

# The Bulletin

## Meeks St. Church of Christ

1201 Meeks St. Corinth, Ms. 38834

Phone – (662) 808-7777

Visit Our Website at:  
[MeeksstreetchurchofChrist.com](http://MeeksstreetchurchofChrist.com)

March 27, 2022

### ***“The Resurrection, It Really Happened!”***

By Bill Gwin



When you are studying “evidences,” there is nothing that can compare in importance to the resurrection of Jesus. If it is true, then we will have strong basis for believing all else that is taught in the Scriptures. But if this event cannot be proved, then our Bibles are rendered effectively useless.

As a first consideration, we can conclude, without a shadow of doubt, that the Lord’s tomb was, in fact, empty on the first day of the week following the resurrection. Our confidence of this is made strong by the testimony of both the Romans and the Jews.

In Matthew 28:1:15, the Roman soldiers who had been guarding the tomb nervously reported to the Jewish elders about the events that had occurred at the gravesite.

A cover-up was immediately devised and put into operation. But it is important to note that neither the Romans nor the Jews attempted to deny that the tomb was empty. Historian, Paul Maier, calls this “positive evidence from a hostile source, which is the strongest kind of historical evidence. In essence, this means if a source admits a fact decidedly not in its favor, then that fact is genuine. Please remember that the Jews never denied the empty tomb (Acts 5:34-39), and be sure that they would have if they could have.

In addition to the empty tomb, we have other vital evidence of the resurrection. The most significant evidence comes from eyewitnesses that saw the resurrected Lord. In 1 Corinthians 15:3-8, the apostle Paul gives a catalog of those witnesses— over 500 in all! These folks were still alive at the same time these reports were being circulated, and their testimony could be confirmed. Basically, Paul says, “If you don’t believe me just ask them for yourselves” (Verse 6). It has been suggested that if each of these people were given six minutes to testify in a trial proceeding, there would be an excess of fifty hours of eyewitness testimony. This is overwhelming evidence— enough to prove any fact as being true!

Merrill C. Tenny says: “It is noteworthy that these appearances are not stereotyped. No two of them are exactly alike. The appearance to Mary Magdalene occurred in early morning; to the travelers to Emmaus in the afternoon; and to the apostles in the evening, probably after dark. Mary was alone when she saw Him; the disciples were together in a group; and Paul records that on one occasion that Jesus appeared to over 500 brethren at one time. The reactions also were varied. Many were overwhelmed with emotion; the disciples were frightened; the apostle Thomas was obstinately unbelieving when told of the Lord’s resurrection, but worshipped when Jesus manifested Himself to him, eight days later. Each occasion had its own peculiar atmosphere and characteristics, and revealed some different quality of the risen Lord.”

There is also an abundance of circumstantial evidence which leads us to the inescapable conclusion that Jesus arose from the grave. (In some ways circumstantial evidence such as this may be more trustworthy than direct evidence, because it cannot be as easily fabricated.)

Consider these bits of circumstantial evidence:

### **The Church.**

It experienced remarkable early growth, and it started in Jerusalem where all these events had occurred.

### **Baptism.**

It is symbolic of the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ (Romans 6:3-6). It is a meaningless sham if the resurrection did not occur.

### **The Lord's Supper.**

It celebrates the terrible death of Jesus. Why would early Christians do this if Jesus did not rise again?

### **Changed Lives.**

The apostles and disciples of Jesus had no earthly benefit to be gained by preaching the resurrection. In fact, the opposite is true— they stood to lose everything, even their lives.

However, Jesus' own earthly family— once numbered among the unbelievers (Matthew 13:57) — are counted among the believers following the resurrection (Acts 1:14). The apostle Peter and the other apostles— who had forsaken the Lord during His arrest and trial (Matthew 26:56) became fearless proclaimers of the gospel message (Acts 4:18-20).

No doubt the change in the life of Saul of Tarsus, the persecutor of Christians, to Paul the apostle of Jesus Christ, is most notable (1 Timothy 1:12-13). What can possibly explain the abundance of evidence, both direct and circumstantial? Only the bodily resurrection of Jesus from the grave.

It really happened. He rose again!

---

## ***“What About Easter?”***

Author Unknown

In the 12th chapter of Acts, in the King James Version of the Bible, we find the use of the word “Easter.” It does strike one as being “out of the ordinary”, in as much that it is the only place we find the word. In fact all authorities agree that the word in question is that of “Passover.”

The origin of the word “Easter” is derived from EOSTRE or OSTARA, the Anglo Saxon “goddess” of Spring! In honor of this goddess, a pagan festival or feast was held each Spring. A term for such was that of carnival. The word carnival carries with it the implied meaning of “Flesh farewell.” It is important that we understand the realm carnival in relation of the observance of “Easter.” For the feast and festival season begins in full swing on January 6th, and has at the zenith Mardi Gras, which is the last day before “Lent”, or the period of “sackcloth and ashes.” There is no doubt that after the great falling away from the truth, that the apostate church adopted the old pagan customs and gave a meaning for Christians to them. As the festival of EOSTRE was in celebration of the renewal of life in the Spring, it was easy to make a celebration of the resurrection of the dead of Jesus, whose gospel they preached.

The Roman and the Greek Orthodox churches, and most Protestant churches have an elaborate ritual for the services of the day. Some have sunrise services, because there is a traditional belief that on Easter morning that the sun dances and those who rise in time can see it. The egg also became symbolic of the resurrection, as if it holds the seed of a new life. But eggs became associated with Easter originally because it was forbidden to eat them during Lent, but on Easter Sunday they were served. They were dyed red to suggest joyousness, and according to another theory the red color was symbolic of the blood shed on Calvary. In Medieval times, the Catholic priests blessed the Easter eggs in a form of benediction authorized by Pope Paul V, in the course of which he said they were eaten “in thankfulness on account of the resurrection of our Lord.”

The children were told that the rabbit lays the Easter eggs and the eggs are sometimes hidden for the children to find. This is an adaption of the pagan custom of regarding the rabbit as an emblem of fertility, that is, of new life. Many Americans have ham on Easter without being even aware of the origin of the custom. It is a revival of the ancient habit among the English of eating bacon on that day to show contempt for the Jewish custom of not eating pork. It was brought to this country by the English and Irish settlers.

Regardless, what we should understand is this, Easter is a pagan custom and the Bible does not authorize it. We just only follow that which revealed in the Bible. There is no authority to observe Easter as a religious celebration!

We as Christians, observe the Lord's Supper in memory of Jesus Christ's great suffering and death on the cross for us— every first day of the week (Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 11:23-33).

**News and Notes:** Sick and recovering: Tim Harris Sr, Tim Harris Jr, Chad Harris, Debbie Keplinger, Janis Johnson, Daniel Holloway, Peggy Harville (cancer), Linda Hunt, David Taylor, Randy Beaty, Sam Johnson, Randy Ferrell, J F Dancer, Robbie, Sheila, Sherry Doles, Sandra Oliver, Nannette Chancellor, Sandi Poole, Ricky Ferrell, and Wesley Trimble.

**Those Who Serve:**

**Sunday Morning 9:00 A.M. Service:**

**Opening Prayer:** Doug George  
**Preaching:** Brian Meade  
**Sermon #1:** *"The Treasury And Its Use"*

**Auditorium Bible Class: 9:35am:**

Jerry Kennemur  
Galatians (Randy Blackaby)  
*Page #18 Question #1*

**Sunday Morning 10:30 A.M. Service:**

**Announcements:** Doug George  
**Opening Prayer & Scripture Reading:** Paul Johnson  
*Psalm 4:5-8*  
**Song Leader:** Dan Cottrell  
**Lord's Supper:** Fred Johnson  
**Assisting:** — —  
**Singing Service:** *Men of the Congregation Lead Songs*  
**Invitation:** Brian Meade  
**Closing Prayer:** Nathan Meade

**Wednesday Evening: 7:00 P.M.**

**March 30th:**

**Auditorium Bible Class:** Russell Briggs  
**Workbook:** Jeremiah & Lamentations  
(John Humphries)  
**Starting Page & Question:** *Page # 17 Question #12*  
**Invitation:** Paul Busby  
**Song Leader:** Russell Briggs  
**Closing Prayer:** Blake Briggs

# ***“The Treasury And Its Use”***

Lesson Text: **Acts 4:32-37.**

## **I. Our Giving Do To God’s Work.**

- The Treasury Is Not A General Fund For Just Anything— But For God’s Work Only.
  - \* Not for buying a Color TV, Diamond Necklaces, Rolex Watches... If so, why so?
- When We Give Our Money To The Collection On Sunday, It Ceases To Be Our Money.
  - \* **Malachi 3:8-10; Acts 5:1-4.** (Shows Individuals’ Money And God’s.)
  - \* We No Longer Control The Funds For Individual’s Wants, But What God Wants!
- The Need For Authority (Right or Permission) To Act With The Lord’s Treasury-
  - \* **Colossians 3:17; 1 Peter 4:11; Not to add to His Word- Prov. 30:6.**

## **II. What Is Authorized?**

- God’s Work- **Ephesians 4:12-** Evangelism, Limited Benevolence, Edification.
- \* How Can The Church Justify: Building A Building, Renting A Hall, Or A House?  
The Answer: The Command To Assemble- **Hebrews 10:25; James 2:2.**
  - \* What About An Individuals’ Needs At Home, As Opposed To The Lord’s Work?
    - \* Some Needs Are The Same- Water, Bathroom, Air Conditioning, Heat, Nursery...
    - \* Some Are NOT: Entertainment Center, Kitchen, Sauna, Hot Tub, Shower, Piano...
  - \* For Edification Purposes: Class books, pens, paper, staples, Bibles.... **Eph. 4:16.**
  - \* For Benevolence Purposes: Needy Saints- **Romans 15:25-26; 15:31; 1 Corinthians 16:1; 16:15; 2 Corinthians 8:4; 9:1; 9:12; Galatians 6:10; James 1:27** (Individuals).
  - \* The “Widow Indeed” **1 Timothy 5:3-5; 5:9-11; 5:16.**
  - \* Evangelism- **1 Corinthians 9:1-14; Acts 20:20-21.** Preacher’s support, Gospel Meetings, TV Programs, Radio Broadcasts, and Newspaper Ads...

## **III. What Is Not The Work Or The Way:**

- Church Sponsored Entertainment, Recreation, Sports, Inflatables....
  - \* Why Aren’t These Expedients or Aids to Our Work? No Command.
- Church, Kitchens, Fellowship Halls, Gymnasiums, And Starbucks...
  - \* Why Aren’t These Authorized? No Command To Have or Involve The Church.
- Why Can’t We Evangelize By Using Pizza Parties, Ice Cream Socials, Or Hot Dogs?
  - \* **John 6:26-27; 1 Corinthians 11:34; 1 Corinthians 2:4-5.**
- Must The Church Depend On Human Institutions To Do Its Work?
  - \* Church Supported Colleges, The Missionary Society, Orphan Homes, Para- Church Organizations, Lads To Leaders, International Bible College, Salvation Army...
- Church Sponsored Arrangements: Herald Of Truth, GBN, One Nation Under God...

**Conclusion:** Let Us Be Faithful In Doing God’s Work, His Way!