

## 6-- Evidence of the Resurrection: Eyewitnesses

### 1 Corinthians 15:1-9

1. How important is eyewitness testimony in history, a courtroom, or even a dispute between church members (see Matthew 18:15-17)?



2. What special role were the apostles given that makes them uniquely different than anyone living beyond the lifetime of Jesus (Luke 24:48; Acts 1:8, 21-22; 5:30-32; 2 Peter 1:16)?

3. How would you answer a skeptic who was critical of the eyewitness accounts because...

- Of differences in the gospel accounts?
- The term "Twelve" is used in 1 Corinthians 15:5?
- Of their belief a true historian does not consider the evidence of supernatural and untestable events?

4. Prior to the resurrection, what did the following witnesses believe about Jesus and how do their beliefs change after the resurrection?

--Peter (see John 18:15-27; Acts 4:18-21):

--James (see John 7:3-5; James 1:1):

--Thomas (see John 11:7-8, 16; 20:25-28):

--Saul of Tarsus (Acts 9:1-2; 21:10-13):

5. Consider the apostles. How does the life of nearly every apostle end as the result of their faith in Jesus? What does this say about their conviction of faith? Why do they all seem to radically transform into such bold, courageous men at the exact same time in history?

Wednesday Evening Bible Study (11.18.2020)

<u>Apostle</u>	<u>Manner of Death</u>
Peter	Crucified upside down in Rome (cf. John 21:18)
Andrew	Crucified in Greece
James	Murdered by Herod Agrippa I (Acts 12:1-2)
John	Banished to the isle of Patmos by Domitian
Philip	Crucified in AD 54
Bartholomew	Killed in India by idolaters
Thomas	Speared to death in India
Matthew	Killed by sword in AD 60
James	Stoned and clubbed to death at age 90
Jude	Crucified in Turkey (A.D. 72)
Simon	Believed to be crucified in AD 74
Paul	Beheaded at the order of Nero in Rome

6. Some compare the martyrdom and death of Islamic fundamentalists to the death of the apostles. Is this a fair parallel to make? What are the key differences in the comparison of the two?

7. According to 1 Corinthians 15:3-7, what did each of these men witness?

8. It is not just the apostles who give testimony to this belief. Suetonius writes in *Lives of the Caesars*, "Punishment by Nero was inflicted on the Christians, a class of men given to a new and mischievous superstition" (*Lives of the Caesars*, 26.2). What might you think this "superstition" is?

9. We also have the testimony of post-apostolic Christian writers (2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> centuries) concerning the resurrection (Clement of Rome, Ignatius, Aristides, Justin Martyr). Why might this provide a more reliable account than writers today?

10. Is it reasonable to think the disciples fabricated the resurrection of Jesus? Why or why not?