jews* (**John 20:19**). These guys weren't up to the task of taking on Roman soldiers for a prank.

### 2. The Swoon Theory

Once I heard about some scientists who tried to postulate the theory that Jesus didn't really die on the cross, but that it just **appeared** He did, and the cool air of the tomb revived Him. This is called the "Swoon Theory." While it's true that some men could hang on a cross for days before dying (it was a form of torture, after all), **John 19:33-34** tells us that the soldiers *broke the legs* of the other two to hasten their death. The Jews wanted this to be taken care of before the **Sabbath**. But when they came

to Jesus, one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear and *out flowed blood and water*. Doctors say this would happen if the spear pierced the heart. The **pericardium** is a sack of water around the heart. A spear piercing the heart is a fatal wound. Not only that, how could a man recovering from a near-death experience have the **strength** to move a stone it takes **two men with a lever to move**?

### 3. Mass Hallucination

Some say that the disciples wanted to believe so badly, they imagined they saw Him, mass hallucination. Yet in each **appearance**, they are shocked when they finally recognize Him. Not only that, after the Resurrection, these men and women who were witnesses of it, staked their lives on it. Also, remember, the first witnesses of the Resurrection were non-believers. None of these theories explain why they could do that if it wasn't real. That's how we can pin our hope on the **RESURRECTION**. Now, why should we?

## Without the Resurrection

Why is the **Resurrection** so important? (Read **1 Corinthians 15:17-19**). Paul is basing his argument for the **GENERAL RESURRECTION** on the fact of **CHRIST'S RESURRECTION**. In short, if Jesus hasn't been raised from the dead, we are still in our sins, without hope and to be pitied above all people.

## He Is Risen, Alleluia!

But, praise God, Jesus **is** risen from the dead! And **because** He is risen, we have forgiveness of sins and new life in Him. **Because** He is risen, we don't have to worry about death. **Because** He is risen, we don't have to worry about the troubles and trials of this life. **Because** He is risen, we can have **peace** and **joy** in this life. That's what today is all about. Say it with me: **JESUS CHRIST IS RISEN! HE IS RISEN, INDEED. ALLELUIA!**

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*May the peace of God,  
Which passes all understanding,  
Keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.*

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