#### What is Truth

Courtroom

Law

#### What is Truth

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"I am the way, the truth, and the life"

Joh 10:17 ''Therefore My Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again. Joh 10:18 No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This command I have received from My Father."

#### **John 2: 18 - 22**

Law

THEY BELIEVED Countroom

### Our Belief in God Rests in the Knowledge of Christ's Resurrection

Faith

121

### Heb 11:1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

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# **EVIDENCE OF THINGS NOT** COSEENCOOM



A Topic of recent discussion in movies and books

POOL

"Blairs people hence my Arend David Lindsmaph as a bestelling author and p date al commentation. But he is also a langue trained to analyze explorate—and in Jean on Tool be presiden his juncted (survey) to the best of the Bohis A function bush?"

DAVID

LIMBAUGH

-SEAN MANNETY

JESUS ON TRIAL A LAWYER AFFIRMS THE TRUTH OF THE GOSPEL Just came out this past week. A lawyer puts the Truth on Trial

THE CONTRACTOR

### Innocent until proven Guilty...

What is the standard used in the courtrooms of America today?

COUPEDROOM

# Innocent until proven Guilty...

EVIDENCE THAT WOULD LEAD A REASONABLE PERSON TO CONCLUDE BEYOND A REASONABLE DOUBT THE GUILT OF THE ONE ACCUSED

CONFIDENCI

## Is the standard fair? Is it properly applied?

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#### What is Gods Standard?

COUPIDPOOM

God's Law... In the presence of two or three witnesses a matter as important as life or death is determined... **Deu 17:6** At the mouth of two witnesses or three witnesses shall he that is worthy of death be put to death. At the mouth of one witness he shall not be put to death.

#### God then concludes for us that an <u>eye witness</u> <u>account</u> carries with it a great deal of weight.

Courtroom

### Evidence...

Courtroom

Law

\*Everyone of us - if converted - have made a decision of life or death? \*What proof did we require? \*Was our conclusion sound, based upon the facts? \*Or could we have drawn our conclusions blindly? \*Have we been deceived? Or...

### Faith...

Heb 11:1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

## **Faith..**

Heb 11:6 But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

# Did we walk in the days of Jesus the Christ?

Did we see the miracles He performed?

Did we witness His death and resurrection?

### **Do these Eye Witness** accounts exist? **Can they be proven to** be true? COUPEDROOM

La V

Can they, when examined closely, lead any reasonable person to conclude beyond any reasonable doubt that their claims were true and their testimony sure. OUPTPOOL

Lets do exactly that. Lets examine closely the Biblical Eye Witness accounts. We are all reasonable people. Do they lead us to conclude beyond any reasonable doubt that their claims were true and their testimony sure.

# Acts 26:16 1Corinthians 15

The foundation of all that we believe in, all that we hold fast to and the future we all hope for, RESTS clearly upon one fact. That Jesus the Christ not only lived, but as the Son of God he died and rose again on the third day just as we read in scripture.

### **Evidence...** Are there any witnesses to talk to? Some claim the gospel accounts to be fabrications.

We base our entire lives upon the fact that He lived and died, and that He rose from the dead. **Did Jesus of Nazareth live and of greater importance, was He God?** 

> CAN THIS BE PROVED? "BEYOND A REASONABLE DOUBT"

# PERPONDERANCE

#### **OF EVEDENCE**

**"BEYOND A REASONABLE DOUBT"** 

### **History...** Flavius Josephus-93 AD

"Now there was about this time Jesus, a wise man, for he was a doer of wonderful works, a teacher of such men as receive truth with pleasure. He drew over to him both many of the Jews, and many Gentiles. And when Pilate, at the suggestion of the principle men amongst us, had condemned him to the cross, those that loved him at the first did not forsake him. And the tribe of Christians, so named from him, are not extinct at this date.

#### History **Tacitus** 115-117 AD A Roman Historian "They got their name from Christ, who was executed by sentence of the procurator Pontius Pilate in the reign of Tiberius. That checked the pernicious superstition for a short time, but it broke out a fresh not only in Judea, where the plague first arose, but in Rome itself, where all the horrible and shameful things in the world collect and find a home."

# **Sanhedrin 43a** 200-500 AD

"On the eve of the Passover Yeshu (the Talmudic designation for Jesus) was hanged. 'He is going forth to be stoned because he has practiced sorcery and enticed Israel to apostasy.' Any one who can say anything in his favor, let him come forward and plead on his behalf. But since nothing was brought forward in his favor he was hanged (on a tree) on the eve of Passover!"

### Modern Day Historians...

Greco Roman historian Michael Grant, indicates there is more evidence for the existence of Jesus than there are for many famous pagan personages.

James Charlesworth "Jesus did exist; and we know more about him than about almost any Palestinian Jew before 70 ad.

Modern Day Historians... Stated in response to a scholarly attempt to argue Christ was a created myth... "The alternative thesis is that within thirty years there had evolved such a coherent and consistent complex of traditions about a non-existent figure such as we have in the sources of the **Gospels is just too implausible.** 

**Modern Day Historians...** It involves too many complex and speculative hypotheses, in contrast to the much simpler explanation that there was a Jesus who said and did more or less what the first three gospels attribute to him Harvey Bluedorn; **Author of Ancient History from Primary** Sources

# La vHistory...

#### Facts to enter into evidence.

- 1. That Jesus Lived
- 2. That he was crucified
- 3. That he was considered Dead
- 4. He was buried in a known and accessible tomb.
- 5. He preached he would be raised in three days.

#### Facts to enter into evidence.

6. Jewish leaders needed to disprove this.

7. The disciples were persecuted.

8. The tomb was empty

We have not entered as evidence that He was resurrected.

# Several Theories

The Disciples stole the body... The Jewish leaders stole the body... Roman leaders stole the body... The woman went to the wrong tomb... Christ was revived, not really dead... The disciples all collectively lied... IT IS ALL TRUE...

#### **Several Theories** The Disciples stole the body... Mat 27:62-66 Sealed and guarded The Jewish leaders stole the body... Earthquake moves the Mat 28:11-15 stone and the guards are bribed...

**Roman leaders stole the body...**
**Several Theories** The woman went to the wrong tomb... Mat 27:57-62 Well known tomb... Christ was revived, not really dead... The disciples all collectively lied... John 20:2-9 **IT IS ALL TRUE** 

# Several Theories

The Disciples stole the body... The Jewish leaders stole the body... Roman leaders stole the body... The woman went to the wrong tomb... Christ was revived, not really dead... The disciples all collectively lied... IT IS ALL TRUE...

## La W A Startling alternative...

The Disciples either made the story up to save face and the whole thing is a lie, OR...

## They're telling what they truly experienced as honest men!



#### A Crucial Point in our Christian Faith

Were these Disciples the witnesses we draw evidence from today, honest men telling what they saw, or conspirators who concocted a lie to save face... **Today we discuss the most** compelling reason to believe "Beyond a reasonable doubt"

We can rely on the **Disciples eyewitness** accounts based upon two irrefutable proofs... Price Paid

They died alone

## Price Paid...

You don't pay the price these men paid for a lie...

All of them, except John, died a martyr's death; **Mark** drug to death by horses for what he taught; **James** the brother of Jesus, was cast down from the pinnacle of a temple and then when discovered he was not dead and was clubbed to death;

#### Price Paid...

James the son of Zebedee was beheaded; **Bartholomew was beaten to death by whips;** Jude the other brother to Christ was shot to death by arrows refusing to deny his faith; **Barnabus stoned to death; Paul tortured and** then beheaded; Mathias stoned and beheaded; Matthew killed by the sword in Ethiopia; Luke hung by idolatrous priests. All these men paid the ultimate price.

Price Paid... **Evidence...** Would any one of these men have paid this ultimate price for a lie. Possibly! But not all of them to the very last one, save John.

#### They Died Alone...

#### The Litmus test...

•Who would know if they changed their story
•So much easier to admit to the lie than be whipped to death or stoned or beaten and beheaded.

•They could have claimed they were confused.

**They Died Alone...** They did none of these. Instead they continued to preach what they had committed their lives to with the full knowledge of who and what Jesus was. The promised Messiah, the Son of the Living Great God. They are the witnesses we can safely hold to their testimony.

### **They Died Alone...**

Their lives and their deaths are the evidence needed to prove our case beyond a reasonable doubt!

There are 18 New Testament accounts where the disciples describe the appearances of our Savior and His teachings after His crucifixion.

#### **They Died Alone...**

By their testimony our faith is secure. The evidence of things not seen can clearly be deduced if we take the time to look.

#### John 20:29

Jesus said to him, Thomas, because you have seen Me you have believed. Blessed *are* they who have not seen and have believed.

Joh 20:30 And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book.

Joh 20:31 But these are written so that you might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you might have life in His name.

From the news last week – a 1500 plus year old document discovered. They are calling it the "Last Supper papyrus"



