

# Daily View

*“But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called ‘today’” Hebrews 3:13*

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March 20, 2020



## What's this?

In an effort to keep in touch during the Caronavirus pandemic, I'll be churning out a daily edition of the Folsom View (and if it goes well, I'll continue after the madness ends). The opinions expressed here are my own and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the elders or anyone else. Please feel free to interact, whether you agree, disagree or just want to join the conversation.

**Why the photo?** I love photography and I love viewing photography. Looking at a beautiful scene or an evocative moment transports me into that scene and produces peace of mind, if just for a moment. I'm hoping these photos have the same effect on you. I decided to begin with one of my favorites, taken a few years ago in New England.\*

## Services

As you surely know by now, we have been forced to cancel all gatherings at the building for the time being. Predictions for the length of this hiatus range from 2 weeks to 2 months or more. We are looking into various options to keep the church connected, at least virtually. Video sermons/ classes, live-streaming, podcasts, and other options are all on the table, hopefully beginning next Sunday (March 29th). We'll let you know. Meanwhile, there are other sources to find studies for your family.

## In the news

### *Caronavirus Update*

**“California Gov. Gavin Newsom announces statewide coronavirus ‘stay at home’ order.”** This was the final word that prompted the elders' decision to forego any kind of group meeting this upcoming Sunday. Newsom converted a “guideline” into a law, meaning you can be arrested for disobeying. In making this announcement, Newsom said that more than half of Californians will get sick. His math was off by about 3 million, but basically he was saying over 20 million people will contract the virus in the next 8 weeks. Later, a spokesman clarified that his prediction **did not include these mitigation efforts**, many of which are already in place. That prediction was irresponsible and is just the kind of leadership with *don't* need since it seeds panic – we already have plenty of that (just try to buy toilet paper or hand sanitizer).

Meanwhile, **there is some hope on the horizon.** A drug (Chloroquine) that has been around for decades has been effective in curing Covid-19 cases in some international clinical trials. The drug has been used to treat malaria for many years. Obviously, more testing has to be carried out, but the drug is in bountiful supply so, if it proves effective, it could be deployed almost immediately. The President has called it a potential “game changer.” Let's hope so.

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*\*I am the creator and owner of all photographs used in this publication.*

# F.E.A.T

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## The Resurrection: The Greatest FEAT in the history of the world!

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### Facts

1. Christ was put to death by crucifixion, an effective, cruel and hideous death. *Lk. 23:46*
2. The body of Jesus was buried in a solid rock tomb. *Lk. 23:50-56; Mt. 27:60*
3. His body was wrapped in more than 100 pounds of spices, according to precise Jewish burial customs. *Jn. 19:39-40*
4. The stone rolled in front of the tomb entrance weighed in excess of two tons (about the weight of a medium car).  
*Mt. 27:60*
5. A security force was posted to guard the tomb and was under penalty of death should the tomb be tampered with.  
*Mt. 27:66*
6. The tomb was sealed shut with the official seal of Rome, the most powerful nation on earth at the time. *Mt. 27:66*

### Empty Tomb

The tomb that once contained the body of Jesus was found empty. Those who deny that Jesus was raised must explain away several historical facts:

1. The seal on the tomb was broken, a serious crime that carried an automatic penalty of crucifixion upside down.
2. Both Jews and Romans admitted that the tomb was empty.
3. A two-ton stone was moved from the entrance of the tomb while a Roman guard stood watch.
4. A highly accountable security force, probably Roman,<sup>1</sup> fled their watch and had to be bribed by the authorities to lie about what actually happened. *Mt. 28:11-15*
5. The undisturbed grave clothes no longer contained a body. *Jn. 20:6-7*

### Appearances

1. The first witnesses were women. *Mt. 28:1*. It is impossible that Jews who were trying to manufacture a resurrection story would use women as the first witnesses, since a first century woman's credibility is nearly zero.
2. Christ appeared to more than 500 witnesses at one time and many others in a variety of situations. The story of Jesus' resurrection is based upon the testimony of many, not just one or two (cf. the Mormon movement based almost entirely on the testimony of Joseph Smith). *I Cor. 15*

### Transformation

1. The changed lives of the apostles after the resurrection provide solid testimony of the validity of their claims. The bold conduct of the apostles immediately after they were convinced of the resurrection makes it unlikely that it was all a fraud. They became bold almost overnight and happily faced persecution and death. *Acts 4:20; 5:41; II Cor. 11:23-28*.
2. According to secular historians, all the apostles except John were executed for their allegiance to Jesus and belief in his resurrection.
3. Some say, "A lot of people died for a lie, so what does the apostle's death prove?" But people who died for a lie *thought* it was the truth. If the resurrection didn't take place, the disciples knew it. There is no evidence to suggest they were deceived. So, if the resurrection is false, *they died for a lie that they knew was a lie*. Can you find twelve people in all of history that died for a lie that they *knew* to be a lie?

Source: Adapted from *Christianity in Crisis*, Hank Hanegraaf

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<sup>1</sup> The Greek word for "guard" is *koustodia*, a Latin loan word, strongly suggesting that the guard was a Roman security force of 4-14 men. The other alternative is that the guards were temple police, a group of 12 Levites used to guard the temple grounds. If a Roman guard was found sleeping, he was beaten and burned with his own clothes.