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**THE SURE WORD by Jonnie Hutchison**

**YES, JESUS DIED, BUT...**

...He rose again! “For to this end Christ died and rose and lived again, that He might be Lord of both the dead and the living” (Romans 14:9). The death of Jesus on a Roman cross is substantiated by Historical documents such as those written by Flavius Josephus, a Jewish historian of the first century, who, in his book *Antiquities of the Jews* wrote, “that Jesus was the Messiah and a wise teacher who was crucified by Pontius Pilate.” Accounts of the death and resurrection of Jesus are recorded in the New Testament. Not only were these writers inspired by the Holy Spirit to record these events but were eyewitnesses who actually observed them firsthand. Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John each recorded details of the death and the resurrection of Jesus. These were not the only eyewitnesses of Jesus’ resurrection. Paul wrote of the appearance of the risen Jesus to as many as five hundred people at one time” (1 Corinthians 15:3-8). Many of these hundreds of witnesses were willing to put their very lives in jeopardy to testify to others what they had seen with their own eyes.

In Acts chapter four, after miraculously healing a lame man, Peter, and John “taught the people and preached in Jesus the resurrection from the dead.” This greatly disturbed the Jewish leaders who questioned Peter and John asking, “by what power or by what name have you done this?” Peter answered, “let it be known to you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, by Him this man stands here before you whole.” When the Jewish council “severely threatened” the apostles demanding they not speak in the name of Jesus again, Peter answered, “Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you more than to God, you judge. For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard” (Acts 4:1-20).

Peter and John and hundreds of others put their lives on the line because they knew Jesus had been raised from the dead. If Christ was not raised from the dead, then we have no hope beyond the grave. His resurrection from the dead not only proves His Deity (Romans 1:4), but also assures those who choose to follow Him of their own resurrection when He comes again. The Bible affirms “But now Christ is risen from the dead and has become the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep” (1 Corinthians 15:20). Yes, Jesus died, **but HE ROSE AGAIN!** [greenplain@reenplainchurchofchrist.org](mailto:greenplain@reenplainchurchofchrist.org)