

## **Just Thinking Apologetics**

With this week being holy week, I thought I would deviate a bit from the current talk of Intelligent Design to discuss the importance of the first Easter. There are certain facts that even those skeptical of Christianity would accept. First, Jesus died and was buried. The late A.T. Robinson of Cambridge University said the burial of Jesus is “One of the earliest and best-attested facts about Jesus.” Second, women discovered the tomb empty on the first Sunday after the death of Jesus. Third, many different people saw Jesus alive on various occasions. Skeptical German New Testament critic Gerd Ludemann even states, “It may be taken as historically certain that Peter and the disciples had experiences after Jesus’ death in which Jesus appeared to them as the risen Christ.” Fourth, the disciples’ lives changed as a result of the risen Jesus so much so that they were willing to die for their belief. Historian C.B. McCullagh lists six tests to determine the historicity of an event and according to McCullagh, “God raising Jesus from the dead” passes every test.

If Jesus did in fact rise from the dead, then this was the most important event in the history of the world. Jesus said in John 14:6, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” Either the statement of Jesus is true or it is false. French philosopher Blaise Pascal constructed a wager that is known creatively as “Pascal’s Wager.” He proposed that either God exists or he doesn’t. If he doesn’t and we die we lose nothing, but if he does exist and you believe and I don’t then you gain everything and I lose everything. If Jesus is the only way to God, and rose from the dead, then how do you plan to make your wager?