

As Secure As You Can Matthew 27:62-66

The Christian religion is simply amazing

That it could survive a single year under the conditions in which it emerged, speaks strongly of its Divine origin

Came into existence when Roman Empire was at zenith of its power, in hostile environment where Jesus was crucified by angry Jews

A single, poor Galilean, brought up in Nazareth, brought Jewish hatred upon Himself and promised to rise from the dead in three days

Jews and Romans had reasons to conspire to stop all chances of Jesus' further influence once He was dead. - **Matthew 27:62-66**

Their plot was to keep the body secure for three days thus proving Jesus a liar and squashing his influence

All they had to do was make sure that His disciples can never say "He is risen" with any credibility. Yet, Jerusalem possessed an empty tomb and on the first Pentecost, the disciples loudly proclaimed that Jesus was indeed raised from the dead

Their evidence stood and 3000 were converted that day and multitudes more in the following days

It is simply amazing that Jesus' church could start here of all places.

Lesson Purpose is Two-Fold

Jesus Did Rise From The Dead

Some Things We Must Make Sure

How Sure Could They Have Made It?

Made sure Jesus was dead.

Soldiers skilled in knowing death - **John 19:33-35**

Pilate made sure Jesus was dead - **Mark 15:43-45**

Made sure the tomb would not be disturbed.

Sealing the stone - **Matthew 27:66**

Military discipline of the Romans - **Acts 12:1-5; 16:22-28**

The guard's sense of duty.

The Roman guard normally consisted of 16 soldiers, rotating shifts of four fresh and awake soldiers.

What other precautions could they have taken?

After third day, they would safely produce the body, if they could have.

We Can Be Certain Jesus Arose From The Dead

There Are Some Things We Had Better Make Sure:

Life After Death

We better make sure. No time to waste. Only one chance to make sure - **Hebrews 9:27; James 4:14-16**

Jesus taught it. To be sure, He was either lying or telling the truth - **John 5:28-29; Matthew 25:46; Acts 17:30-31**

If we can "know assuredly", why leave doubt? - **Acts 2:36**

Baptism

Jesus' death, burial, resurrection suggests a need for our dying to sin, being buried in baptism, and being raised to walk in newness of life - **Romans 6:1-7**

Re-baptism (being correctly baptized in Jesus' name) is sometimes required of those who went through a similar act - **Acts 19:1-6**

Make sure you were not "baptized" for wrong reason: to join a denomination, or to show that you were saved earlier - **Acts 2:38**

Make sure you were not sprinkled or dunked as an infant - **Mark 16:16; Acts 8:36-39**

Spiritual Growth and Involvement

There is no time to waste being "lukewarm" or failing to grow and build up the church of Christ -
2Peter 1:5-11; Revelation 3:16; Hebrews 10:23-25

Are You Secure In Your Salvation?

Our condition before God is something we must make sure is right

For our own peace of mind.

For the cause of Christ in a dark, misguided world.

Nothing in this life can be more important than this

We need to be sure that all is well while we have the precious time left on our clock of fleeting life

If you really want to go to heaven, make it as sure as you can.

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