

# The Light Post

With Pastors Lincoln and Leasa Corbin

Encouraging and Enlightening God's People

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## Why Should I Believe in Christ's Resurrection?

It is a fairly well-established fact that Jesus Christ was publicly executed in Judea in the 1st Century A.D., under Pontius Pilate, by means of crucifixion, at the behest of the Jewish Sanhedrin. The non-Christian historical accounts of Flavius Josephus, Cornelius Tacitus, Lucian of Samosata, Maimonides and even the Jewish Sanhedrin corroborate the early Christian eyewitness accounts of these important historical aspects of the death of Jesus Christ. As for His resurrection, there are several lines of evidence which make for a compelling case. The late jurisprudential prodigy and



international statesman Sir Lionel Luckhoo (of The Guinness Book of World Records fame for his unprecedented 245 consecutive defense murder trial acquittals) epitomized Christian enthusiasm and confidence in the strength of the case for the resurrection when he wrote, "I have spent more than 42 years as a defense trial lawyer appearing in many parts of the world and am still in active practice. I have been fortunate to secure a number of successes in jury trials and I say unequivocally the evidence for the Resurrection of Jesus Christ is so overwhelming that it compels acceptance by proof which leaves absolutely no room for doubt." The secular community's response to the same evidence has been predictably apathetic in accordance with their steadfast commitment to methodological naturalism. For those unfamiliar with the term, methodological naturalism is the human

endeavor of explaining everything in terms of natural causes and natural causes only. If an alleged historical event defies natural explanation (e.g., a miraculous resurrection), secular scholars generally treat it with overwhelming skepticism, regardless of the evidence, no matter how favorable and compelling it may be. In our view, such an unwavering allegiance to natural causes regardless of substantive evidence to the contrary is not conducive to an impartial (and therefore adequate) investigation of the evidence. We agree with Dr. Wernher von Braun and numerous others who still believe that forcing a popular philosophical

predisposition upon the evidence hinders objectivity. Or in the words of Dr. von Braun, "To be forced to believe only one conclusion... would violate the very objectivity of science itself." Having said that, let us now examine the several lines of evidence which favor of the resurrection.

### The First Line of Evidence for Christ's Resurrection

To begin with, we have demonstrably sincere eyewitness testimony. Early Christian apologists cited hundreds of eyewitnesses, some of whom documented their own alleged experiences. Many of these eyewitnesses willfully and resolutely endured prolonged torture and death rather than

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*“The cross symbolizes so much for so many. It represents redemption, and the point of contact between God and man through Jesus Christ.”*

## The Spotlight

### Sr. Pastor Lincoln Corbin

Resurrection Sunday! What a day of celebration. It is often said that Easter is the believer’s holiday. We place great significance on the cross where Jesus hung. It has become the primary symbol of Christianity and what it stands for. In churches and houses of Christian worship all across this great land there are symbols of crosses in some shape or form. Around our necks, rear view mirrors and rooms in our homes, we find the artifacts of our faith prominently displayed. The cross symbolizes so much for so many. It represents redemption, and the point of contact between God and man through Jesus Christ. It speaks of hope that is not deferred and of a divine mission accomplished. It brings to mind the devastating death blow to Satan and all that he tried to assemble in his effort to thwart the grand plan of God to redeem mankind.

In view of all that, we sometimes lose sight that our real symbol should be the empty tomb. We

not only serve a crucified savior, but most of all a risen savior! This single most visual event defined Christianity from being just another religion. The enemy and those who were instruments of his tactics tried to seal the tomb because they believed and knew that an empty tomb would be the nail in the proverbial coffin to their scheme to silence an Almighty God.

Christianity didn’t become another world religion teaching people how to live a good life but it showed you the way to life eternal. If Christ had not risen then the cross would have been in vain, the shed blood, the sacrifice, the 33 year walk of excellence and perfection, and essentially the entire Old Testament would have been null and void.

Man counts the tombs, graves and monuments as an honor. Pharaohs built great tombs for their passage; great head stones with great last words populate the cemeteries. The Old Testament saints counted it an honor

to be buried along with their fathers. Jesus meanwhile went by and emptied tombs. Lazarus—come forth! The demon possessed man that hung around the tombs encountered Jesus and was left by the roadside clothed and in his right mind. Jesus wasn’t the tomb-laying-around type of person, so he went into a borrowed tomb and broke a perfectly good grave site by getting back up. *A resurrected savior.* No one could ever use it again.

I just have one dilemma as a Christian: How can I get a depiction of an empty tomb symbolizing a risen Savior and hang it around my neck, car mirror, place it in my church or better yet in my home.

If you figure it out, let me know. May you and your family have a happy and blessed Resurrection Sunday.

*-Sr. Pastor Lincoln Corbin*

## A Word From the Editor

Cesar Sjogren

**We want to hear from YOU! Let your voice be heard and respond to this question at [thelightpost.mlc@gmail.com](mailto:thelightpost.mlc@gmail.com) !!**

**“What was your favorite article or section this issue or in a previous issue?”**

## God's Impeccable Timing! By Min. Kaleiah Sjogren

Pastor Corbin recently preached a Message called God's Impeccable Timing. He talked about how God always shows up in your life just at the right moment. God's timing is impeccable and he is never too late or early, but always on time. Pastor went on to give his testimony about God's timing and favor showing up in his life on many different occasions. Recently, I asked some church members to give their testimonies of God's Impeccable Timing in their lives, so get in your comfy chair and get ready to be encouraged.

"When I think of God's impeccable timing, I don't think about one isolated event but many

events that have not only shaped who I am but where I am today. I can say that the sum of my entire Marvelous Light experience has been God's impeccable timing. From the moment that I prayed to find a church home, to the divine meeting of Deaconess Leggett who then led me to Marvelous Light Church. From joining Marvelous Light Church, to sitting under the leadership and guidance of Pastors Lincoln and Leasa Corbin. From sitting under the pastor's prophetic anointing, to discovering my ministry gifts and talents. To stepping out on faith and buying a home to meeting my husband long before I knew that we were supposed to be married. Even now as my husband and I are expecting our first child who will be born this November. As I have heard it said before God has "set me up", and it is has truly been a divine set up. Every blessing, every word, every open door, and every closed door has been God's impeccable timing. As I continue to travel this Christian journey, I expect even more of God's impeccable timing to manifest in my life." **-Brandie**

"God's impeccable timing has allowed me to see the awesome hand of God in my life. His impeccable timing has also shown me that he is in control. I'm reminded of a time when God allowed me to divinely meet my spouse on a job that I

*"As I have heard it said before God has 'set me up,' and it is has truly been a divine set up. Every blessing, every word, every open door, and every closed door has been God's impeccable timing. As I continue to travel this Christian journey, I expect even more of God's impeccable timing to be manifest in my life."*

## Why Should I Believe cont.

repudiate their testimony. This fact attests to their sincerity, ruling out deception on their part. According to the historical record (The Book of [Acts 4:1-17](#); Pliny's Letters to Trajan X, 96, etc) most Christians could end their suffering simply by renouncing the faith. Instead, it seems that most opted to endure the suffering and proclaim Christ's resurrection unto death.

Granted, while martyrdom is remarkable, it is not necessarily compelling. It does not validate a belief so much as it authenticates a believer (by demonstrating his or her sincerity in a tangible way). What makes the earliest Christian martyrs remarkable is that they knew whether or not what they were professing was true. They either saw Jesus Christ alive-and-well after His death or they did not. This is extraordinary. If it was all just a lie, why would so many perpetuate it given their circumstances? Why would they all knowingly cling to such an unprofitable lie in the face of persecution, imprisonment, tor-

ture, and death?

While the September 11, 2001, suicide hijackers undoubtedly believed what they professed (as evidenced by their willingness to die for it), they could not and did not know if it was true. They put their faith in traditions passed down to them over many generations. In contrast, the early Christian martyrs were the first generation. Either they saw what they claimed to see, or they did not.

Among the most illustrious of the professed eyewitnesses were the Apostles. They collectively underwent an undeniable change following the alleged post-resurrection appearances of Christ. Immediately following His crucifixion, they hid in fear for their lives. Following the resurrection they took to the streets, boldly proclaiming the resurrection despite intensifying persecution. What accounts for their sudden and dramatic change? It certainly was not financial gain. The Apostles gave up everything they had to preach the resurrection, including

their lives.

### **The Second Line of Evidence for Christ's resurrection**

A second line of evidence concerns the conversion of certain key skeptics, most notably Paul and James. Paul was of his own admission a violent persecutor of the early Church. After what he described as an encounter with the resurrected Christ, Paul underwent an immediate and drastic change from a vicious persecutor of the Church to one of its most prolific and selfless defenders. Like many early Christians, Paul suffered impoverishment, persecution, beatings, imprisonment, and execution for his steadfast commitment to Christ's resurrection.

James was skeptical, though not as hostile as Paul. A purported post-resurrection encounter with Christ turned him into an inimitable believer, a leader of the Church in Jerusalem. We still have what scholars generally accept to be one of his letters to the early Church.

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*"Instead, it seems that most opted to endure the suffering and proclaim Christ's resurrection unto death."*



## Upcoming Events

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS

**Friday, April 10th @ 8pm** - Good Friday Service. Speaker will be Pastor Leasa Corbin

**Sunday, April 12th @ 6am** - Sunrise Service

**Sunday, April 12th @ 11:30am** - Easter Service

**Friday, April 17th @ 8pm** - Come and Fireproof Your Marriage at our Marriage Enrichment seminar for married and engaged couples.

**Sunday, April 19th @ 4:00pm** - Fellowship with Pastor Carlice Jackson of Christ Temple, Phila, PA

**Friday, April 24th @ 8pm** - Friday Night Service

**Saturday, April 25th @ 7:00pm** - A Live Recording Concert featuring Pastor Ronald King. Guest in clued Barbara Ward Farmer and more. Location is **The New Freedom Theatre** (John E. Allen, Theatre) 1346 North Broad Street, Philadelphia PA. Ticket Price: Complimentary (free will offering) . For more info call (856) 662-7377 or log onto [www.lhccnj.org](http://www.lhccnj.org)

**Sunday, April 26th @ 4:00pm** - Fellowship with Pastor Sharon Robinson of New Jerusalem Temple of the Living God , Collingswood, NJ

**Sunday, May 3 @ 4:00pm** - Fellowship with Pastor Ronald King of Living Hope Christian Center , Pennsauken, NJ

**Friday, May 8th @ 8:00pm** - Fellowship with Apostle Veronica Pollard of Light House Worship Ctr. Trenton, NJ

**Saturday, June 27 @ 7:00 - 9:00pm** - A Night of Bowling at Laurel Lanes on Route 73 in Maple Shade, NJ. **Tickets Price \$20.00** includes Pizza, Soda & Shoes, 2 hours of bowling Proceeds go to MLC Building Fundraiser. Info call Church 856-461-0600 or Deacon Alleyne email- [mlcoc@aol.com](mailto:mlcoc@aol.com) or [atnre.alleyne@gmail.com](mailto:atnre.alleyne@gmail.com).



## News & Tidbits

Marvelous Light will be celebrating 11 years in May!! The celebration will Run from April 19th to May 8th. Each Sunday we will be having dynamic speakers and events in the afternoon, see the "Upcoming Events" column to the left.

On Friday May 1st @ Marvelous Light WOVEN's Women's Ministry is having a "Ladies Night Out". All women are welcome to come and have a hallelujah time!

The Mighty Men of MLC has a Fellowship on Friday May 1st, at 8:00 P.M.

Administrative Assistants day is April 22nd! Give your favorite secretary a nice gift.

Come out to Marvelous Light Church on Easter Sunday to see our Easter production, it will be a truly blessed event!

Congratulations to Marcus and Brandie Wooding who are expecting their first child! Hallelujah for the growing families in Marvelous Light!





## Christian News Around The World

### **Concealed-Handgun Measure**

LINCOLN, Neb. - Nebraska churches could let security guards carry concealed handguns, under a bill that has advanced in the state Legislature. A 2006 law allows Nebraskans who get permits to carry concealed handguns.

The bill prohibits cities from having their own concealed-weapons bans. State lawmakers voted 40-4 to advance it to the second round of debate yesterday. An amendment adding the church provision was also adopted. [www.cbn.com](http://www.cbn.com)

### **White House Invites Retired NFL Coach Dungy to Join Advisory Council**

Retired NFL coach Tony Dungy has been invited to join the White House's Advisory Council on Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships, reported a spokesman for the former Indianapolis Colts head coach.

"He was invited and has not yet made a decision about whether or not he will accept," Todd Starowitz, a publicist at Dungy's book publisher, Tyndale House Publishers, told The Christian Post on Tuesday.

In total, there will be 25 members on the council, composed of religious and secular leaders and scholars from different backgrounds. Members of the council, each appointed to a one-year term, so far include prominent figures such as Dr. Frank S. Page, president emeritus of the Southern Baptist Convention; the Rev. Jim Wallis, president and executive director of Sojourners; Pastor Joel C. Hunter, senior pastor of Northland, a Church Distributed; and Richard Stearns, president of World Vision. [www.christianpost.com](http://www.christianpost.com)

### **Fans Saddened, Baffled by Sudden End to Popular Christian Radio Show**

Two of Christian radio's most popular personalities are no longer hosting their Morning Show due to "family issues," according to the head of their radio station. "They are dealing with family issues and while we wish we could say more we simply can't," says K-LOVE President Mike Novak in a statement posted on the Rock-

lin, Calif.-based station's website.

"We are respecting the privacy of people who have been part of our radio family for years and that respect is paramount right now," he added.

Jon and Sherry Rivers had been hosting the Morning Show on K-LOVE for over seven years and were reaching to listeners across the nation. K-LOVE claims listenership of 125,000 people each week via the Internet and more than 1.46 million listeners weekly on the radio network.

Since the Rivers' mysterious disappearance last week, hundreds of responses have been popping up throughout the blogosphere. "Since K-LOVE's announcement, all web pages regarding the Morning Show have been removed, leading to some protest and speculation from fans, many of whom said they were in tears after hearing the announcement. [www.christianpost.com](http://www.christianpost.com)

### **Iowa Supreme Court Upholds Gay Marriage**

The Iowa Supreme Court issued a unanimous ruling Friday finding that the state's same-sex marriage ban violates the constitutional rights of gay and lesbian couples, making Iowa the third state where marriage will be legal.

In its decision, the court upheld a 2007 district court judge's ruling that the law violates the state constitution. It strikes the language from Iowa code limiting marriage to only between a man and a woman.

"The court reaffirmed that a statute inconsistent with the Iowa constitution must be declared void even though it may be supported by strong and deep-seated traditional beliefs and popular opinion," said a summary of the ruling issued by the court. [www.law.com](http://www.law.com)

**US Wants "Frank Discussions" With Israel's New Government Over Peace**  
JERUSALEM/LONDON/PRAGUE - The United States said Wednesday, April 1, it was expecting "frank discussions" with Israel's new government, which is challenging key conditions of past peace negotiations with Palestinians.

President Barack Obama remains committed to "a two-state solution" to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, said the White House in a statement monitored by Worthy News in London, after Benjamin Netanyahu began his second term as Israel's prime Minister.

Israel's new Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman declared Wednesday, April 1 that Israel "is not bound" by commitments it made at a U.S.-sponsored conference in 2007 aimed at creating a Palestinian state. [WorthyNews.com](http://WorthyNews.com)

### **Billy Graham's grandson to succeed D. James Kennedy**

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--Tullian Tchividjian, a 36-year-old grandson of Billy Graham, has been chosen as the successor to D. James Kennedy, founder and longtime pastor of Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., who died in 2007.

Tchividjian, son of Graham's daughter Gigi, attended Coral Ridge as a child and was enrolled in the church's school, Westminster Academy, until he dropped out at age 16 and embraced the party lifestyle of south Florida, according to a news release March 16.

At age 21, Tchividjian accepted Christ and then graduated from college and seminary with honors. He led a large Presbyterian church in Tennessee for two years before returning to Fort Lauderdale to start New City Presbyterian Church, which has grown to 650 people in just over five years.

"His hair is spiky, his beard sometimes scruffy, his skin tan," an Associated Press article said of Tchividjian's contrast to Kennedy. "He offers a classic prodigal son story of youthful forays into drugs, then his return to the fold. He has said he wants people to know what Christians are for as much as what they are against, and has rejected the idea that politics is the most important way to change the country." [www.bpnews.net](http://www.bpnews.net)

## A 1000 Words





## Cooking With the Sisters

Kendra Hall & Shaniqua Leggett

*Cooking with the sisters is our monthly recipe column from the sisters at Marvelous Light made famous by their delicious recipes!*



### Coconut Curry Delight

**As we transition into spring, this colorful and flavorful curry dish is sure to have you coming back for more!**

PREP TIME 25 Min

COOK TIME 15 Min

READY IN 40 Min

#### INGREDIENTS

- 2 bunches green onions
- 1 (14 ounce) can light coconut milk
- 1/4 cup soy sauce, divided
- 1/2 teaspoon brown sugar
- 1 3/4 teaspoons curry powder
- 1 teaspoon minced fresh ginger
- 1 1/2 teaspoons red pepper flakes
- 1 pound firm tofu, cut into 3/4 inch cubes or 1 large potato diced into bite size pieces
  - 4 roma (plum) tomatoes, chopped
  - 1 yellow, red or orange bell pepper thinly sliced
  - 4 ounces fresh mushrooms, chopped
  - 1/4 cup chopped fresh basil or 2 tsp. dried basil
- 4 cups chopped bok choy or any other vegetable you desire
  - 2 tbs. olive oil
  - salt to taste

#### DIRECTIONS

1. Remove white parts of green onions, and finely chop. Chop greens into 2 inch pieces.
2. In a large heavy skillet over medium heat, mix coconut milk, 3 tablespoons soy sauce, brown sugar, curry powder, ginger, and red pepper flakes. Bring to a boil.  
heat oil in skillet and saute the tofu or potatoes, tomatoes, yellow pepper, mushrooms, and finely chopped green onions about 5 minutes stirring occasionally. Mix in basil and bok choy. Season with salt and remaining soy sauce. Continue cooking 5 minutes, or until vegetables are tender but crisp. Garnish with remaining green onion.





## Healthy Choices 101

### Deaconess Shaniqua Leggett

physical examination, you

It's a fact that in today's busy society our lives are very hectic, and often times things get overlooked. One thing that we can't afford to overlook is our basic health and the importance of regular check-ups. Regular checkups are a valuable tool in maintaining good health.

The most important benefit of regular exams is the early detection and treatment of diseases and disorders such as high blood pressure, hypothyroidism (low thyroid levels) and cancer.

Scheduling medical appointments when you're feeling fine may seem like a waste of your time, but the old saying 'prevention is better than cure' is very true.

The main aim of a check-up is to detect illness at an early stage, or better still prevent illness from occurring in the first place. In adults up to about 40 years, a check-up every two years is appropriate. Older adults should be seen every year or so.

Below is some basic information and things to be expected during a routine physical check up:

**Medical History:** Prior to your

should tell your doctor about your diet, exercise, medications you are taking, alcohol and tobacco use, sexual behavior, family history of diseases, such as cancers; diabetes, asthma, glaucoma, heart attack etc. and any symptoms you may be feeling. This information is vital because it affects your risk factors for various illnesses and, consequently, the tests your doctor may decide to give you.

**Physical Exam:** The doctor will check your height, weight and blood pressure, and listen to your heart & lungs for abnormalities such as a heart murmur or lung obstruction. A doctor who is very thorough may also check your mouth, ears, lymph nodes, thyroid and rectum and feel your abdomen for abnormalities, and scan your skin for signs of cancer.

**Counseling:** After the medical history and physical exam, your doctor should talk to you about any risk factors you may have and discuss what habits you should change to maintain good health. The physician will also tell you what lab tests you need

and how often you should have them.

**Lab Tests:** Some tests, such as mammography and pap smears, are usually based on guidelines set by respected research organizations. In addition, your doctor may want to run tests for diabetes, sexually transmitted diseases, tuberculosis or prostate cancer, and to screen your heart, liver, kidney, blood and urine. The extent of other tests your doctor recommends will be determined by any risk factors you may have based on your medical or family history.

Remember although some of this information may seem personal and at times embarrassing, this is a medical professional you are speaking with. A thorough background on you and your family is needed to ensure that all avenues are checked and that proper testing is done. In life you only get one body and it is your job to keep it in the best shape possible. This definitely includes regular check-ups and follow-thru with testing. These steps will help to ensure a long and healthy life.

-Deaconess S. Leggett, RN

*"The main aim of a check-up is to detect illness at an early stage, or better still prevent illness from occurring in the first place."*

## Impeccable Timing cont.

*Continued on pg 8*

was working at. I was not looking for a spouse at that time, but according to God it was time. I transferred to another department to get away from some negativity, little did I know I would eventually meet the one God had for me. After about a month I was fired from the job. I thought it was the end of the world, I had rent to handle and other bills to pay so needless to say I thought I lost out. I then realized I did not lose out, I was there only for a season and

to experience God's impeccable timing concerning a portion of my destiny. I will be married for five years on April 10, 2009. Out of this testimony God has blessed our union with two children one who has gone on to be with the Lord and Kevin Jr. God's impeccable timing is a blessing and can't be duplicated—**Maxine** "After one of Marvelous Light Church's monthly Single's ministry meetings I recall racing behind the Pastor to present a couple of my pressing life/relationship ques-

tions: *Does God choose a woman for me or does he present me with the criteria and leave me to choose? If God chooses and there truly is one woman whom I'm destined to marry among the billions of people on earth, how in the world do I find her?* God bless my Pastor for his patience and his wisdom. His response challenged me to trust God's providence, divine-design—to relax and be amazed. My wife, Tatiana, was soon to land at Rutgers University from Ukraine—*Continued on pg 11*



## Why Should I Believe cont.

Like Paul, James willingly suffered and died for his testimony, a fact which attests to the sincerity of his belief (see The Book of Acts and Josephus' Antiquities of the Jews XX, ix, 1). **The Third and Fourth Lines of Evidence for Christ's Resurrection**

A third line and fourth line of evidence concern enemy attestation to the empty tomb and the fact that faith in the resurrection took root in Jerusalem. Jesus was publicly executed and buried in Jerusalem. It would have been impossible for faith in His resurrection to take root in Jerusalem while His body was still in the tomb where the Sanhedrin could exhume it, put it on public display, and thereby expose the hoax. Instead, the Sanhedrin accused the disciples of stealing the body, apparently in an effort to explain its disappearance (and therefore an empty tomb). How do we explain the fact of the empty tomb? Here are the three most common explanations:

First, the disciples stole the body. If this were the case, they would have known the resurrection was a hoax. They would not therefore have been so willing to suffer and die for it. (See the first line of evidence concerning demonstrably sincere eyewitness testimony.) All of the professed eyewitnesses would have known that they hadn't really seen Christ and were therefore lying. With so many conspirators, surely someone would have confessed, if not to end his own suffering then at least to end the suffering of his friends and family. The first generation of Christians were absolutely brutalized, especially following the conflagration in Rome in A.D. 64 (a fire which Nero allegedly ordered to make room for the expansion of his palace, but which he blamed on the Christians in Rome in an effort to exculpate himself). As the Roman historian Cornelius Tacitus recounted in his Annals of Imperial Rome (published just a generation after the fire):

"Nero fastened the guilt and inflicted the most exquisite tortures on a class hated for their abominations, called Christians by the populace. Christus, from whom the name had its origin, suffered the extreme penalty during the reign of Tiberius at the hands of one of our procurators, Pontius Pilatus, and a most mischievous superstition, thus checked for the moment, again broke out not only in Judaea, the first source of the evil, but even in Rome, where all things hideous and shameful from every part of the world find their centre and become popular. Accordingly, an arrest was first made of all who pleaded guilty; then, upon their information, an immense multitude was convicted, not

so much of the crime of firing the city, as of hatred against mankind. Mockery of every sort was added to their deaths. Covered with the skins of beasts, they were torn by dogs and perished, or were nailed to crosses, or were doomed to the flames and burnt, to serve as a nightly illumination, when daylight had expired." (Annals, XV, 44)

Nero illuminated his garden parties with Christians whom he burnt alive. Surely someone would have confessed the truth under the threat of such terrible pain. The fact is, however, we have no record of any early Christian denouncing the faith to end his suffering. Instead, we have multiple accounts of post-resurrection appearances and hundreds of eyewitnesses willing to suffer and die for it.

If the disciples didn't steal the body, how else do we explain the empty tomb? Some have suggested that Christ faked His death and later escaped from the tomb. This is patently absurd. According to the eyewitness testimony, Christ was beaten, tortured, lacerated, and stabbed. He suffered internal damage, massive blood loss, asphyxiation, and a spear through His heart. There is no good reason to believe that Jesus Christ (or any other man for that matter) could survive such an ordeal, fake His death, sit in a tomb for three days and nights without medical attention, food or water, remove the massive stone which sealed His tomb, escape undetected (without leaving behind a trail of blood), convince hundreds of eyewitnesses that He was resurrected from the death and in good health, and then disappear without a trace. Such a notion is ridiculous.

### **The Fifth Line of Evidence for Christ's Resurrection**

Finally, a fifth line of evidence concerns a peculiarity of the eyewitness testimony. In all of the major resurrection narratives, women are credited as the first and primary eyewitnesses. This would be an odd invention since in both the ancient Jewish and Roman cultures women were severely disesteemed. Their testimony was regarded as insubstantial and dismissible. Given this fact, it is highly unlikely that any perpetrators of a hoax in 1st Century Judea would elect women to be their primary witnesses. Of all the male disciples who claimed to see Jesus resurrected, if they all were lying and the resurrection was a scam, why did they pick the most ill-perceived, distrusted witnesses they could find?

Dr. William Lane Craig explains, "When you understand the role of women in first-century Jewish society, what's really extraordinary is

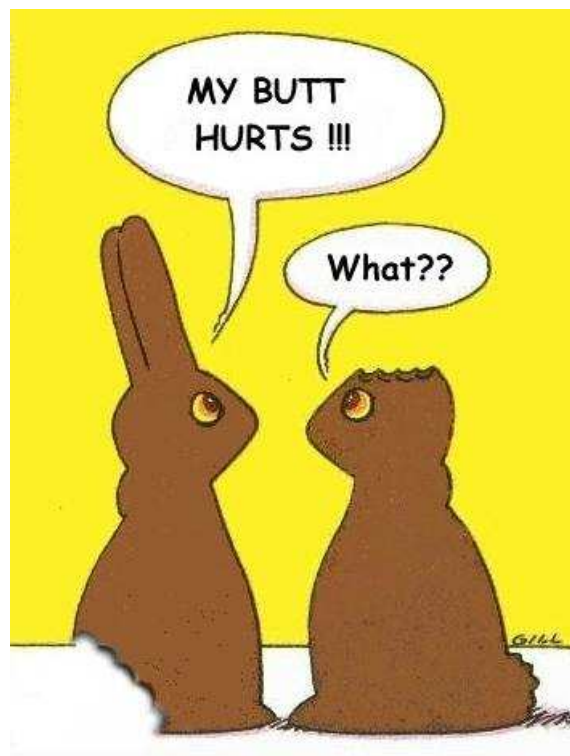
that this empty tomb story should feature women as the discoverers of the empty tomb in the first place. Women were on a very low rung of the social ladder in first-century Palestine. There are old rabbinical sayings that said, 'Let the words of Law be burned rather than delivered to women' and 'blessed is he whose children are male, but woe to him whose children are female.' Women's testimony was regarded as so worthless that they weren't even allowed to serve as legal witnesses in a Jewish court of Law. In light of this, it's absolutely remarkable that the chief witnesses to the empty tomb are these women... Any later legendary account would have certainly portrayed male disciples as discovering the tomb - Peter or John, for example. The fact that women are the first witnesses to the empty tomb is most plausibly explained by the reality that - like it or not - they were the discoverers of the empty tomb! This shows that the Gospel writers faithfully recorded what happened, even if it was embarrassing. This bespeaks the historicity of this tradition rather than its legendary status." (Dr. William Lane Craig, quoted by Lee Strobel, *The Case For Christ*, Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1998, p. 293)

### **In Summary**

These lines of evidence: the demonstrable sincerity of the eyewitnesses (and in the Apostles' case, compelling, inexplicable change), the conversion and demonstrable sincerity of key antagonists- and skeptics-turned-martyrs, the fact of the empty tomb, enemy attestation to the empty tomb, the fact that all of this took place in Jerusalem where faith in the resurrection began and thrived, the testimony of the women, the significance of such testimony given the historical context; all of these strongly attest to the historicity of the resurrection. We encourage our readers to thoughtfully consider these evidences. What do they suggest to you? Having pondered them ourselves, we resolutely affirm Sir Lionel's declaration: "The evidence for the Resurrection of Jesus Christ is so overwhelming that it compels acceptance by proof which leaves absolutely no room for doubt."

-S. Michael Houdmann,  
[www.gotquestions.org](http://www.gotquestions.org)

## Now That's Funny!



## Light Bites

### Deacon Atnre Alleyne

In these trying economic times, it seems like everyone is looking for a special or a deal of some sort. So for this month's sermon review, for a limited time, I am offering you a "SUPER SERMON SPECIAL." Here's how it works: rather than review one of the sermons from this month, I am offering a "four-in-one-special."

It all started with Pastor Lincoln's message, "A Settled Word" (Num 13:30; Joshua 14:10). Caleb remembered the word that had been spoken to him 45 years prior and received (and retrieved) the mountain that was promised to him. Using Caleb as an example, Pastor Lincoln reminded us to let the Word of God settle in our minds, our spirit, our hearts, our long-term memory, and in our timing. In "The Impeccable Timing of God" (Deut 28) we were then reminded that we need divine timing and divine connections in our

lives. Pastor Lincoln shared some of his personal testimonies about God's impeccable timing in his personal and ministry experiences and encouraged each of us to recall "how awesome God's timing has been in our lives".

Pastor Lincoln's "Are You Suffering from an Identity Crisis" (Luke 16:19) put a different spin on the story of the rich man and Lazarus. Although Lazarus made it through into heaven, he did so without understanding his identity in God and the promises that were available to him here on earth. We were created in God's image and God deals with us with great dignity. Lazarus' identity crisis, however, led him to only find a common link with dogs, to have "crummy desires," and to remain at the outside of the gate and never make it inside. Pastor Lincoln related Lazarus to Christians who also suffer from an identity crisis. These Christians always desire the

least and the "crumbs" and they are content with getting to the "gate" in many areas in their lives but never taking the next step.

Pastor Lincoln closed the month off with "No in Your Life, Yes in Your Spirit" (2 Chron 20:1). He discussed how Jehoshaphat handled the "No" that he faced even though there was a "yes" in his spirit. Jehoshaphat prayed and fasted; he spoke his faith and not his frustration; he reminded God that he had not forgotten what God said; he realized that his strength was not going to win the battle; and he worshipped God for the impending victory. This sermon was the perfect culmination to a month of impactful sermons. We need to be confident about what God has said to us, about the timing of God, and who we are in God in spite of opposition or contrary opinions. -Deacon A. Alleyne



*"We were created in God's image and God deals with us with great dignity."*

## Impeccable Timing cont.

the first Muskie Fellow the campus had seen. I was soon to change my law school ambitions—the first BA Economics/MPA dual-degree student the campus had seen. God was soon to amaze us with his impeccable timing." -Atnre

"God's impeccable timing has shown up in my life time and time again! The moment I accepted Jesus as my Lord and Savior he has been working my life out. I remember a time when my marriage was in turmoil and my life as I had known it seemed so unsure. Little did I know that God had a plan and showed up right on time. Today, I can truly say that my marriage is blessed and stronger than ever. To God be the Glory for his impeccable timing.

Be encouraged and know that He has already worked it out!" -Kendra

"When I came to the United States on a

fellowship I had a single purpose in mind – to receive my degree and come back home to join a new generation of politicians and policy makers in a fight for a prosperous and truly democratic Ukraine. It is not that I completely forgot about other areas of life, but my academic and professional goals were paramount. Little did I know what God had in mind! I could have never imagined that exactly two years after I arrived in Camden, NJ on August 12<sup>th</sup>, 2005 I would be marrying my wonderful husband Atnre Alleyne." -Tatiana

"I'd say that God's timing was impeccable when he brought me to Marvelous Light Church. I had opportunities to visit church as an undergraduate when I was straddling the line between good and evil and was not focused on truly living for Jesus. When the time finally came for me to visit my mind was focused and the things that

would have gotten in the way of me becoming a member were no more; the timing was all God's!" -Queenise

"The Lord knows how to place divine order in our lives. The way he times the events in our lives is far beyond our capabilities. I often reflect on the time when Cesar and I were at a gas station and as we were pulling off I noticed that this lady was waving at us, (I thought she was waving at me) I asked Cesar if he knew who it was. When he looked he said he did know who she was. They got out the car and began to talk. That connection was the turn of both my life and his as she was the one who connected Cesar to the ministry and Cesar connected me to the ministry and the ministry later connected me to my wife who was the lady at the gas station. God knows what He's doing, why question?" -Marcus



## Look Up and Live

### Pastor Leasa Corbin



***“All we have to do is understand Him, trust Him, and follow the road map of life in the Bible.”***

#### **The Lord is the portion of my inheritance and of my cup**

In everyday living and with the complex challenges that we may face today in this economy, I like to encourage you in the Word of God. As the psalmist David said “The Lord is the portion of my inheritance and of my cup” Psalms 16:5. We have to know that our hope and joy is in God.

First, we must recognize that Jesus Christ has placed us behind the wheel with a solid plan. All we have to do is understand Him, trust Him and follow the road map of life in the Bible. Jesus Christ has prepared us and our family for the unexpected.

Next, remember knowing our identity gives us power and authority. The book of Deuteronomy 10:8-9 tells us how the Lord separated the Levitical priesthood for his services. It also tells us that their portion didn’t come from the group source that was divided among them. Their provision was going to be from Jehovah-Jireh as He promised. The priest lived off the portion that fell from divine service to the Lord. Be encouraged chosen one of God, you are a royal priesthood, show God some praise for what he has done! 1Peter 2:9

Third, Praise Him! On Good Friday, Jesus Christ was crucified at Calvary. By conquering death, hell and the grave we inherited wealth, our provision, deliverance, and the cup of salvation. David had hope and trust that his soul would not rot in hell after this life. We have the power to not only speak to our circumstances but power and authority to speak to the potential that is in us. We can do all things through Christ!

Finally, I encourage you to stay on board the ark of safety. Our hope is in the Lord. Don’t stop seeking for that job, or schooling, or giving your time, talent, and treasure to the Lord. Take hold to faith, don’t focus on the negative, and keep sharpening your skills. Ask the Lord to open your eyes, to see the open door and to walk in. Remember have hope in God, the Lord is the portion of my inheritance.

*-Pastor Leasa Corbin*

**Special Thanks to S. Michael Houdmann at [gotquestions.org](http://gotquestions.org) for telling us why we should believe in Christ’s Resurrection!**

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#### **SERVICE TIMES**

**Prayer— 9 AM Sun & 7:30 PM Tues**

**Sunday School— 9:45 AM**

**Morning Service— 11:00**

**Tues Prayer & Bible Study— 7:30-9:00PM**