

Christianity Has Been Proven! (Part One)
(Rev. Dr. John Bartol)

“We have far more information about Jesus than we do for most major figures of antiquity.” Dr. William Lane Craig.

Christianity cannot be proven by the precision of logic, because Christ is not a theorem to be worked out mathematically – or the principles of science, because He is not an object to be weighed and measured.

Scholars tell us that basically there are two different kinds of proof- “The Scientific method” and the “Legal –Historical method.” Let us examine them in more detail.

Some say that they don't accept anything unless it is proven to them scientifically. However, those who hold this view need to understand that scientific proof is based upon duplicating an event over and over in a controlled environment, such as a laboratory. In order for something to be proven scientifically it must be repeatable and, in some way measurable. History cannot be repeated.

In contrast, the “legal – historical” method of proof is based upon information showing that something is true beyond a reasonable doubt. It depends upon three types of testimony – oral, written and physical exhibits. For example, in a court of law an auto accident or a robbery cannot be repeated but the jury, on the weight of the evidence presented, can reach a verdict beyond reasonable doubt.

Simon Greenleaf, the eminent professor at Harvard Law school, was considered the highest authority on evidences. Dr. Greenleaf did a thorough study of the resurrection of Christ and his conclusion was in these words – “the evidence for the resurrection of Jesus Christ is so substantial, that any jury in any court of law, would be compelled to accept it as an actual historical event.”

We are not asked to believe in Christianity blindly. The Bible has been cross examined and found to be strongly supported by historical evidence. The men who wrote the New Testament were Hebrews and scholars agree that the Hebrews were meticulous in their precise and literal transcriptions of the Bible.

There is overwhelming textual evidence that the earliest primary sources about Christ were written down and circulated during the first generation after the events, while many eyewitnesses were still alive. As CS Lewis points out, “this is far too brief a span for myths and legends to take hold.”

Readers may be interested to know that Christ is mentioned by secular historians such as Tacitus, Pliny, Suetonius, and Josephus Flavius. Furthermore, findings from the Dead Sea Scrolls, have disproved many objections that critics once

made. Archaeology is another friend of the Christian faith. Archaeologist Nelson Glueck writes, "It may be stated categorically that no archaeological discovery has ever controverted a Biblical reference."

If early Christians had been trying to make up stories about Christ they would never have included, what some would call, the embarrassing aspects of his life and teaching, such as a crucified messiah, an individual resurrection, the prominent place of women and his relationship with the outcasts of society. All these and more went painfully against the grain of both Greek and Hebrew worldviews. Therefore, it is highly unlikely that these stories are legendary but rather substantially rooted in history.

(To be continued).