



WORDS FROM
Pastor Randy

Christianity actually rises or falls upon the fact of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Remove the resurrection from the story of Jesus and all that's left is another dead religion that is helpless and hopeless to make any real difference in the lives of people. There is no good news if Jesus is still dead!

Dr. Billy Graham once told TIME magazine, "If I were an enemy of Christianity, I would aim right at the resurrection, because that is the heart of Christianity."

Thomas Jefferson once attempted to do just that. He became totally engrossed with all of the miracles that are recorded in the four gospels. He decided to remove the miraculous from the story and edited his own version of the Scriptures in a book called The Jefferson Bible. Sadly, it ends with the words, "*Now in the place where He was crucified, there was a garden; and in the garden a new sepulcher, wherein was never man yet laid. There laid Jesus and rolled a great stone to the door of the sepulcher, and departed.*" While these statements are part of the story of Jesus, they are certainly not the last words! His burial was not the final chapter.

There is a grave near the old city wall of Jerusalem that was unearthed by General Christian Gordon in the late 1800's. It is solid rock and has a channel for a rolling stone. It measures 14 feet wide, 10 feet deep, and is 7½ feet high. It has been named "Gordon's Tomb" and is believed by many to be the place where they laid the body of Jesus. It has been visited by literally millions of people, not because of who's in the tomb, but because of who's not in the tomb.

A missionary in Northern India reported the following story. He said that after preaching one day, a Muslim gentleman walked up to him and said, "You must admit we have one thing you have not, and it is better than anything you have." The missionary said, "I should be pleased to hear what it is." The Muslim answered, "You know when we go to Mecca we at least find a coffin. But when you Christians go to Jerusalem, which is your Mecca, you find nothing but an empty grave."

Hallelujah for the empty grave!

. . . His cross is still empty and so is His tomb!

See you Easter Sunday morning!

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