

The Vine

I am the vine; you are the branches...John 15:5

A publication of Valley Falls Christian Church

April 2021

There are several theories skeptics ascribe to when they try to disprove the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

One is that Jesus didn't actually die, but merely passed out on the cross. Some even claim that Jesus drugged himself before the ordeal so he could survive the cross.

Anyone who would subscribe to this theory doesn't have a clue how horrific the cross is. You just didn't survive a Roman execution. They would break the legs of those on the cross if they needed to speed up death. They didn't need to break Jesus legs, but the Roman soldier still stabbed him in the side to make sure he was dead.

Even if Jesus had awakened in the tomb, how would a tortured, weak person move a two ton stone from the inside of a dark tomb?

Another theory is that because of the rush of the burial, their grief and the darkness of early morning, the women went to the wrong tomb that Sunday morning.

This is such a significant event in the lives of the women they surely wouldn't forget where Jesus was buried after two days. They certainly all wouldn't have chosen the same wrong tomb.

How many tombs could they have gone to where the stone had already been rolled away? They didn't know how they were going to get it moved. When they told Peter and John, they ran ahead. Guess what? They ran to the same tomb.

Had they gone to the wrong tomb and made the claim Jesus had risen, the Jewish authorities would have quickly gone to the correct tomb and produced a body. Oh, and if the women and disciples got the wrong tomb, so did the angels!

A third suggestion is that the disciples stole Jesus' body in order to perpetuate the claim that he would rise.

The Roman guard units were usually as many as sixteen soldiers. For each shift, four would remain awake and guard the tomb entrance while the remaining soldiers slept in a semicircle around the tomb. Even if the soldiers had fallen asleep, as the chief priests instructed them to claim, several frightened disciples would have to

creep over the sleeping soldiers, move the heavy stone up an incline, and remove Jesus' body without waking them.

Another problem with this theory is that the disciples all were persecuted and all but John died martyrs' deaths for a lie they perpetuated. Surely if they had really stolen the body, one of them would have cracked under that pressure.

There are other theories but none can get beyond the facts. History shows that Jesus was executed by crucifixion. The tomb was empty. The disciples believed they saw the risen Christ in a real body. The church, based on the resurrection of Jesus Christ exploded at Pentecost and is still strong two millennia later.

The Bible tells us there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men. (Matthew 28:2, 4)

The angel proclaimed Jesus had risen from the dead. The women saw Jesus and touched him. Jesus later appeared to the apostles and then to over 500 believers.

Why does this matter? Jesus died as the atoning sacrifice for our sins. His resurrection is proof that the Father accepted this sacrifice. His resurrection means Jesus is now at the right hand of the Father as our advocate. His resurrection means we now have power through the Holy Spirit. His resurrection means he will keep his promise that he will return! If Jesus is not raised, our faith is useless and we are still in our sins and we are to be pitied more than anyone.

Why do so many want the resurrection to be untrue? If Jesus is truly risen, it requires a decision and life changes to get to heaven. Instead, they would rather try to find life in dead things (Luke 24:5).

Through faith in Christ and his resurrection, we have the only pathway to true joy, love, hope, peace and fellowship with God the Father.

Christ is risen indeed!

Mike

Sonrise service is at 8 a.m. Breakfast immediately follows. After breakfast, kids Sunday school classes will meet, while adults and teens will clean up and have time for fellowship. Regular worship is still at 10 a.m.

There are various activities/recognitions that we do. Recognizing Mother's and Father's Day, Kids Christmas program, etc. We have set out folders on the table in the foyer to correspond to those things. If you would like to volunteer for any of these activities, check those out on the way out of church this morning. If you want to do it, sign up on the sheet and take the folder.

The church would like to get the nursery started back up again. If enough people will sign up, they'd only have to do it every six weeks or so. If enough people! If we don't get enough to sign up, we will continue as we have been for a while longer. We WILL have a nursery staffed for Easter Sunday. Sign-up sheet is in the foyer for adults and teen helpers. Some initial guidelines on there as well.



If you or your student is graduating from middle school, high school, or college (2 or 4 year) this year, VFCC would like to briefly recognize them during the worship service on Sunday, May 16th. Please submit names to Pastor Mike or the church office by April 25th.

Ralph and Cindy Shead from Literature and Teaching Ministry will be with us on April 18th, they will present the ministry for adults and teens during the Sunday school time and will also give a brief report during the worship service.

Men's Breakfast: The men's breakfast will be Saturday, April 10, 8:00 AM. Kevin Gatzemeyer is cooking.

Pocket Change for Progress: Please continue saving your pocket change for VFCC youth programs and School Supply Project. There is a bucket for your change anytime, not just the third Sunday.

Past sermons are available online at www.valleyfallscc.org. If you cannot access them this way, you may ask Pastor Mike for a cd copy.

On line sermon opportunity: For those sheltering at home, church service will be available to live stream on YouTube (and Facebook). Also available on YouTube, previous services.

Don't forget to subscribe to Valley Falls Christian Church YouTube channel



Sermon Series, Scriptures:

April 4	Resurrection Sunday Peace John 20:24-30
April 11	Sufficient Grace 2 Cor 12:7-10
April 18	Love and Truth 2 Cor 12:19-21
April 25	Danger 2 Cor 13:5-10

April	Greeters	Scripture reader	Communion Devotion
4	Barret	Barret John 20: 24-30	Stan Farr
11	Spencer	Spencer 2 Cor 12:7-10	Stan Farr
18	Mitchell	Mitchell 2 Cor 12:19-21	Stan Farr
25	Farr	Farr 2 Cor 13:5-10	Stan Farr

April communion devotion and prayer: Stan Farr

Prayer Requests: Becky Arnold, Dee Carder, Emma Dockweiler, The family of Evelyn Allen, Susan Klawuhn

OUR SOLDIERS: Curtis Mitchell, Aaron Cook, Jacob Mitchell, Matthew Branam, Noe Garza, Gary Flack, Dayton Flack

Church Offerings:

Feb 28 - \$ 895
Mar 07 - \$ 2,327
Mar 14 - \$ 724

Gyve totals not included in totals.

Give to VFCC online through our partnership with Gyve at: <https://gyve.io/give/valleyfallsc>

April Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 4 Betty Smith
- 11 Debbie Gerstner
Cindy Parker
- 12 Aaron and Cheyenne Cook (2016)
- 13 Jozee Thayer
- 19 Martha Gilleece
- 22 Erin Thomas
- 26 Susan Klawuhn
- 29 Stan Farr

(Names in CAPS in Mission Field)



There are various jobs that need to be done in order to maintain the physical presence of the church. Maintenance, upkeep, work on the grounds, and building. Men or women, if you would be interested in serving in this capacity, please see Jay Welborn.



Flaming Spirit Camp: There are registration deadlines for camp this year. The deadline for the first camp (high school) is May 19th. Please go to flamingspirit.com to check out the calendar, register your child, and to see their COVID protocols. The church will pay half of the camp fees for our church kids. We encourage parents to get together for ride-sharing to drop off and pick up kids.

Flaming Spirit Christian Camp Dates:

- June 6-11 High school
- June 13-18 Jr. High
- June 20-24 5-6 grade
- June 26 Pre K-K day camp
- June 27-29 3-4 grade
- June 29-30 1-2 grade

Valley Falls Christian Church

511 Oak Street
Valley Falls, KS 66088

RETURN SERVICE
REQUESTED

Phone: 785-945-6757
Email: office@valleyfallsc.org
On the web: www.valleyfallsc.org
Find us on Facebook!

Mike Kirby, Pastor

You are welcome to join us!

Sunday Service times:

Bible Study (all ages) – 9:00 AM

Worship – 10:00 AM

Youth Group (grades 7-12) – 5:00 PM

Midweek: Bible Study-7:00 PM

Sunday	Monday	Wednesday	Thursday	Saturday
			1	3
He Is Risen 4	5	7	8	10
8 a.m. Sunrise Service Breakfast following	1:30 PM – Sunflower Crafters	6:15 PM – Worship prac 7:00 Bible Study		8 am Men's Breakfast
11	12	14	15	17
5 PM – Youth Group	1:30 PM – Sunflower Crafters	6:15 PM – Worship prac 7:00 Bible Study		
18	19	21	22	24
5 PM – Youth Group	1:30 PM – Sunflower Crafters	6:15 PM – Worship prac 7:00 Bible Study		
25	26	28	29	
5 PM Youth Group	1:30 PM – Sunflower Crafters	6:15 PM – Worship prac 7:00 Bible Study		