



No Pity Necessary

1 Corinthians 15:19



John 20:1-18



The Virgin Birth, the Resurrection, the raising of Lazarus, even the Old Testament miracles, all are freely used for religious propaganda, and they are very effective with an audience of unsophisticates and children.

Richard Dawkins

Bart Ehrman:

“What about the resurrection of Jesus? I’m not saying it didn’t happen; but if it did happen, it would be a miracle. The resurrection claims are claims that not only say that Jesus’ body came back alive; it came back alive never to die again. That’s a violation of what naturally happens, every day, time after time, millions of times a year. What are the chances of that happening? Well, it’d be a miracle. In other words, it’d be so highly improbable that we can’t account for it by natural means.”

If the resurrection of Jesus cannot be believed except by assenting to the fantastic descriptions included in the Gospels, then Christianity is doomed. For that view of resurrection is not believable, and if that is all there is, then Christianity, which depends upon the truth and authenticity of Jesus' resurrection, also is not believable.

— *John Shelby Spong* —

Is it really that important?

1 Corinthians 15:19

19 If we have hoped in Christ in this life only, we are of all men most to be pitied.



This Morning

I want to consider the amazing
truth:

**Because He is Risen,
You are Raised to Life**



C.S. Lewis

“The New Testament writers speak as if Christ’s achievement in rising from the dead was the first event of its kind in the whole history of the universe. He is the ‘first fruits,’ the ‘pioneer of life,’ He has forced open a door that has been locked since the death of the first man. He has met, fought, and beaten the King of Death. Everything is different because He has done so.”



Fulfillment of Isaiah 25:8

8 He will swallow up death for all time, And the Lord God will wipe tears away from all faces, And He will remove the reproach of His people from all the earth; For the Lord has spoken.

1 Corinthians 15:1-2

1 Now I make known to you,
brethren, **the gospel** which I
preached to you, which also you
received, in which also you stand, 2
by which also you are saved, if you
hold fast the word which I
preached to you, unless you
believed in vain.

The Gospel Defined (15:3-4)

3 For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures



**The Resurrection Is
Foundational to the
Gospel.**

Do We Believe an Impotent Gospel?

- 1 Corinthians 15:17 –

“and if Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins”



A Promise: John 6:39-40

39 This is the will of Him who sent Me, that of all that He has given Me I lose nothing, but raise it up on the last day. 40 For this is the will of My Father, that everyone who beholds the Son and believes in Him will have eternal life, and I Myself will raise him up on the last day.”

Turn to

Ephesians 1:18-2:7





Isn't This A New Idea?

Is the Resurrection
visible in the OT?



Genesis 50:25

25 Then Joseph made the sons of Israel swear, saying, “God will surely take care of you, and you shall carry my bones up from here.”



Psalm 16:10-11

10 For You will not abandon my soul to Sheol; Nor will You allow Your Holy One to undergo decay. 11 You will make known to me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; In Your right hand there are pleasures forever.

Psalm 49:15

15 But God will redeem
my soul from the power of
Sheol, For He will receive
me.



Psalm 71:20

20 You who have shown me
many troubles and distresses
Will revive me again, And will
bring me up again from the
depths of the earth.

Psalm 73:23-24

23 Nevertheless I am continually
with You; You have taken hold of
my right hand. 24 With Your
counsel You will guide me, And
afterward receive me to glory.



Job 19:25-27a

25 “As for me, I know that my
Redeemer lives, And at the last He
will take His stand on the earth. 26
“Even after my skin is destroyed,
Yet from my flesh I shall see God;
27 Whom I myself shall behold,
And whom my eyes will see and not
another.

Isaiah 26:19

19 Your dead will live; Their
corpses will rise. You who lie in
the dust, awake and shout for
joy, For your dew is as the dew
of the dawn, And the earth will
give birth to the departed
spirits.

Daniel 12:2

2 Many of those who sleep in the dust of the ground will awake, these to everlasting life, but the others to disgrace and everlasting contempt.

If Resurrection is Impossible

**Then the resurrection of Jesus
Christ is a fiction.**

**If He did not rise, the apostles'
preaching rested on a lie, and
consequently our faith has been
in vain and entirely misplaced.**

Simply put, we have NO hope.

How Often

**Do You Consider The
Resurrection And Its
Impact On You?**

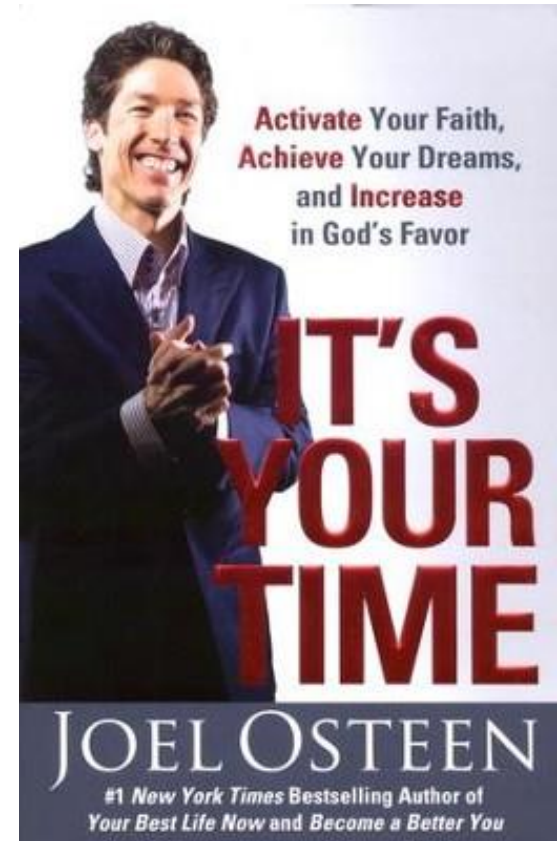
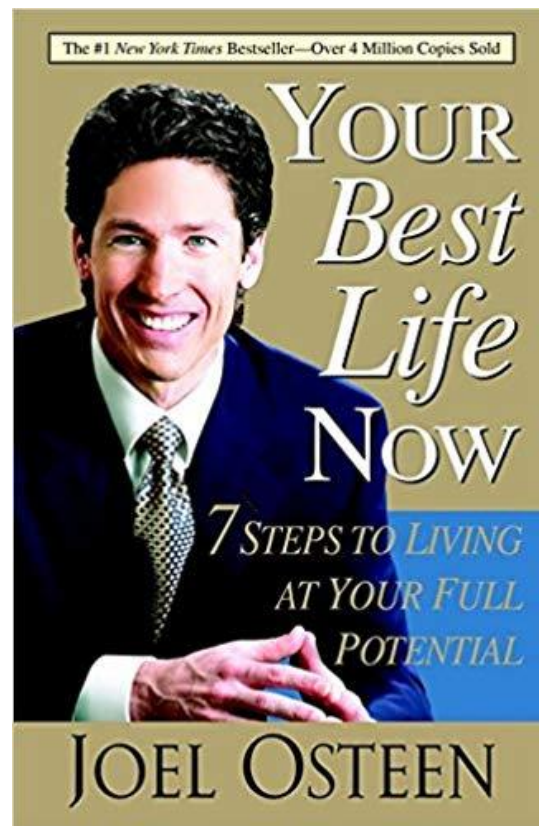
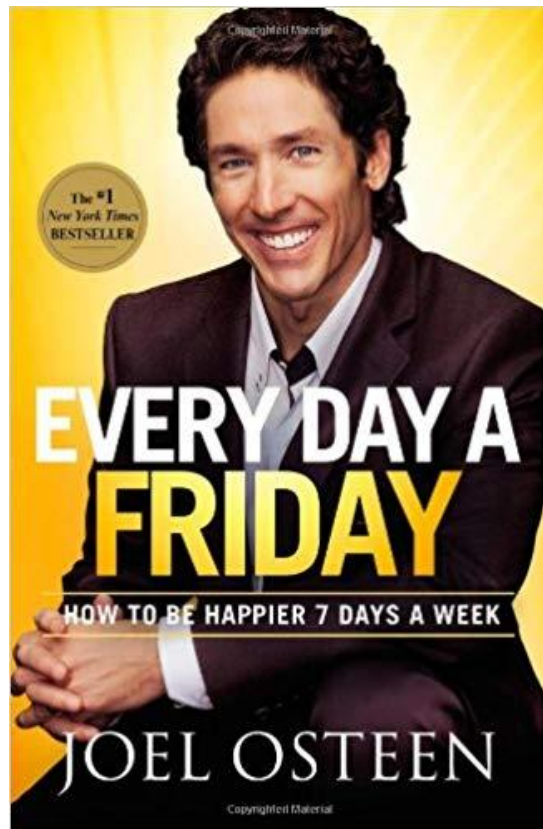


We make time for what we truly value. We build habits and routines around the things that really matter to us. This is an important principle to understand as we seek to build our lives around the gospel. Do you want a cross centered life? A cross centered life is made up of cross centered days.

C. J. Mahaney

“ quote fancy





Modern “Christian Living”

Hundreds of Christians killed in Nigeria attacks

Posted: 2:07 PM, Mar 19, 2019 **Updated:** 2:10 PM, Mar 19, 2019

By: Scripps National



From February through mid-March, as many as 280 people in Christian communities in northern and middle Nigeria were killed in attacks.

Islamic [Hausa-Fulani militants](#) and Boko Haram continue to attack Christians in the country — in 2018, there were thousands killed.

The Persecuted Church

- 800,000 Christians were targeted for their faith and martyred in the Democratic Republic of Congo between 1998 and 2007, in the time surrounding their civil war (*World Christian Database*).
- Roughly 50,000 Christians were martyred during the North-South Sudan violence that officially ended in 2003 (*World Christian Database*).
- By January 2017, Boko Haram had destroyed more than 900 northeastern Nigeria churches. (*ICC, Persecution, April 2017*).

The Persecuted Church

- An estimated 700,000 Christians were killed in North Korean prison camps between 1948 and 1987 (*Crimson Crucible*).
- Roughly 3000 Christians were killed in China between 2000 and 2007 (*BosNewsLife*).
- By the year 2000, roughly 10,000 ethnic minority, Burmese Christians were targeted and killed by the armed forces in Myanmar (*World Christian Database*).

Paul Can Speak To This

**Look at
1 Corinthians 4:9-13**



2 Corinthians 11:23-28

23 Are they servants of Christ?—I speak as if insane—I more so; in far more labors, in far more imprisonments, beaten times without number, often in danger of death. 24 Five times I received from the Jews thirty-nine lashes. 25 Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was stoned, three times I was shipwrecked, a night and a day I have spent in the deep. 26 I have been on frequent journeys, in dangers from rivers, dangers from robbers, dangers from my countrymen, dangers from the Gentiles, dangers in the city, dangers in the wilderness, dangers on the sea, dangers among false brethren; 27 I have been in labor and hardship, through many sleepless nights, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure. 28 Apart from such external things, there is the daily pressure on me of concern for all the churches.

The Fact of the Matter

Throughout history, believers have sacrificed a great deal to follow Christ.

They have lost families, friends, jobs, homes, and even their lives.

Without the Resurrection, the Christian life would prove to be doubly-miserable.

If There is No Resurrection

The skeptics, scoffers, and pagans are right.

The “foolishness of the Cross” is just that, and men such as Paul and the apostles who have suffered for the gospel can only be pitied.

This life is all there is and those who lived for the pleasure of the moment would be right, and the sacrifices of Christians would only be cruel, self-inflicted jokes.

1 Corinthians 15:32b

“If the dead are not raised,
let us eat and drink, for
tomorrow we die.”





Simply Put:

If we have no future, then
consequently, we have no
past or present either.



A Hopeless Existence

- **Ephesians 2:12** – “remember that you were at that time separate from Christ, excluded from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.”
- **1 Thessalonians 4:13** – “But we do not want you to be uninformed, brethren, about those who are asleep, so that you will not grieve as do the rest who have no hope.”

Furthermore

**What would such a scenario say
about God?**

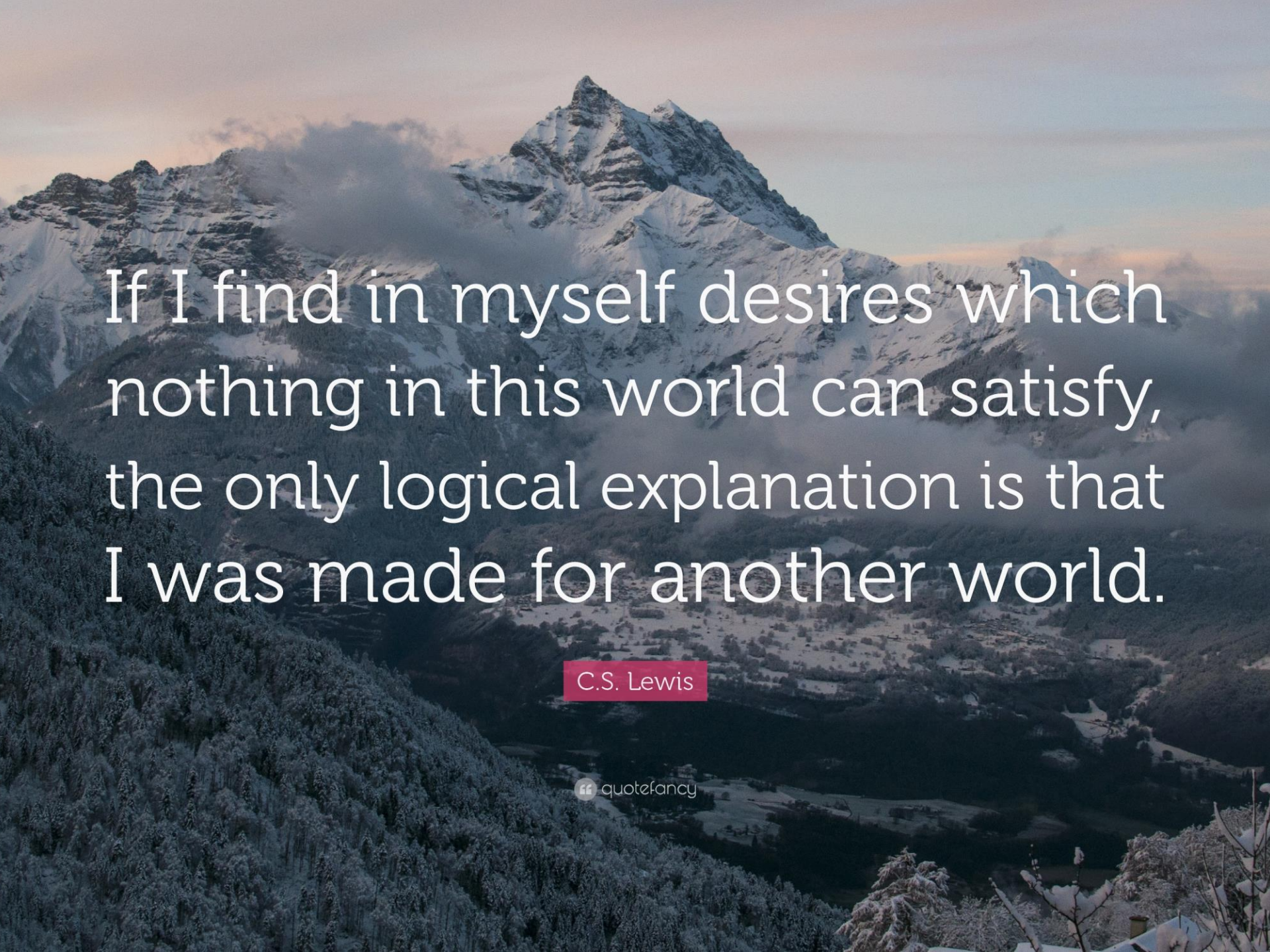
His Son?

His Word?



One Commentator said:

“If human life, redeemed by Christ, be limited to this world, God has committed a cruel mistake in creating man. The greatness of man becomes a terrible charge against God. He has created appetites which He cannot satisfy, excited hopes which must perish, built a great ship and must destroy it because He cannot create a sea in which it can float. What would be thought of a man who built a splendid chariot and could not get it out of the workshop? A man believes in Christ, and so becomes identified with all that is known of purity, joy, and hope. He rejects the promises of the world; he gets all that the world can give and finds that it is a stone, not bread; his whole life becomes a hunger after something higher.”



If I find in myself desires which
nothing in this world can satisfy,
the only logical explanation is that
I was made for another world.

C.S. Lewis

quote fancy

Turn to

Philippians 3:7-11



“Blessed Assurance”

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine

O what a foretaste of glory
divine

Heir of salvation, purchase of
God

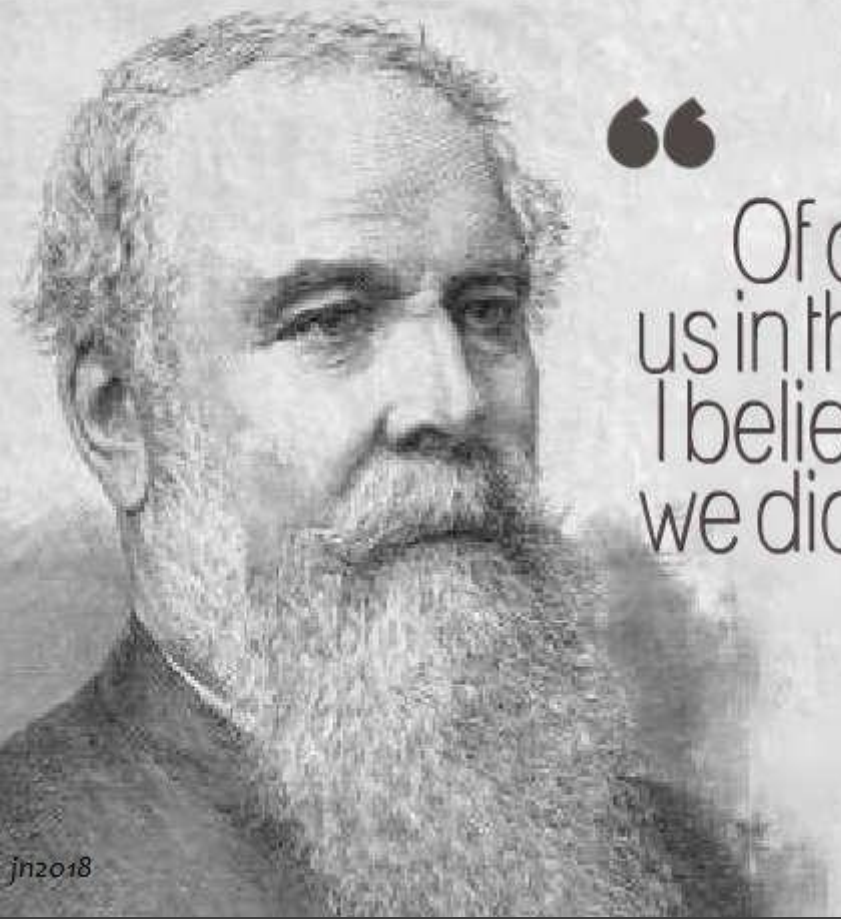
Born of His Spirit, washed in
His blood

Now, Let's Read:

1 Corinthians 15:50-58

(And remember Isaiah 25:8)





“

Of all the things that will surprise us in the resurrection morning, this I believe will surprise us most: that we did not love Christ more before we died!

”

J.C. RYLE

