

# TOUGH QUESTIONS

Life Changing Answers

Is Jesus Christ Really  
the Son of God?

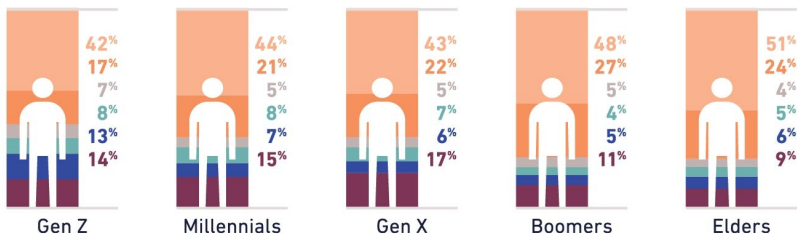
*April 01, 2018*

All across our country people are crying out for answers to some of life's toughest questions. Many individuals have turned to the church to seek these answers but sadly many churches are not providing the answers to these questions. The result is that we have entire generations that are turning away from the church and turning to worldly philosophies, false religions, and atheism. The Barna Group recently released these facts about the rise of atheism,

## U.S. Religious Identity 2018

Which of the following best describes your religious faith?

- Christian (non-Catholic)
- Catholic
- Other faith
- Agnostic
- Atheist
- None of these



Barna

The fastest growing generation of atheist is found among Generation Z, those born between 1999 and 2015. The second fastest growing group is the generation known as Millennials, born between 1984-1998. Why do we see an increase in generations turning away from the Lord? The answer is found in the details. These generations are looking for truth and cannot seem to find anything but analogies, stories, narratives, and philosophies. Carrie Dann reports the outcome of this trend stating, “One in five Americans (21%) say religion does not play an important role in their lives.”<sup>1</sup>

This new evidence reveals the important role that Christians have today as “Truth Bearers” and “Defenders of the Truth.” Many Christians are unable to give a reasonable response for the hope they have in Christ, but Peter reminds every Christian of our great responsibility,

**1 Peter 3:15** (ESV) – But in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect...

Even during the days of Peter, Christian truths and doctrines were being misunderstood or misrepresented, and he urged his readers to set the record straight—but to do so graciously and considerately. This series of sermons are designed to equip each Christian with the tools to confidently respond to “Life’s Tough Questions”

- Is Jesus Christ really the Son of God?
- Can you really trust the Bible?
- Why does God allow pain & suffering?
- Is there only one way to heaven?
- What is the purpose of my life?

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<sup>1</sup> Carrie Dann, “Losing Faith: 21% Say Religion ‘Not That Important.’” Downloaded April 14, 2014 from <http://www.nbcnews.com/politics/politics-news/losing-faith-21-percent-say-religion-not-important-n51256>

## Jesus Christ and the Resurrection

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The first question this series examines deals with the identity and witness of Jesus Christ and the resurrection. The first of Life's Tough Questions has eternal ramifications as we consider,

### Big Question – Is Jesus Christ really the Son of God?

There is extensive, compelling, and reliable evidence that proves that Jesus Christ is the Son of God as we look to the fact that only the one true God can rise from the dead after being placed in a tomb for three days and this truth changes everything for mankind. The evidence of the resurrection provides us with three truths regarding the identity and nature of Jesus Christ,

- Jesus Christ is the Son of God
- Jesus Christ rose from the Dead
- Jesus Christ is the Only Savior of Mankind

### Three Life Changing Realities About Jesus Christ

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#### Truth #1 – Jesus Christ is the Unique Son of God

The resurrection of Jesus Christ underscores the fact that He is the Unique Son of God for only God could accomplish such a miracle.

A.T. Pierson observed this truth about Jesus Christ,

He stands absolutely alone in history; in teaching, in example, in character, an exception, a marvel, and He is Himself the evidence of Christianity. He authenticates Himself.<sup>2</sup>

Many skeptics have tried to disprove the deity of Jesus Christ by claiming that he was just another good teacher, a good man, a good prophet but nothing more. This belief has a long history but still does not address the fact that a man that is just a “good teacher” could not rise from the dead. Only the Son of God can do that. The Bible and reliable eyewitness accounts reveal that Jesus Christ is the Unique Son of God.

#### Eyewitness Account #1 – God Proves It

- **Matthew 3:17** – And behold, a voice from heaven said, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.”

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<sup>2</sup> A. T. Pierson, *Many Infallible Proofs*, Vol. 2 (Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House), 48.

**Eyewitness Account #2 – Jesus Proves It**

- **Mark 14:61<sup>b</sup>-62<sup>a</sup>** – The high priest asked him, “Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?” And Jesus said, “I am...”

**Eyewitness Account #3 – Prophecy Proves It**

There are 456 prophecies about the Jesus Christ the Messiah in the Old Testament. Four specific prophecies about the death of Christ are shown as evidence in the chart below.

Description	Prophecy	Fulfillment
Betrayed by a Friend	Psalms 41:9	Matthew 10:4
Sold for 30 pieces of silver	Zechariah 11:12	Matthew 26:15
Crucified with thieves	Isaiah 53:12	Matthew 27:38
Buried in a rich man’s tomb	Isaiah 53:9	Matthew 27:57-60

Peter Stoner and Robert Newman demonstrate the statistical probability of any one man, accidentally or deliberately, fulfilling just eight of the hundreds of prophecies Jesus fulfilled. They demonstrate that the chance of this happening is 1 in 10<sup>17</sup> power.<sup>3</sup>

Jesus Christ is the unique Son of God as proven by history and Biblical evidence. Jesus presents this evidence to Nicodemus,

**John 3:16** – For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

**Truth #2 – Jesus Christ is the Risen Redeemer Who Conquered Death Forever**

The second truth deals with the evidence for the resurrection. The evidence of the resurrection proves that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, Savior of the World, and He is God in the flesh who paid the price for our sin.

<sup>3</sup> Peter Stoner and Robert Newman, *SCIENCE SPEAKS*(Chicago, IL: Moody, 1976), 106–107.



**What is the evidence?** We look at the eyewitness accounts for reliability. The Bible records many eyewitness accounts of the resurrected Christ. Norman Geisler & Frank Turek observe,

Peter, Paul, and John all claim to be eyewitnesses, and Luke and the writer of Hebrews claim to be informed by eyewitnesses. In addition, the New Testament writers name others who saw the Resurrection. Paul specifically lists 14 people whose names are known as eyewitnesses of the Resurrection (the 12 apostles, James, and himself) and claims that there were more than 500 others. Matthew and Luke confirm the appearances to the apostles. All four Gospels mention the women as witnesses, with Mark identifying them as Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome. Luke adds Joanna. That's four more. Acts 1 also reveals that Joseph called Barsabbas was an eyewitness (Acts 1:23).<sup>4</sup>

Not only do we have evidence from Biblical accounts but we also have reliable evidence from historical records as we turn our attention to the facts surrounding the resurrection.

### ***Biblical Eyewitness Evidence***

**Acts 1:3** – He presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.

**Acts 2:32** – This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses.

**1 Corinthians 15:3-7** –<sup>3</sup>For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures,<sup>4</sup> that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures,<sup>5</sup> and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve.<sup>6</sup> Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep.<sup>7</sup> Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles.

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<sup>4</sup> Norman L. Geisler and Frank Turek, *I Don't Have Enough Faith to Be an Atheist* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 2004), 253.

## Historical Evidence

Josephus, the famed Jewish historian, lived from A.D. 37 to 95. He records the death and resurrection of Jesus as a fact in *Jewish Antiquities* as he wrote,

Now, there was about this time Jesus, a wise man, if it be lawful to call him a man, for he was a doer of wonderful works—a teacher of such men as receive the truth with pleasure. He drew over to him both many of the Jews, and many of the Gentiles. He was [the] Christ; (64) and when Pilate, at the suggestion of the principal men amongst us, had condemned him to the cross, those that loved him at the first did not forsake him, for he appeared to them alive again the third day, as the divine prophets had foretold these and ten thousand other wonderful things concerning him; and the tribe of Christians, so named from him, are not extinct at this day.<sup>5</sup>

## Truth #3 – Jesus Christ is the One and Only Savior

The final truth that we examine is found in the evidence that shows that Jesus Christ is the One and Only Savior who has conquered death once and for all. The Apostle Paul observes,

**1 Corinthians 15:56-58** – <sup>56</sup> The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. <sup>57</sup> But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>58</sup> Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

Jesus Christ stands out among history as more than just a great man or a great teacher. He stands out because He is unique in the fact that He is the only Savior of the universe which proves that He is One with God the Father.

The evidence for this truth is found in Scripture as we look to the Old Testament and observe that God alone is the only Savior. The Lord declares in Isaiah,

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<sup>5</sup> Flavius Josephus and William Whiston, *The Works of Josephus: Complete and Unabridged* (Peabody: Hendrickson, 1987).

**Isaiah 43:11** – I am the Lord, and besides me there is no savior.

Fast forward to the New Testament and we find that God the Father and Jesus the Son both declare that Jesus Christ is the Savior of the world and one with the Father.

Consider the Biblical evidence that supports the fact that Jesus Christ is “God in the flesh.”

**Luke 2:11** – For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

**John 10:30** – I and the Father are one.

**John 8:58** – Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am.”

As the One and Only Savior of the world then we observe that it is only through Christ that we have victory over sin and death. This evidence brings us to the conclusion that is through Christ alone that we have eternal life. The Book of Acts records this truth as it states,

**Acts 4:12** - And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.

The Biblical and historical evidence gives us reasonable proof that Jesus Christ truly is the Son of God and Savior of the World. This evidence changes everything for mankind because it forces mankind to wrestle with these truths,

### **Victory is Found Only in Jesus Christ**

**1 Corinthians 15:57** – But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

## Our Sins are Forgiven Only through Jesus Christ

**John 1:29** – The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!

## Salvation is Found Only in Jesus Christ

**John 14:6** – Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

## Application for Life

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The evidence has been shown and each person must decide for themselves as to whether they reject or accept the truth about Jesus Christ and the resurrection. **Romans 14:12** reminds us, “So then each of us will give an account of himself to God.” What will you choose to do with the evidence that you have been shown regarding the identity of Jesus Christ?

Remind yourself that your responsibility, before the Lord, is to consistently apply the divine principles and truths you have discovered in the presentation of the Word of God.

## Questions to Consider

- What does the resurrection mean for mankind?
- How does the resurrection compel you to share the Gospel with others?
- What does it mean for Jesus Christ to be the One Way, Truth, and Life?

More information about this topic  
and a free download of this booklet can be found at

[www.TimLueking.Com](http://www.TimLueking.Com)