

# I believe in Christ.



# **His Centrality**

**I believe I was made by Christ and  
for Christ and that life cannot  
work separated from Him.**

Colossians 1 (15) He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. (16) For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him.

John 14 (6) Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

Acts 4 (12) Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved."

## **Man's Need of a Savior**

Romans 3 (10) As it is written: "There is no one righteous, not even one; (14) "Their mouths are full of cursing and bitterness." (15) "Their feet are swift to shed blood; (16) ruin and misery mark their ways, (17) and the way of peace they do not know." (12) Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned--

## **The Importance of God's Justice**

Isaiah 33 (22) For the LORD is our judge, the LORD is our lawgiver, the LORD is our king; it is he who will save us.

Romans 3 (19) Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world held accountable to God. (20) Therefore no one will be declared righteous in his sight by observing the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of sin. (21) But now a righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. (22) This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference, (23) for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, (24) and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. (25) God presented him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in his blood. He did this to demonstrate his justice, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished-- (26) he did it to demonstrate his justice at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus.

# **His Sacrifice**

**I believe that, in love,  
Christ gave himself on the cross  
for our sins and that  
He rose alive from the grave  
in order to satisfy universal justice  
and remove all basis for  
human distrust.**

1 Peter 3 (18) For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive by the Spirit,

2 Corinthians 5 (14) For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. (15) And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again. (19) ...God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. (20) We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. (21) God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

# Christ's Resurrection

1 Corinthians 15 (3) For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, (4) that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, (5) and that he appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve. (6) After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. (7) Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, (8) and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born. (12) But if it is preached that Christ has been raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? (13) If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. (14) And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. (17) And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. (20) But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

## **Albert L. Roper** Graduate of University of Virginia Law School

Once began a thorough legal investigation into the evidence for the resurrection of Christ, asking himself: Can any intelligent person accept the Resurrection story? After examining the evidence, he came away asking a different question: Can any intelligent person deny the weight of this evidence?

## **Frank Morison** English Journalist

Viewed Christianity with disfavor, deciding that if he could prove Christ's resurrection was a mere myth, he could debunk all Christianity. He poured over the evidence, absorbing all the information he could and marshaling all his arguments. Not only was he unable to disprove the Resurrection, but he was compelled on the weight of the evidence to become a Christian himself. He wrote a book called, "Who Moved the Stone?" that is a powerful argument in favor of the Resurrection.

## **Josh McDowell** "Evidence that Demands a Verdict"

Took the challenge of other college students to intellectually examine the claims of Christ and the evidence supporting Christianity. After much study and research, he finally admitted that he could not refute the body of proof supporting Christianity. One of the major factors in his conversion was his inability to ignore the historical resurrection of Jesus Christ.

## **Lord Littleton and Gilbert West** English Jurist / Literary Scholar

Set out to disprove Christianity. They agreed that if Christianity was to be discredited, two things were necessary: to disprove the Resurrection and to explain the conversion of Saul of Tarsus in a way that satisfied skeptics. They invested over a year of their studies, then met together to compare notes. Each one was astonished to discover the other had become a Christian. The evidence was too strong, the truth too undeniable.

# Ben Hur: A Tale of the Christ

## How an Agnostic Inspired a Tale of the Christ

In 1876, after a conversation on a train with a well-known atheist, Col. Robert G. Ingersoll, Lew Wallace realized that he didn't know as much as he would like to about his own faith. (He attended the Methodist Church off and on throughout his life, but consider himself indifferent to religion.)

Ingersoll didn't mean to do it, but he goaded Lew into taking Christ seriously. Taking a train to Indianapolis one evening, Lew Wallace heard someone call his name. It proved to be the notorious agnostic Robert Ingersoll, who, as a colonel with the 11th Illinois Cavalry volunteers, had fought under General Wallace at Shiloh. Ingersoll invited Lew into his compartment to talk.



Lew claimed the right to choose the subject. His themes were all of a religious nature. He gave them to Ingersoll and here is Lew's description of what happened -- "He was in prime mood; and beginning, his ideas turned to speech, slowing like a heated river. His manner of putting things was marvelous; and as the Wedding Guest was held by the glittering eye of the Ancient Mariner, I sat spellbound, listening to a medley of argument, eloquence, wit, satire, audacity, irreverence, poetry, brilliant antitheses, and pungent excoriation of believers in God, Christ, and Heaven, the like of which I had never heard. He surpassed himself, and that is saying a great deal.

The speech was brought to an end by our arrival at the Indianapolis Central Station nearly two hours after its commencement. Upon alighting from the car, we separated, he to go to a hotel, and I to my brother's, a long way up northeast of town. The street-cars were at my service, but I preferred to walk, for I was in a confusion of mind not unlike dazement.

To explain this, it is necessary now to confess that my attitude with respect to religion had been one of absolute indifference. I had heard it argued times innumerable, always without interest. So, too, I had read the sermons of great preachers...but always for the surpassing charm of their rhetoric. But--how strange! To lift me out of my indifference, one would think only strong affirmations of things regarded holiest would do. Yet here was I now moved as never before, and by what? The most outright denials of all human knowledge of God, Christ, Heaven, and the Hereafter which figures so in the hope and faith of the believing everywhere. Was the Colonel right? What had I on which to answer yes or no? He had made me ashamed of my ignorance: and then--here is the unexpected of the affair--as I walked on in the cool darkness, I was aroused for the first time in my life to the importance of religion.

To write all my reflections would require many pages. I pass them to say simply that I resolved to study the subject . . . It only remains to say that I did as resolved. The novel was the result of seven years research and writing.. The results , first, the book Ben Hur, and second, a conviction amounting to absolute belief in God and the Divinity of Christ."

# Evidence for the Resurrection

**R**oman seal broken

**E**empty tomb except for grave cloths

**S**oldier gone

**U**nexplained massive stone moved

**R**adical change in 2 skeptics and 1 enemy

**R**epeated appearance over 40 days

**E**yewitnesses, 500 at once

**C**hange in day of worship

**T**ransformation of disciples



# **His Promises**

**I believe in His promises  
of forgiveness and eternal life  
in His kingdom to come for all  
who are reconciled to God through  
faith that follows Christ  
freely, fully, and forever.**

John 10 (27) My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.  
(28) I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand.

Acts 13 (38) "Therefore, my brothers, I want you to know that through Jesus the forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you. (39) Through him everyone who believes is justified from everything you could not be justified from by the law of Moses.