

Jesus Reveals A Vital Truth

- *flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. Mt. 16:17*
- What did Jesus mean when He said this?
- *no one can say that Jesus is Lord except by the Holy Spirit. 1Cor. 12:3*
- *the gospel which was preached by me, that it is not after man Gal. 1:11-12*
- *not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, 1Cor. 2:13*
- *the testimony that God has borne concerning his Son. 1Jn. 5:10*

God Chose and Crafted the Evidence

- He left nothing to man. There is not a single proof or evidence regarding any aspect of our faith that God did not choose.
- God chose each prophecy and each miracle.
- God sent Gabriel to Zacharias and Mary, angels to the shepherds, and the star to the wise men.
- All facts / evidence are exactly as God planned
- Everything in the gospel is from God – If it is not enough for us – we are rejecting God.
- *he who rejects this does not reject man, but God, who has also given us His Holy Spirit. 1Th. 4:8*

God Chose and Crafted the Evidence

- Truly *“flesh and blood has not revealed this.”*
- *If we receive the testimony of men, **the testimony of God is greater**, for this is **the testimony of God that He has borne concerning His Son. 10 Whoever believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself. Whoever does not believe God has made him a liar, because he has not believed in the testimony that God has borne concerning his Son. 11 And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. 1Jn. 5:9-12***

Like His Existence ... Just Enough...

- We are not overwhelmed or smothered.
- We can reject it if:
 - We don't love God.
 - We don't love His ways and thoughts.
 - We don't love Jesus and His commands.
 - We hate the light because our works are evil.
 - If righteousness and holiness do not resonate through us as being good, wholesome & just.
- The issue is not the evidence or testimony.
- The issue is the perspective of the hearer as seen above.

Not the Evidence: The Perspective

- *If anyone wills to do His will, he shall know concerning the doctrine, whether it is from God Jn. 7:17*
- *Jews and Greeks saw His testimony as folly*
- *For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God 1Cor. 1:18*
- *we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness, 24 but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. 1Cor. 1:23-24*

Not the Evidence: The Perspective

- *And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. 20 For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. 21 But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God." Jn. 3:19-21*
- We have to love the truth more than we love our opinions or our lifestyle. 2Th. 2:8-10

The Greatest Contradiction

- Is given the most powerful Testimony
- *we preach **Christ crucified**, to the **Jews a stumbling block** and to the **Greeks foolishness**.*
- Christ (Messiah / King / Lord / Ruler) crucified
- His death disproves testimony of the miracles.
- God added more testimony: First: **Prophecy**:
- *being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death;*
- This is testimony on a far grander scale than man can devise. This evidence is **IRONCLAD!**

God's Predetermined Counsel

- *“He was cut off from the land of the living”*
- *“they made His grave with the wicked,”*
- *“He poured out His soul unto death,”*
- *“they will look on Me whom they pierced,”*
- *“they have pierced my hands and feet.”*
- Isa. 53; Ps. 22; Zech. 12:10-14; 13:1;
- Only a few – No one can deny His death by crucifixion was God predetermined counsel.
- What they knew – we have confirmed by the Dead Sea scrolls. All this was written **BEFORE** these things occurred!!!!

The Greatest Contradiction

- Is given the most powerful testimony:
- God added more testimony: 2nd **Resurrection:**
- *whom God raised up, having loosed the pains of death, because it was not possible that He should be held by it. Acts 2:24-25*
- God used two proofs!
- 1st Prophecy & 2nd Eyewitness Testimony.

God's Confident Challenge

- *when a prophet speaks in the name of the LORD, if the thing does not happen or come to pass, that is the thing which the LORD has not spoken; the prophet has spoken it presumptuously; you shall not be afraid of him.” Deut. 18:22*
- An entire book (or in Moses case – 5 books) can be rejected and cast away as rubbish.
- Every book has prophecies – God knew they would not fail so He boldly proclaimed this challenge!

David was Among these Prophets

- 1st – God placed him in Christ’s genealogy
- *“When your days are fulfilled and you rest with your fathers, **I will set up your seed after you, who will come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.**” 2Sam. 7:12-14*
- David made many statements about this seed. Often seemingly speaking only of himself, but truly speaking of his future son and king, who would reign forever.

David The Prophet – Proclaimed

● *“For You will not leave my soul in Hades, Nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption.” ... David, ...being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that of the fruit of his body, according to the flesh, He would raise up the Christ to sit on his throne, 31 he, foreseeing this, spoke concerning the resurrection of the Christ, that His soul was not left in Hades, nor did His flesh see corruption.” Acts 2:27, 30-31*

● Flawless and unassailable logic. The prophecies exist – they must be fulfilled – They were!!!

It Wasn't David – Had to be the Christ

- *Therefore He also says in another Psalm: 'You will not allow Your Holy One to see corruption.' 36 "For David, after he had served his own generation by the will of God, fell asleep, was buried with his fathers, and saw corruption;*
- **Only Two Options:** Either all of David's words must be rejected – or there is another.
- *but He whom God raised up saw no corruption. Acts 13:35-38*
- **Jesus was the seed of David. Jesus had to be killed in order to be raised – Fits perfectly**

Flesh & Blood Did Not Reveal This

- Only God could have done this and **HE DID!**
- To validate this testimony God used the eye-witness testimony of multitudes.
- *He was seen by **Cephas**, then by **the twelve**. 6 After that He was seen by over **five hundred brethren at once**, of whom **the greater part remain to the present**, but some have fallen asleep. 7 After that He was seen by **James**, then by **all the apostles**. 8 **Then last of all** He was **seen by me also**, as by one born out of due time.*

1 Cor 15:3-8

How Do We Validate Today?

- They could interview them... what about us?
- Necessary Inferences:
- If this could have been easily disproved – No one would have obeyed that day.
- What else would have convinced Saul of Tarsus to change his stance on Jesus?
- Why else would he suffer the loss of all things?
- Luke interviewed.

Inadvertent Testimony of Enemies

On the next day, which followed the Day of Preparation, the chief priests and Pharisees gathered together to Pilate, 63 saying, "Sir, we remember, while He was still alive, how that deceiver said, 'After three days I will rise.' 64 Therefore command that the tomb be made secure until the third day, lest His disciples come by night and steal Him away, and say to the people, 'He has risen from the dead.' So the last deception will be worse than the first." 65 Pilate said to them, "You have a guard; go your way, make it as secure as you know how." 66 So they went and made the tomb secure, sealing the stone and setting the guard. Mt 27:62-66

There is TOO MUCH Evidence

- *If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater; for this is the witness of God which He has testified of His Son. 10 He who believes in the Son of God has the witness in himself; he who does not believe God has made Him a liar, because he has not believed the testimony that God has given of His Son. 11 And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. 1 John 5:9-13*
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Why would we not want to Believe?

- *He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. 13 These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God. 1 John 5:9-13*