

Gateway Christian Fellowship

Meeting every Lord's Day (Sunday) in the Tower Hotel at 11.30a.m.

Visit us at gatewayofderry.org

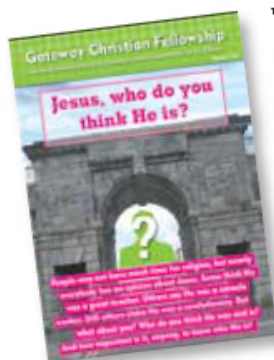
Number 1003

Jesus - did He rise again?

When someone dies his memory, and even his ever being here, begins to fade. We only remember him on the anniversary of his death. However in this area, as in all others, Jesus is totally unique. The Bible claims that Jesus did not stay dead. But what does all this have to do with you?

The story so far...

This is the third in a series of leaflets explaining what Christianity really is. The first leaflet, Jesus,



who do you think He is?, introduced Jesus and His authority. Authority to speak the truth, to stop storms, to sort out sickness and even to forgive sins. Authority

that tells us that Jesus is the Son of God. The Owner's Son. The second leaflet, Jesus, why did He die on the cross? looked straight at Jesus's death.

It was no accident. It deals with the deepest and most difficult things in our lives.

The darkness over Jesus as He died speaks of the judgment of God. Jesus was bearing the penalty for the sins of others on the cross. His own Father had to abandon Him to the sufferings of hell, or else we would all go there. As Jesus died God tore open the temple curtain to show that His sacrifice is enough to appease God's anger against



those who trust in Jesus. His gave His life to buy back many, many prisoners of sin and set them free.

As He said...

Jesus's arrest, trial and cruel death took His disciples by surprise, but it did not surprise Him. In Mark chapters 8, 9 and 10, He warned His disciples ahead of time. "See," Jesus said, "we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man [meaning Himself] will be delivered over to the chief priests and the scribes, and they will condemn Him to death and deliver Him over to the Gentiles. And they will mock Him and spit on Him, and flog Him and kill Him. And after three days He will rise" (Mark 10:33-34). If you read Mark chapters 14 and 15 you'll see that this is a pinpoint prediction. In Jerusalem one of His own men **handed Him over** (14:43-45). The chief priests and scribes, the most influential Jews, ignored the lack of evidence and all **condemned** Jesus as worthy of death (14:64). The Romans, a Gentile people, were in charge, so the Jews **delivered** Jesus bound to Pilate, their governor (15:1). The Roman soldiers, among others, **mocked** Him (15:19-20), pressed a crown of thorns into His head and **spat** on Him in contempt (15:19). Pilate had Him **flogged**

(15:15), a brutal Roman beating that often killed the victim. In Jesus's case it was the cross where they **killed** Him, although in dying He gave out a loud cry to show He was still full of life (15:37). Every detail of His prediction was fulfilled to the letter. The disciples were devastated when first they heard it and blown apart when the events actually took place. They probably didn't even hear Jesus's unexpected last words each time He spoke of it, "And after three days He will **rise**." On the third day, those same disciples saw Jesus **risen**

from the dead and God helped them to write this down for us. Those final words were fulfilled too. That makes sense of it all. That means that Jesus's body isn't rotting in the grave. Those words, fulfilled, transform His death from defeat to victory. For everyone who believes in His life, in His death and in His resurrection. Most biographies of famous people end with that person's death and maybe add a few paragraphs about his or her legacy. Not the gospel according

to Mark. In his last chapter we read these earthshattering words, from a young man, a messenger of God, "You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen; He is not here. See the place where they laid Him... He is going before you to Galilee. There you will see Him..." (16:6-7). The other New Testament books record some eleven appearances of the risen

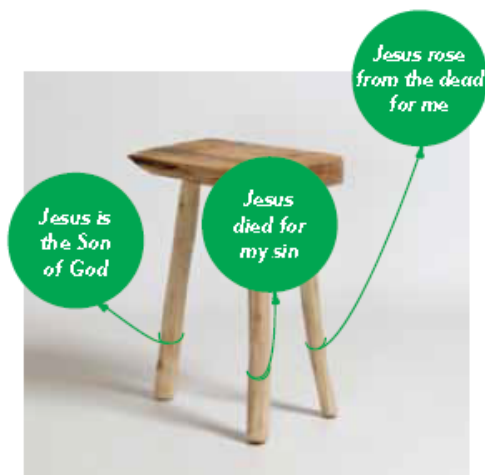
Jesus, on one occasion to five hundred believers at once. Luke, in particular, writes a whole second volume, called Acts, to show the

changed lives of those men who went about preaching that Jesus had risen again, even though it cost them their lives. If Jesus is alive again it proves that all He said was true. It proves that sin has been paid for and that death, the last enemy which so many people dread, has been defeated. It shows there is another world beyond this world, for all those who believe that Jesus has died and has risen again for them. **Is that you, I wonder?**



The third leg

This leaflet puts the third leg on the three-legged stool. Such a stool is no use with one of its legs missing. For Christianity to do you any good you must believe three vital things. The **first** is that Jesus was, and is, the only Son of God with God's power and authority. The **second** is that He had power to lay down His own perfect life as your substitute, to pay for the sins that fill your life and to save you from eternal death. The **third** is that Jesus had power to take His life up again. He can give you new, eternal life, if you are genuinely sorry for your sin and if you commit your life, just as it is, into His care. He is alive today at His Father's right hand. He is praying for all who trust in Him. And He's coming back as King and judge of all.



"But to all who did receive Him, who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God"
(John 1:12).

This leaflet was passed on to you by a member of the Gateway Christian Fellowship. We meet to worship God every Lord's Day (Sunday) at 11.30a.m. in the Tower Hotel and we would be very pleased to see you there.

If you would like to have a Bible or to know more about it or about Jesus, the main person in the Bible, please call Pastor Stephen Neilly on 074 2892 5764.

May God help you to trust in the life, death and rising again of His one and only Son, Jesus!