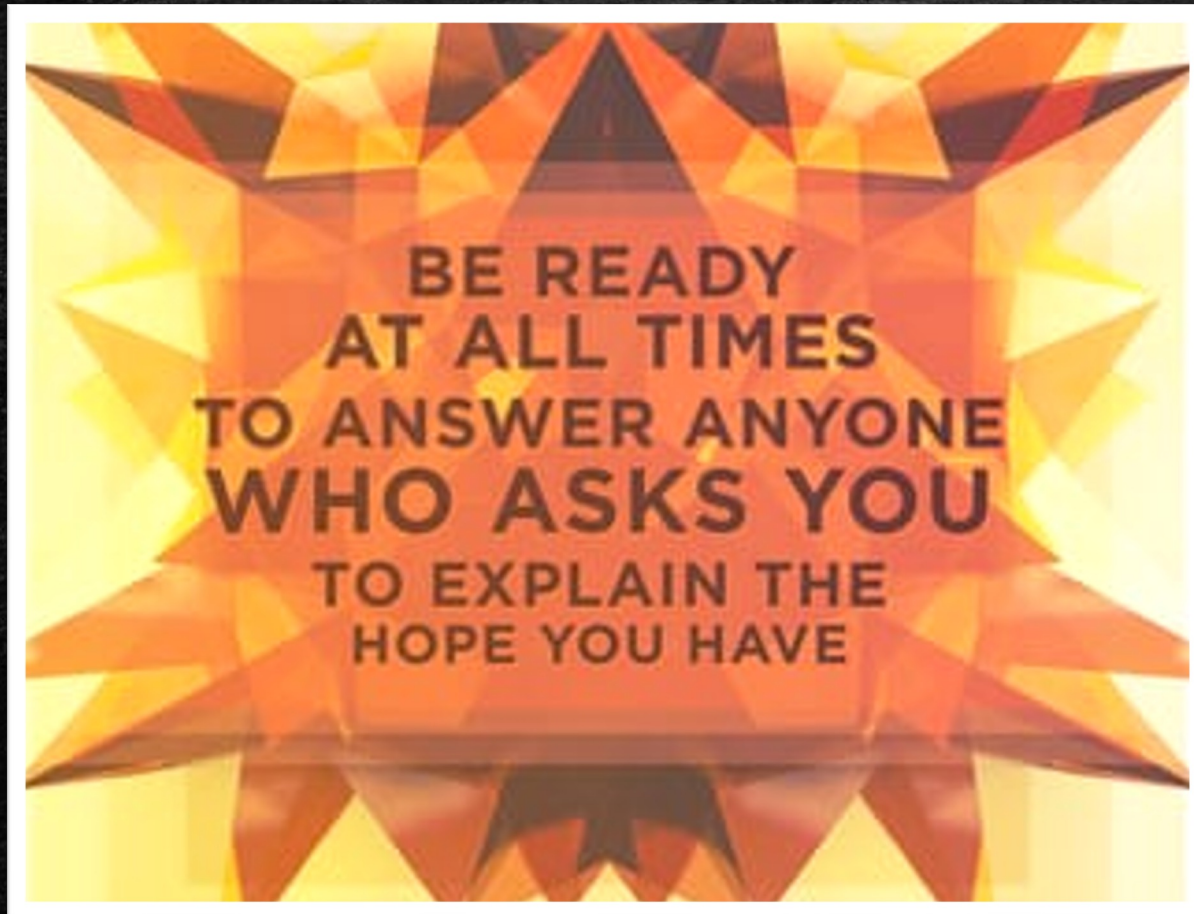


Why Jesus?

A Quick Lesson in Apologetics

What is apologetics?



1 Peter 3:15

ἀπολογία (apologian)

- defense
- explanation
- reasoned argument
- Be ready!!

Why DO people believe in Jesus?

- **The Bible:** "God said it, I believe it, and that settles it!"
- **Personal experience:** "He changed my life, so it must be true!"
- **Authority:** "If Jesus was good enough for Grandpa, He's good enough for me!"

Why DON'T people believe in Jesus?

- **The Bible:** "Too many mistakes and contradictions!"
- **Personal experience:** "How could a loving God ...?"
- **Authority:** other faith systems, science, academia, respected figures, etc.

"My Hope Is Built on ..."



Sometimes the way we think about our reasons for faith can be a little top heavy.

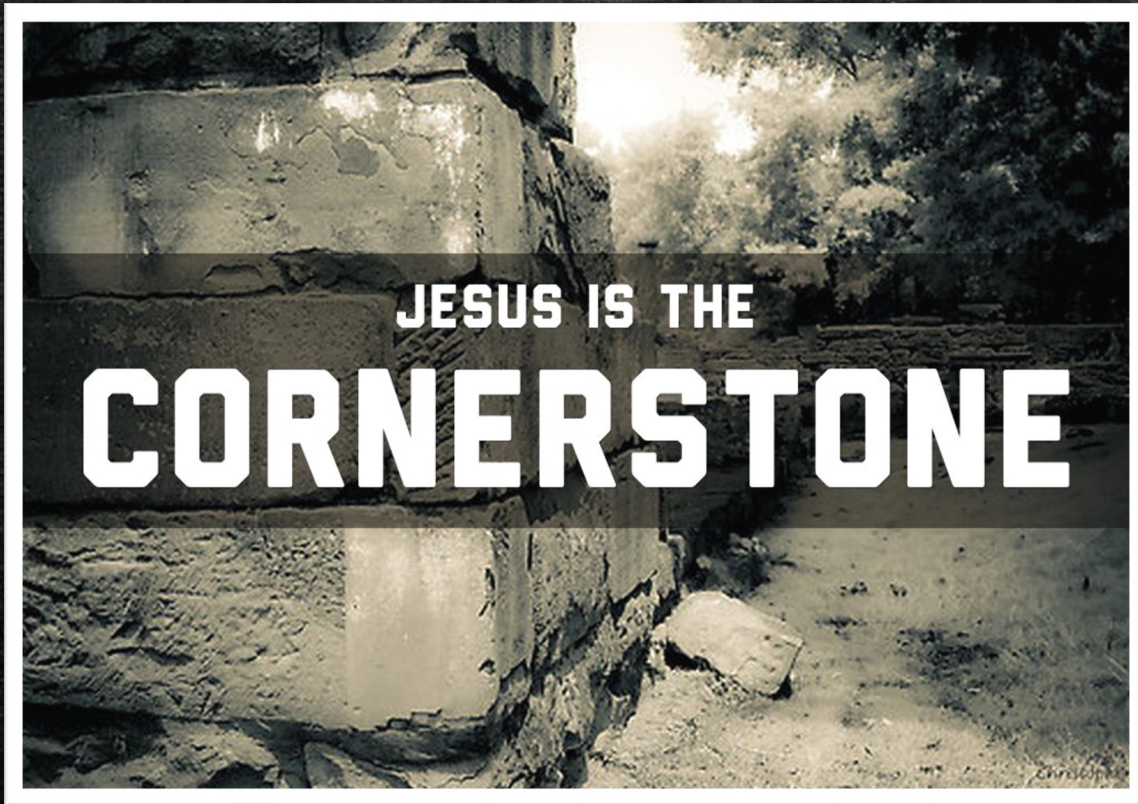
our faith

Jesus Christ

the Bible

God

Instead ... begin with Christ



Faith

God & Bible

Jesus is
Lord

Historical
Resurrection

Did Jesus rise from the dead?

The resurrection story can only be *ONE* of the following:

- *A LIE*
- *A LEGEND*
- *THE TRUTH*



Which one is the most reasonable?

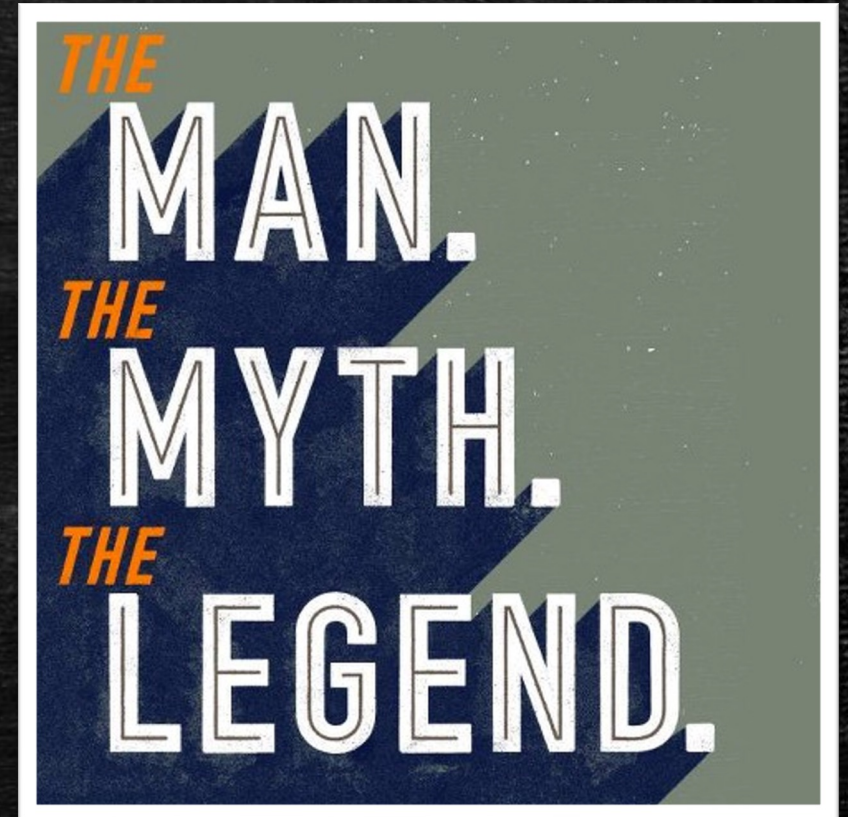
Is it a Lie?

- *No motive*
- *No contemporary accusation*
- *No one cracked under the pressure (intense persecution)*



Is it a legend?

- *Not a legend-making culture*
- *Jewish legend wouldn't include a man being God*
- *Not enough time*
- *Gospels claim to be eyewitness history*
- *extra, unnecessary, counterproductive details*



Is it the Truth?



*Jesus said,
"I am the Way,
the Truth, and
the Life. No
one comes to
the Father
except through
Me"*

"we are people of the empty tomb"

- John 14:6

Keep Learning!

- *don't be afraid of doubts or questions*
- *use questions as opportunities for growth*
- *get to know some helpful resources:*
 - reasonablefaith.org *William Lane Craig*
 - [Alpha Film Series](#) *Nicky Gumbel*
 - reasons.org *Hugh Ross*