

University Heights Church
of Christ
445 Columbia Ave.,
Lexington, KY 40508
(859) 255-6257
www.uheightschurch.com

WORSHIP SERVICES

Sunday

Bible Study: 9:45 AM

Worship: 10:45 AM; 6:00 PM

Wednesday

Bible Study: 7:30 PM (This is
immediately followed by a
short worship period)

First Friday of Each Month

Singing: 7:30 PM

LEADERSHIP

Elders

David Collins
John Thompson
Troy Antle

Evangelist

Adam Litmer

Deacons

Richard Brundige
Matt Thompson
Adam Litmer
Bill Morelan
Jim Parsons
Pat Seabolt
Adam Daniels
Jamie Powell

IN NEED OF PRAYERS

Larry Billator (*having trouble with his hearing*) The Daniels' family, Julie Patton, Karen Spivey, Rick Small, Jeff Howerton, Rhonda Boyd (and her sister, Dorothy), Louis Harrod (*Baptist Health, room 642 at time of writing. Shirley greatly appreciates visits*), Paul Atkisson, Brianna Ratliff, Julia-Ann Dixon, Ed Allison, Dwight Antle, The Bays and Robbins family, Keia Burton, Robert Brundige, Valerie and Barry Boyd, Janett's mother, Sandy Driver, Erlene Young, Larry Sells, Evelyn Damron, Jean Gartland, John Blessing, William Roberts, Paul Lyda, Pete Soro, Jamie Powell's father, Harleigh Spartman, Mattie Johnson, Elijah Epling, Leland Wells, Linda Moore, Sheila Johnson, Virginia Gordon

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“You Can’t Use The Bible To Prove The Bible” 3

Adam Litmer

My prayer is that this short series of articles has encouraged and emboldened you to better handle the above assertion. It is built upon faulty premises and unfair bias. When the Bible is held up to the same standards by which all other ancient historical documents are measured it does not simply hold its own, it exceeds them in every measurable way. The verified accuracy of the Bible's recorded history is simply astounding. Only stubbornness and dishonesty continue to deny what is so easily verified.

At the heart of the gospel message is the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Paul stated, *But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised...And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins...If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied.* (1 Corinthians 15:13, 17, 19) In another place, the same apostle stated *Jesus was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead.* (Romans 1:4) If the resurrection is not true, if Jesus is still lying in a grave somewhere, the religion of Jesus Christ crumbles.

The final objection we wish to consider in this series is built upon the same faulty premises as the others. It is said, “You cannot take the word of the apostles and disciples as evidence for the resurrection because they believed in it and were very passionate about it. They were biased in favor of the resurrection.”

Of the objections considered in this series this one is the most absurd. It not only unfairly stacks the deck against the Bible, but completely crumbles when considered logically and applied to *anything* else. The first logical fallacy is that nonbelievers are in a better position to verify a thing than believers. We need not limit this to the resurrection. Are those who refuse to believe the earth is round deserving of more consideration than those who confess that it is simply because they disbelieve? If they *did* confess that the earth was round than they would be believers and, according to this reasoning, disqualify their testimony. That’s silly.

But what of the “bias of the believers”? Webster’s defines the word in this way: “a particular tendency or inclination, esp. one that prevents unprejudiced consideration of a question; prejudice.” The critic must be able to show how bias entered the picture among the apostles and other eyewitnesses to the resurrection of Jesus. At what point did these more than five hundred individuals (1 Corinthians 15:3-8) meet to plan and promote what each knew was a lie? Was it bias that caused many of them to suffer horrible deaths because of their faith? The “bias of the believers” is just a series of meaningless words unless the critic is prepared to *show the bias*.

Of course, bias cuts both ways. When one is unable to produce a *single* verifiable historical error in the Bible, while simultaneously confronted with an overwhelming sea of *verified* historical facts, and *still* claims that the whole thing is just a fairy tale or lie

produced by people with an agenda, bias is very much a factor. You don’t need my help to see which side bears the bias.

The critic needs to recognize that there were many people alive during the days of these events far more motivated than they to disprove the resurrection of Jesus. Jesus’ enemies set a guard of trained soldiers specifically to keep the disciples from robbing the tomb (Matthew 27:62-66). When the apostles began to preach on the Day of Pentecost in Acts 2, the Sanhedrin (highest Jewish council) could have made the short walk to the tomb, recovered the body, and thrown it down before the people. “There’s your resurrected Christ!” they could have shouted. The whole thing would have crumbled before it could begin. How they would have loved to have been able to do it! Today’s critic does not match their motivation or hatred. Nor are they in nearly as good a position to prove it false. Why, then, didn’t they just produce the body and end it all then and there? *Because there was no body to produce!*

“Ridiculous!” shouts the critic. However, raised voices, mockery, and insults do not constitute evidence for *any* position. Alternative theories are untenable. *Every* piece of evidence points to Jesus having risen from the grave. To deny this requires evidence be provided to the contrary. Supernatural bias is not evidence, it’s just bias.

There is no reason why the Bible cannot be used in its own defense. Never hesitate to question and expose faulty premises and unjust biases in its critics. Christian, the overwhelming evidence is on your side. Use it!

