The Resurrection
Matthew 28:2-7

The Christian ________ rests on the resurrection of Jesus from the dead. We’re going to examine the __________ for that resurrection. Whether Jesus arose matters __________. If Jesus arose, there is ______ after death. If Jesus arose, then He fulfilled His prophecies and has ________ Himself to be the Son of God. If Jesus arose, then His promises and teaching are ______. If Jesus arose and is the Son of God, He is Lord of all and has ___________ over your life and mine. If the Lord Jesus arose, then He will one day ______ again and ________ you and me according to His Word. Since what we’re studying has __________ consequences for our souls, we need to pay ________ attention. If Jesus arose from the dead, we can’t ________ Him or live as if that was a meaningless act. Read Hebrews 4:12-13.

The Lord Jesus __________ His death and resurrection (Matthew 20:18-19). This is an amazing and a __________ prediction. Jesus not only predicted He would be scourged and crucified at the ________ of the chief priests and the Gentiles but also that He would _______ from the dead the third day. Only the Son of God could ________ such a prediction about His death and resurrection and _______ its fulfillment just as He predicted.

Before we can speak of a resurrection, we have to _______ examine the evidence that Jesus actually died upon the cross. That Jesus was beaten by the soldiers and then scourged is ________ dispute. All four ________ accounts speak of His scourging. A Roman scourging was not __________ a beating. Many men ______ from scourging. The whip they used lacerated the skin with _______ objects and caused the ______ of much blood. The Romans did not _______ their stripes to 39 as the Jews did. The purpose of the cross was to kill a person ________ and very _________. While the nails that went through the hands and feet were not of themselves ________ the physical position of a crucified person hung upon a cross created tremendous __________ on the heart and lungs. A person had to pull himself up to __________ in and out. The cross gradually ______ a person down to where he couldn’t breathe. In the case of Jesus, ________ surrounded his heart until it failed. The reason soldiers would _______ the legs of a crucified person was to ________ their death. A person with broken legs couldn’t ________ himself up to breathe and would die quickly. They broke the legs of the _____ thieves; but these experienced soldiers found Jesus was ________ dead, so they didn’t break His bones in fulfillment of Psalm 34:20 that “not a bone of Him should be broken.” Instead, a soldier __________ His side with a spear, “and immediately there came out blood and water” (John 19:34). This flowing of water and blood is a sure ______ that Jesus was ________ dead. If Jesus had not died from the crucifixion, He could not have survived this ________. Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus asked Pilate for the ________ of
Jesus, but Pilate would not release the body until it was determined _______ positive that he was dead. The two prepared his body for ________ in a new tomb a short distance from where he was crucified. John reveals that they _______ the body in linen wrappings with myrrh and aloes, about a hundred pound weight. This burial process would have _________ Jesus in a mummy-like wrapping with spices sealing the cloth together. Bound up like this, Jesus—even if He by some remote _________ survived the crucifixion and the spear—couldn’t have breathed and lived. Jesus was _______ in the tomb.

The Pharisees and the priests went to Pilate and they requested a ______ for the tomb. Read Matthew 27:62-66. They were determined not to let __________ happen to that tomb. They didn’t merely ______ a couple of guards at the tomb. They made it as _____ as they could. Some scholars suggest that there were as many as 28 guards at the tomb, and they would have been particularly _______________ on the third day, when the threat was the very greatest. The governor’s ______ meant that it would be criminal to mess with the tomb.

The Scriptures tell us that the women came very ______ on the first day of the week to the tomb, and they came to ______ the body of Jesus. This was their first opportunity since the Sabbath had passed; and they wondered, “Who will _______ the stone for us from the entrance of the tomb?” They realized the stone was “extremely large” (Mark 16:4). Scholars again ___________ that this stone weighed between one and a half and two tons, three to four thousand pounds. They knew that moving this stone was far beyond their _________ and that it would take a number of strong men to move it. When they arrived they saw that an _______ had rolled the stone away.

When the women ___________ to the apostles the tomb was empty, many of the apostles laughed and they ___________ the women; but two apostles wanted to find out for themselves if the tomb was empty. Peter and John ______ to the tomb. John 20:5-7 says they looked in the tomb and saw the linen wrappings _______ there. They saw “the face-cloth which had been on His ______, not lying with the linen wrappings, but ________ ____ in a place by itself.” Why would the disciples, if they ______ the body, take the _______ to loosen the linen wrappings and _______ them in the tomb, knowing that the guards were just outside?

Whatever understanding you have of this event, you must __________ who moved the stone, how the tomb became empty, and who took the linen wrappings from the body of Jesus. The people who examined these events _______ without hesitance that Jesus _____ from the dead. The soldiers ___________ all these events to the chief priests, who paid the soldiers a large sum of money to _____ and promised to keep them out of trouble with the governor (Matthew 28:11-15). But down deep these soldiers and the chief priests knew the _______.

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We now ask whether the testimony we have about the empty tomb is ______. Is there some way that we can ______ the credibility of the report that we have of the resurrection? First, let’s remember that Jesus believed and taught His people to be ________. The Lord _____ hypocrisy and deceit. Jesus praised Nathanael for being a person in whom there was no _______ (John 1:47). Jesus spoke of the devil as a ______ and He condemned _______ (John 8:44). How could His disciples abandon everything they had been _________ and spread a _____ throughout Jerusalem? All the Jews had to do to _______ Jesus had not been resurrected from the dead was to __________ the body of Jesus. If the Jews produced the body of Jesus, they could _____ Christianity. They never _______, because they knew they couldn’t. All they could do was _______ the soldiers to lie and __________ the disciples.

Look at the _________ in the disciples. The disciples did not know for ______ that Jesus had been raised on that third day; they __________ it; and so they _____ in the upper room with the door locked for fear of the Jews. They __________ and they __________ when the women came and told them that Jesus had risen. Their hard _______ kept them from believing until Jesus __________ Himsel to them. One apostle, Thomas, persisted in his disbelief _______ when the others insisted they had seen the Lord (John 20:25-29). Jesus appeared to the disciples and He _______ Himself to them in a variety of ways. Read Luke 24:36-39. Acts 1:3 tells how Jesus “presented Himself ______ after His suffering, by many convincing _______, appearing to them over a period of forty days and speaking of the things concerning the kingdom of God.” So strong did He convince them that we see a very _________ group of men at Pentecost than we do on the day that Jesus arose. After they disbelieved, hiding themselves as cowards, and doubting the prophecy of Jesus; Jesus then _______ Himself alive with many convincing proofs. So at Pentecost they were _____ and unrelenting in their __________ of the gospel. They told everyone they were ___________ of the resurrection. They called the people to __________ of their sins, because they had __________ Jesus whom God for certain had made both Lord and Christ (Acts 2:36). In Acts 3-8 the early disciples endured beatings and imprisonment, but they wouldn’t _____ preaching Jesus as the Christ resurrected from the dead.

When the Sanhedrin, that is the Jewish Council, commanded them not to speak or teach at all in the _____ of Jesus, Peter and John were convinced that they must _____ God and continue preaching the gospel (Acts 4:19-20). The Council arrested the apostles, flogged them, commanded them to ______ preaching in the name of Jesus, and released them. But the apostles __________ “that they had been considered worthy to ______ shame for His name. And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they kept right on teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ” (Acts 5:41-42). They later suffered imprisonment, beatings and
even death for their _______, but nothing kept them from continuing to preach Jesus as the Christ, _______, from the dead. The disciples didn’t become ____ from their preaching; they suffered ______ to tell the story of Jesus. They (the enemies of Christ) stoned __________ (Acts 7) and they beheaded ______ the son of Zebedee (Acts 12). Not one of the disciples ______ denied the resurrection. They died for ___________ it. The only _______ they spoke out so boldly about their faith was they believed Jesus was truly the Christ, the ______ Son of God. And their bold faith ________ us that we too can place our faith in Jesus as Lord.

Saul of Tarsus was originally ________ to Judaism and a violent persecutor of the church, but He ______ Christ on the road to Damascus. His conversion is especially important in view of his earlier ______ against Christianity. He gave up everything to ________ a Christian. What he wrote about the resurrection in 1 Corinthians 15 is really the ___________ documentary evidence that we have. No one can satisfactorily _________ the conversion and the later life of the apostle Paul except in the way that he himself explained it. He had seen the ________ Christ.

Some say Jesus __________ on the cross and revived in the cool of the tomb; but this doesn’t __________ how Jesus survived the linen wrappings, how He moved the stone, or how He frightened the guards to get away. Others say the apostles only __________ they saw Jesus after His resurrection, but this doesn’t explain why there were linen wrappings in the empty tomb, how the stone was moved before the women arrived, or how the guards were frightened. Nor does it explain how they were able to ________ Jesus.

Though we have barely discussed the ___________ surrounding the resurrection, we have seen ________ to say confidently with Peter and the apostles that God raised Jesus from the dead. And if He is risen, He is the ______ of God and the _______ of all. He will one day _______ you and me according to His Word (John 12:48; Acts 17:31).

To become a Christian ________ with all your heart that Jesus is the Christ, ______ from your sins in repentance, ________ Jesus as the Christ and the Son of God, and be ___________ for the forgiveness of your sins as the Bible teaches in Acts 2:38.