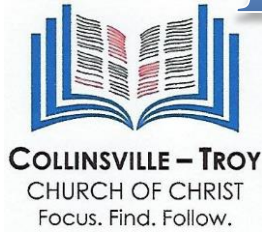


The Correspondent



SUNDAY
Bible Study 9:30 AM
Worship 10:30 AM & 1:30 PM
WEDNESDAY
Bible Study (Adult) 1:30 PM
Bible Study (All Ages) 7:00 PM
www.collinsville-troycoc.org
(618) 667-6708

*For from you the word of the Lord has sounded forth... in every place.
(1 Thessalonians 1:8)*

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Disciples of An Empty Tomb -Renn Ferguson

In my library I have a book entitled Disciples of An Empty Tomb written by man named Brandon Renfroe. This book explores the resurrection of Christ and the various theories surround it. I often think of the words of Paul in tr Corinthians 15:12-19. In verse 14 he states, "and if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain." Then, in verse 17, and if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins."

The resurrection of Christ is one of the greatest proofs of Christianity and thereby, a crucial aspect of sur faith. However, there are many people that doubt and deny the resurrection. Some say that the disciples came and stole the body. This theory is recorded In scripture (Matthew 28:13"-15). Of course, this is an impossibility for several reasons, namely, how could the disciples have done this without waking the Romans soldiers?

Others say that Christ did not actually die on the cross but fainted. After having been placed in the tomb, he woke up, rolled the stone away and He and the disciples deceived people into thinking He was resurrected. However, it would have been impossible for anyone to survive the crucifixion Christ suffered.

Still, others purport that the disciples went to the wrong tomb -anyone who has lost a loved one realizes how absurd that theory is.

Or, some say, the disciples because of their immense grief hallucinated a risen Jesus. Yet, in the cases where there were group hallucinations of the sort show that those involved did not hallucinate the same thing, for it was all in the mind of the individual. No one experiences grief or trauma in the exact same way.

All of these theories fall woefully short of explaining why the tomb of Jesus was empty on that third day, and why His disciples were willing to die far claiming that He had resurrected. The only reasonable conclusion that can be drawn is that Jesus did in fact raise from the dead.

CONNECTIONS

