everything they teach and do.
If someone <u>does not believe</u> in the physical resurrection of Jesus Christ, they have no place in the pulpit, as leaders in a Christian denomination, or as members of a Christian church.
Church membership makes no sense if the "would be member" is not willing to agree with the statements of faith the Church proclaims to believe in, unless their goal is to change what the church believes in.

If a pastor, teacher, denominational leader, church member, does not

believe in the physical resurrection of Jesus Christ it will affect

2021-08-08.PC. MC. SW. The Truth. #6. Steven Loots.

## **The Truth of the Resurrection:**

Now, brothers and sisters, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. <sup>2</sup> By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain. <sup>3</sup> For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, <sup>4</sup> that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, <sup>5</sup> and that he appeared to Cephas, and then to the Twelve. <sup>6</sup> After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. <sup>7</sup> Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, <sup>8</sup> and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born. 1Corinthians 15:1-8.

12 But if it is preached that Christ has been raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? 13 If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. 14 And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. 15 More than that, we are then found to be false witnesses about God, for we have testified about God that he raised Christ from the dead. But he did not raise him if in fact the dead are not raised. 16 For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either. 17 And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. 18 Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost. 19 If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

1Corinthians 1:12-19.

One of the biggest deceptions in the world and in the church today is the teaching that says that Jesus did not physically overcome death. Instead, Jesus' death was only symbolic or metaphoric.

Have you ever wondered, "where does this lie come from?"

While the women were on their way, some of the guards went into the city and reported to the chief priests everything that had happened. <sup>12</sup> When the chief priests had met with the elders and devised a plan, they gave the soldiers a large sum of money, <sup>13</sup> telling them, "You are to say, 'His disciples came during the night and stole him away while we were asleep.' <sup>14</sup> If this report gets to the governor, we will satisfy him and keep you out of trouble." <sup>15</sup> So the soldiers took the money and did as they were instructed. And this story has been widely circulated among the Jews to this very day. Matthew 28:11-15

The lie, that Jesus Christ did not physically rise from the dead, has been circulated, told, taught, proclaimed, from the day Jesus rose from the dead all the way still to today.

Liberal/Progressive Christians believe that Jesus Christ was a real person but <u>he was not</u> God's son, <u>he did not</u> perform the miracles the bible said he performed, and <u>he did not</u> physically rise from the dead.

Orthodox/Conservative Christian believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, he did preform miracles, and he did physically rise from the dead.

Liberal/Progressive Christianity says, it is not important that you believe Jesus physically rose from the dead, as the Word of God tell us. Instead, what is important is that you believe Jesus rose in your hear.

## What is the Biblical Truth about Jesus resurrection?

<sup>3</sup> For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, <sup>4</sup> that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, <sup>5</sup> and that he appeared to Cephas, and then to the Twelve. <sup>6</sup> After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep.

<sup>7</sup> Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, <sup>8</sup> and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born.

1Corinthians 15:3–8.

This IS the Good News – <u>but it is not good news if</u> Jesus did not rise from the dead. In fact, it is no news at all. People die and stay dead all the time.

Why does it matter that we believe that Jesus literally, physically rose from the dead?

Because the "Resurrection" is the Foundation of the Faith.

<sup>13</sup> If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. <sup>14</sup> And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. <sup>15</sup> More than that, we are then found to be false witnesses about God, for we have testified about God that he raised Christ from the dead. But he did not raise him if in fact the dead are not raised. <sup>16</sup> For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either. <sup>17</sup> And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. <sup>18</sup> Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost. <sup>19</sup> If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied. 1 Corinthians15:13-19

A litmus test is, a question asked of a potential candidate for high office, the answer to which would determine whether the nominating official would proceed with the appointment or nomination or would not proceed.

The "litmus test," for anyone who calls themselves a Christian is:

<u>Do you believe</u> in the physical resurrection of Jesus Christ from
the dead?

<u>If you do not believe</u>, you are still welcome to come to our church, but we cannot allow you to be a member or leader of our church.

If an unbeliever asks "Why can't I become a church member?" The answer is quite simply: "Belief in the physically resurrected Savior, Jesus Christ, is the door way to church membership, just as He is the door way into heaven.