



# TRUTH & RIGHT

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**WELLSBURG**  
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## **JESUS ROSE AGAIN**

Many argue that there is no reasonable evidence to believe that Jesus rose from the dead. 1 Corinthians 15:13-19, however, states, *"But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised; and if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain, your faith also is in vain. Moreover, we are even found to be false witnesses of God because we testified against God that He raised Christ, whom He did not raise, if in fact the dead are not raised. For if the dead are not raised, then not even Christ has been raised; and if Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins. Then also those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If we have hoped in Christ only in this life, we are of all people most to be pitied."* Based upon this scriptural evidence, one can see that there are several reasons to believe Jesus rose from the dead. We will

look at five: 1) There were more than 500 who were eyewitnesses to the resurrection (1 Cor. 15:3-8), and many suffered heavily for the cause of Christ. James was put to death (Acts 12:2), Peter was thrown in prison (Acts 12:3-5), and Paul suffered many persecutions before finally being killed for preaching Christ (2 Cor. 11:23-27; II Tim. 4:6-8). The soldiers who lied about Jesus' resurrection were paid large sums of money to lie (Matt. 28:11-15). If the apostles were lying about seeing Jesus after His resurrection, what did they gain from lying? The truth is that there was no physical gain for the eyewitnesses to lie about Christ's resurrection!

2) Corresponding to the previous point, the apostles strongly condemned lying (Acts 5:1-11; Col. 3:9; 1 Tim. 4:2; Rev. 22:15). If they lied about the resurrection of Christ, then they were the biggest hypocrites of all

(I Cor. 15:14-15)! 3) The empty tomb is another proof of the resurrection of Christ (Lk. 24:1-3; Jn. 20:1-8). Where did the body go if Jesus did not raise from the dead? 4) The apostles were no longer afraid after the resurrection, as opposed to before the resurrection when they fled in fear from the soldiers and others (Matt. 26:56; Mk. 14:50). One can see their examples of bravery when reading through the book of Acts. 5) Four records (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John) testify that the tomb was found empty and that our Lord was seen alive! These and many other proofs are available to us to show that Jesus resurrected! The only question is, will you choose to believe the truth? – Ethan Jennings

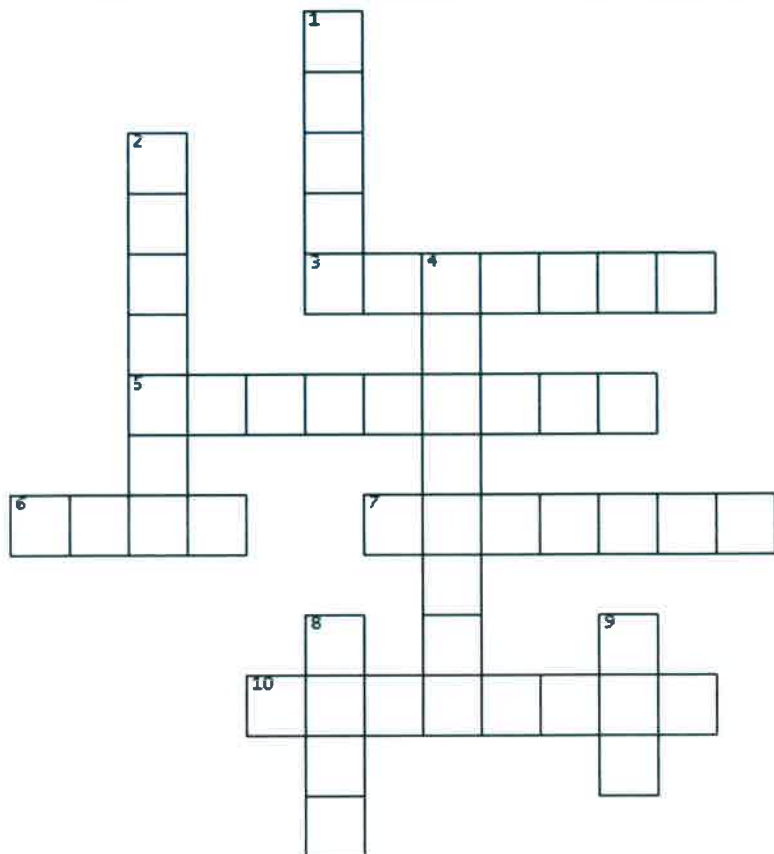
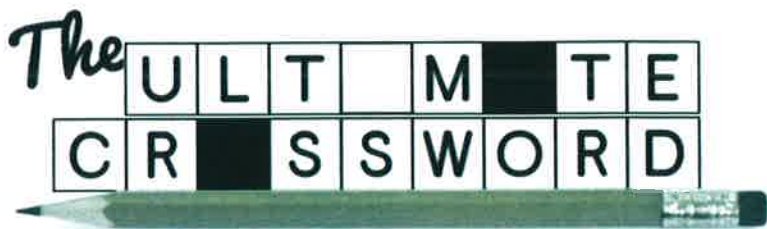
**“Doctrinal Emphasis” or Denominational Division?** One way that some denominational churches justify their teaching is by using what they have called the “argument of doctrinal emphasis.” What does this mean? To understand what “doctrinal emphasis” means, let’s understand what each term means. “Doctrine” means “teaching” (*Webster’s*), and “emphasis” means “the particular importance or attention that is given to something.” (*Cambridge Dictionary*) The argument is that each denomination follows the Bible but advocates certain Bible doctrines stronger than others. Therefore, when someone

speaks of “doctrinal emphasis” of the Bible, they’re saying that they’re giving special attention to certain teachings of the Bible that perhaps we Christians are not. This, however, is simply not true for numerous reasons. First, if each denomination merely emphasizes certain Bible doctrines more than others, then shouldn’t they all ultimately say or teach the same thing? The only difference between them would be the depth of study and preaching on specific subjects, correct? Denominations, however, produce a wide variety of contradicting doctrines. If it were true that the denominations only emphasized different Bible doctrines, then they wouldn’t contradict each other or the Bible! They would all agree on what the Bible says. Yet, this is not what happens at all. Some denominations baptize infants; others don’t and teach that baptism is only for believers. Some say sprinkling water on someone is good enough for baptism; others say it must be immersion. One could make up a long list of denominational contradictions. These contradictions bring confusion. One enters a Methodist church one Sunday and hears a sermon, then a Baptist church the next and hears a completely contradicting sermon. It’s confusion! If they’re both true, then God is a God of confusion! Yet, the scripture clearly says He’s not. “*For God is **not a***

**God of confusion** but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints" (1 Cor. 14:33). Therefore, when one sees these contradictions in man's teaching, there are only two possible explanations. Either the denominations are placing emphasis on certain Bible doctrines, and the Bible contradicts itself and is not the word of God, or the Bible is the word of God, and the denominations are emphasizing their own pet doctrines. We do not see the doctrines of men taught in the Bible. For example, the Bible does not teach salvation by faith alone. Nor does it teach man is born in sin. It does not refer to preachers as "reverend." Nowhere do we read in the Bible about salvation by grace alone. The doctrine of Calvinism is not found in scripture. Nor does the Bible say man continues to receive "modern-day" revelation. These are but a few of the doctrines that separate the denominations from each other and the Lord! They are adding to the word of God, and this is something scripture condemns. Moses said, "*You shall not add to the word which I am commanding you, nor take away from it, that you may keep the commandments of the Lord your God which I command you*" (Deut. 4:2). Though it's referring specifically to the book of Revelation, the statement in Revelation 22:18-19 teaches the same principle as Deuteronomy. John wrote, "I

*testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues which are written in this book; and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away his part from the tree of life and from the holy city, which are written in this book"* (Rev. 22:18-19). As we see, the denominational world doesn't "merely emphasize certain Bible doctrines". It causes confusion, makes the word of God appear to contradict itself and adds to what God has said. Thus, it discredits what the psalmist wrote in Psalm 19:7-8. "*The law of the Lord is perfect, restoring the soul; The testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple. The precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; The commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes.*" The law of the Lord is perfect. Denominational doctrines don't even come close!

– Ethan Jennings



### ACROSS

3. Mary called Jesus this Hebrew word meaning "Teacher" (Jn. 20:16)
5. Mary \_\_\_\_\_ came to the empty tomb seeking Jesus (Jn. 20:1)
6. Jesus helped the disciples catch 153 \_\_\_\_\_ (Jn. 21:11)
7. Jesus asked Mary, "Why are you \_\_\_\_\_?" (Jn. 20:15)
10. Mary thought Jesus was the \_\_\_\_\_ (Jn. 20:15)

### DOWN

1. John beat \_\_\_\_\_ in a foot race to the empty tomb (Jn. 20:4)
2. Thomas was also called \_\_\_\_\_ (Jn. 20:24)
4. When John looked into the empty tomb he \_\_\_\_\_ (Jn. 20:8)
8. Nathanael was from the town of Jesus' first miracle (Jn. 21:2)
9. Thomas would not believe unless he could \_\_\_\_\_ (Jn. 20:25)