

# Why Easter Matters

## 1 Corinthians 15:3-8

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### 3 questions:

1. What is Easter?
2. How do we know Easter is true?
3. Why does Easter matter?



## 1 Corinthians 15:3-8

*<sup>3</sup>“For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, <sup>4</sup>and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, <sup>5</sup>and that He appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. <sup>6</sup>After that He appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time, most of whom remain until now, but some have fallen asleep; <sup>7</sup>then He appeared to James, then to all the apostles; <sup>8</sup>and last of all, as to one untimely born, He appeared to me also.”*

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## 6 bits of evidence for Easter

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2. No one could produce Jesus' dead body.
3. Jesus' tomb had been guarded by Roman soldiers.

## 6 bits of evidence for Easter

4. Jesus appeared to many people after His death.

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## 6 bits of evidence for Easter

4. Jesus appeared to many people after His death.
5. Jesus appeared strong and well after His death.

*“The soldier would use a whip of braided leather thongs with metal balls woven into them. When the whip would strike the flesh, those balls would cause deep bruises or contusions, which would break open with further blows. And the whip had pieces of sharp bone as well, which would cut the flesh severely.”*

*“The back would be so shredded that part of the spine was sometimes exposed by the deep, deep cuts. The whipping would have gone all the way from the shoulders down to the back, the buttocks, and the back of the legs. It was terrible.”*

*“We know that many people would die from this kind of beating even before they could be crucified. Because of the terrible effects of this beating, there is no question that Jesus was already in serious to critical condition even before the nails were driven through his hands and feet” (Dr. Alexander Metherell)*

*“It is impossible that a person who had snuck out half-dead from a grave, who crept about weak and ill, needing medical treatment, who required bandaging, strengthening, and care, and who still at last had yielded to his sufferings, could have given to the disciples the impression that he was a Conqueror over death and the grave, the Prince of Life, an impression which lay at the bottom of their subsequent ministry.”*

*“Such a resuscitation would only have weakened the impression which He had made upon them in life and in death and could by no possibility have changed their sorrow into enthusiasm or elevated their reverence into worship” (David Strauss)*

## 6 bits of evidence for Easter

4. Jesus appeared to many people after His death.
5. Jesus appeared strong and well after His death.
6. Jesus' followers were willing to die proclaiming His resurrection.



## How Christ's followers died

James: Sword

Peter: Crucified

Andrew: Crucified

Thomas: Stabbed,  
burned alive

Philip: Crucified

Matthew: Beheaded

Nathanael: Flayed,  
crucified

Simon: Crucified

Paul: Beheaded

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