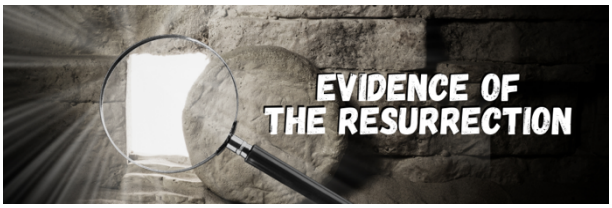

The One Empty Tomb that Matters!

March 26, 2023 – Acts 2:14-31
Pastor Jon Pickens

Why Is the Resurrection Critical to Christianity?

1. If the resurrection were not true, then there is no reason to **believe** that the claims of Jesus are true.

2. If the resurrection were not true, then there would be no **hope** of our resurrection.

3. If the resurrection were not true, then Christianity doesn't **exist**.

How Do You Explain the Empty Tomb?

1. Theory #1: Jesus' disciples came and stole the body.

2. Theory #2: Jesus just appeared to be dead at the crucifixion.

3. Theory #3: Joseph of Arimathea buried Jesus in his own tomb, but later took His body and buried it elsewhere.

Main Point: The **best** and most **reasonable** explanation for the empty tomb is that Jesus actually did rise from the dead.

What Does this Mean for Us?

1. It means that Jesus is truly the **Son** of **God**.

2. It means we have reason to **hope** in times of suffering and heartache.

3. It means that death is **defeated** and God's promise of eternal life can be trusted.

4. It means we truly are new **creations** in Christ.

5. It means that we have reason to **celebrate** and **worship**!

Discussion Questions:

1. Why do you think people are so resistant to the idea of the resurrection of Jesus?
2. How does the reality of the resurrection impact your own daily walk with the Lord?
3. What does it mean for the follower of Jesus to be a new creation in Christ?
4. Read Colossians 3:1-17. What observations do you make about the implications of being raised with Christ?
5. What tangible things can you do to remind you of your identity in the risen Jesus?
6. What action are you going to do as a result of the message?

Next Steps:

1. If you would like to become a follower of Jesus, please let us know. Pastor Jon will be in the room behind the Welcome Center after the service.
2. If you are interested in baptism, let Pastor Jon know in person or email him at pj@fbclowell.org.
3. Consider joining an elective. They meet most Sundays at 11am.
4. Read the Bible with us to know God and respond to Him! Below is our current schedule.

March 2023

(Two Year Reading Plan, Month 15)

Week 1 Starting March 6	Week 2 Starting March 13	Week 3 Starting March 20	Week 4 Starting March 27
Day 1: Amos 8-9	Day 1: Nahum 1-3	Day 1: Zechariah 6-8	Day 1: 1 Chronicles 10-11
Day 2: Obadiah	Day 2: Habakkuk 1-3	Day 2: Zechariah 9-11	Day 2: 1 Chronicles 12-14
Day 3: Jonah 1-4	Day 3: Zephaniah 1-3	Day 3: Zechariah 12-14	Day 3: 1 Chronicles 15-16
Day 4: Micah 1-4	Day 4: Haggai 1-2	Day 4: Malachi 1-2	Day 4: 1 Chronicles 17-18
Day 5: Micah 5-7	Day 5: Zechariah 1-5	Day 5: Malachi 3-4	Day 5: 1 Chronicles 19-20

[36] When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.
[37] Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few;
[38] therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."

Matt 9:36-38 (ESV)

What are you going to do as a result of the message this morning?