

# Plain Path

Weekly newsletter of the Fry Road church of Christ

Sunday, December 14, 2014

Volume 19, Number 50

“Teach me thy way, O Lord, and lead me in a plain path... Wait on the Lord; be of good courage, and He shall strengthen thine heart” (Psalm 27:11-14)

## THE RESURRECTION DECLARES ...

by Bob Pulliam

*“But also some women among us amazed us. When they were at the tomb early in the morning, and did not find His body, they came, saying that they had also seen a vision of angels, who said that He was alive. And some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just exactly as the women also had said; but Him they did not see.”*

(Luke 24:22-24)

I’VE NEVER SEEN SOMEONE RAISED FROM THE DEAD. Does that mean it has never happened? It is convenient for some to make that leap, but it doesn’t necessarily follow - logically. Having denied God, they think it is a logical conclusion; but they have denied the factor that makes it possible, reasonable, and likely! Did I say “likely”? Yes I did. It is likely if God exists, because it is the reasonable need for beings who have been created with purpose. If there is no resurrection, then we must ask, “What

was God thinking?”

Now what about the claim that Jesus was raised from the dead. There is no reason to doubt that someone like Jesus would be put to death. And put to death under the circumstances described in the gospels. It is the resurrection that causes trouble in the minds of so many, and so we must examine the possibilities for explaining the missing body. “The body was not missing”, you say? The claim (that the body was missing) must have been made to have instigated the stir

that was created by Christianity in the first century. To the most imminent of Bible critics the question is not, “Was the body missing?”... It is, “What happened to the body?” To this I agree. What did happen to the body of Jesus after His crucifixion? Here are the most plausible answers, evaluated for you:

The Authorities  
Removed the Body...

Some have theorized that either the Roman or Jewish leaders took the remains from the tomb before the women arrived on the first day of the week. But why would the Romans take the remains? They couldn’t have cared less about this matter (Mt 27:62 - 66). And even if they had, the temple guard, placed at the tomb, would have alerted the High Priest that this had happened. Whether the Jews or Romans took the body, the Jewish leaders would have come forward with

(Declare, continued on pg 2...)

Church of Christ • 2510 Fry Road • Houston, Texas 77084 - 5817

PHONE (281) 578-1897 • FAX (281) 578-2478 • E-MAIL: church@fryroad.org

WEB SITE: [www.fryroad.org](http://www.fryroad.org)

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the remains when Peter stood up on Pentecost and proclaimed Jesus raised from the dead. But the Jewish leaders never came forth to expose the “hoax”. Why? It was in their best interest to do so. The reason is simple: Because the body was missing!

### Joseph of Arimathea...

One theory suggests that Joseph of Arimathea removed the remains, and placed them in another tomb. The idea is that Joseph only placed Jesus’ body in a temporary resting place because of the Sabbath (Jn 19:31-42). After the Sabbath had ended, Joseph returned and moved the body to a permanent location.

My first question would be, “Why the hurry?” The women arrive at the tomb shortly after sunrise. When did Joseph move the body? It could not have been before sunset the evening before, because he would have been moving the body on the Sabbath. Did he do it in the middle of the night? Preposterous! In addition, Joseph obviously would have needed helpers to move the stone (weighing hundreds of pounds) and transport the body. He also would have needed the priest’s permission to get past the guards that had been set (Mt 27:62 - 66). Now you have Joseph, his helpers, the guards, and the leaders, all privy to this act; and yet not one of them came forward and produced the body in Acts 2 when Jesus’ resurrection was first publicly announced? Really? The leaders were powerless in Acts 4:15-18. Not one of them said, “Look in this tomb over here! We moved Jesus’ body to a permanent resting place!” They couldn’t because they hadn’t. The body was missing!

### Women At the Wrong Grave...

Another theory supposes that the women, who came to the tomb on the first day of the week (Jn 20:1), came to the wrong tomb. They found it empty and jumped to the natural conclusion that Jesus had made good on his promise to rise from the dead.

It seems unlikely that the women would have come to the wrong tomb when two of them had been looking on when Jesus was laid to rest (Mk 15:47). But even more important is the problem of a body still being where the leaders could produce it.

Once the disciples began making these “false” claims, the leaders could simply direct the multitudes to the correct tomb. The embarrassment for the disciples would have been insurmountable. But it wasn’t because the body was missing!

### Jesus Didn’t Really Die...

The most widely held theory is that Jesus never really died on the cross. He simply fainted to a near-death state. He revived in the cool of the tomb and came forth. He slipped past sleeping guards and appeared to his disciples.

Although this is regarded as the most “plausible” of all the theories, it falls into the realm of impossibility as the evidence is examined.

How could a man who couldn’t carry a cross (Mt 27:32) move a stone weighing several hundred pounds? His hands and feet had been nailed, and His side thrust through with a Roman spear. How are we supposed to conclude that this man was in a better condition after crucifixion than He was before He had been nailed to a cross.

Tombs in the first century were built to keep the stench in (Jn 1 1:39), and the only way to do that was keep the air out. If Jesus had been alive in the tomb, he didn’t have much air to work with.

If Jesus had managed the impossible, and moved the stone; how did he get past the guards? Moving a massive rock up an incline is no silent act (keep in mind that He would have been pushing it aside by the friction of sliding it sideways with His nailed hands).

(Declare, continued on pg 3...)

## THIS WEEK'S DAILY BIBLE READINGS

### NEW TESTAMENT READING

REVELATION 1 - 3

December 14 - 16

### OLD TESTAMENT READING

PSALMS 69 - 80

December 17 - 20

I TIMOTHY 4:13

# FAMILY NEWS & NOTES

*News and Notes of Interest  
to Fry Road Members*

Because of the large number of visitors to our services, we would ask those wishing to identify with the congregation to do so by expressing this interest directly to the elders.

## Upcoming Meetings & Events:

**Gospel Meeting (Dee Bowman)**  
January 11 - 14, 2015

**Gospel Meeting (Carl McMurray)**  
April 12 - 15, 2015

**V.B.S.**  
June 21 - 25, 2015

**Annual Singing**  
September 12, 2015

**Gospel Meeting (Jim Deason)**  
September 13 - 16, 2015

## Sick and Shut-Ins

*Sections have been removed to preserve members' privacy*

## Sermons:

### Next Sunday:

Jesus Christ:  
Man of Action

### Tonight:

You Can Do All Things!

(Declare, continued from pg 2...)

If the guards had been sleeping (which is difficult to believe about superstitious Romans at a grave site), Jesus would have awakened them with the sounds of stone scraping stone, and little stone pebbles bursting as the stone ran over them.

And why weren't those guards executed? That was standard pol-

icy (Acts 12:18 & 19). Instead the guards were bribed to say that the disciples had stolen the body while they slept. Something impossible for them to confess. For had it been the truth, they would have been executed! And why didn't they conduct a search for the "heretic"? Why wasn't Jesus returned to the cross and executed in accordance with the original sentence? It's really very simple. The body was missing!

## Conclusion...

As amazing as it may seem, these are the best theories that man can devise to explain away the resurrection. They are futile attempts to excuse selfish people from accountability to God. These Have vain motives for not wanting the resurrection accounts to be true. But what motives did the disciples have for their story? Was it riches?... Which one of the apostles became a millionaire? Was it power?... Which of the apostles escaped persecution and humiliation? Was it glory?... Which of the apostles ever saw glory before his death? There's only one other explanation for why these men did what they did... The body was missing! And it was missing because Jesus was raised from the dead. They knew this because they were witnesses of His life after His death (Jn 21).

And why did multitude believe this seemingly incredible tale? Because they had witnessed the miracles of Jesus and the events surrounding the crucifixion. It made perfect sense when all the facts were put in place, and they considered that the body was Missing.



# FOR THE RECORD

## WEEKLY ASSIGNMENTS

## MONTHLY ASSIGNMENTS

Sections have been removed to preserve members' privacy

IN KEEPING WITH OUR LONG STANDING AGREEMENT, THOSE SERVING PUBLICLY ARE REMINDED TO PLEASE DRESS IN A MANNER RESPECTFUL OF THE GOD WHOM WE SERVE.

### ELDERS:

Ruben Amador  
Matthew Heaton  
Donnie Mangrum  
Steven Martin  
Steve Voss



### DEACONS:

John Coleman	Ken Dunsmore
David Ellison	Ray Farrell
Aubrey Garner	Steve Geraci
Steve LaGrasta	John Light
Mike McMurray	Jason Mock
David Stevenson	Glenn Tomblin

### TIMES OF SERVICES

Sunday Bible Classes	9:30 AM
Sunday Morning Assembly	10:30 AM
Sunday Evening Assembly	6:00 PM
Wednesday Bible Classes	7:30 PM

### EVANGELIST & EDITOR:

Bob Pulliam                      bob@fryroad.org