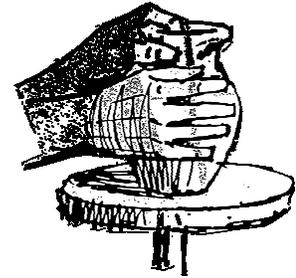


His Workmanship: Westside

“For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works.”

—Ephesians 2:10



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Isaiah 64:8

A Challenge to Skeptics to Look at the Evidence, by Jerry Newcombe and D. James Kennedy

Have you ever heard of Theudas? How about Judas of Galilee? They were would-be messiahs in the first century. How many followers do these men have today? Zero, zip, nada.

Of course, we have all heard of Jesus Christ. One-third of humanity professes to believe in Him. But I guarantee you we would never have heard of Him had He not risen from the dead. Whoever you are, whatever you believe, you have a vested interest in looking into the issue of Jesus's resurrection from the dead. There are millions today who simply dismiss the message of Christ out of hand and don't realize the eternal peril they are in by doing so.

On the first day of the week after His crucifixion, the tomb of Jesus was empty. That is an historical fact. Furthermore, rather than propagating a myth, the disciples themselves were the original skeptics of the resurrection. The only explanation for their turn from cowering in fear to boldly proclaiming Christ was that they had encountered the risen Jesus.

When it comes to the evidence for the resurrection, the world's most famous ex-atheist was impressed. Antony Flew, a leading British philosopher, argued the case for atheism for

50 years, but in 2004, at age 81, he reached the conclusion that God exists. In an interview, he said that the *“evidence for the resurrection is better than for claimed miracles in any other religion.”* While Flew was not a Christian and remained skeptical until his death in 2010 that Jesus came back to life after His crucifixion, he did acknowledge the unique character of the case for Christ's resurrection. *“It's outstandingly different in quality and quantity, I think, from the evidence offered for the occurrence of most other supposedly miraculous events,”* he said in a [Philosophia Christi](#) interview with Dr. Gary Habermas, a Liberty University theologian and historian.

Simon Greenleaf, a 19th century Harvard law professor who has been called the greatest authority on legal evidences in the history of the world, concluded, after careful scrutiny, that the resurrection of Christ was a reality. Dr. Thomas Arnold, 19th-century history professor at Oxford, said, *“I know of no one fact in the history of mankind which is proved by better and fuller evidence of every sort, to the understanding of a fair inquirer, than the great sign which God hath given us that Christ died and rose again from the dead.”*

Scholar Gary Habermas has pointed out five historical facts about Christ,

agreed to by nearly all ancient historians, Christian or not, that point logically to the conclusion that Christ did, in fact, walk out of the tomb on the third day. Those facts are as follows.

First, Jesus died by crucifixion. Aside from the gospels, four 1st or 2nd century sources, including the Jewish historian Josephus and the Roman historian Tacitus, all make this claim.

Second, the disciples of Jesus believed that He rose and appeared to them in a physical body. They went from craven cowards who deserted their Master to bold preachers of the gospel. Nearly all paid with their lives for their profession that Jesus was alive. What, if not the truth that Jesus arose, motivated these men to give their lives? Men do not willingly die for a lie.

Third, the church persecutor, Paul, was suddenly changed and became a Christian. Paul's turnabout was so complete and long-standing that he was both willing to die and did die for his belief in the risen Jesus. That Saul, the persecutor, became Paul, the persecuted, is documented by Paul, Luke, and the early church fathers. What, if not the resurrection,

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“He is not here, but is risen,” —Luke 24:6

accounts for Paul’s dramatic change?

Fourth, James, the brother of Jesus, a pious Jew who did not believe in Christ before His death, was also suddenly changed. The New Testament reports that the risen Christ appeared to James, who later became a church leader and died a martyr’s death, according to the 1st century Jewish historian Josephus. What, if not the risen Christ, explains his lifelong, to the death, change?

Fifth, the empty tomb. Other religions can point to the tomb of their founder. Christians cannot. He is not in the grave. His corpse has never been found. Even Jewish authorities acknowledge the empty tomb. The 2nd century Jewish apologist Trypho, in his dialogue with Justin Martyr, labeled Jesus a “Galilean deceiver whom we crucified, but his disciples stole him by night from the tomb where he was laid....” That “stolen body” theory, one of many discredited attempts to explain the resurrection, flounders on the fact that Roman soldiers were guarding the large heavy stone at the entrance to the tomb. Conspiracy theories fail.

The late Chuck Colson worked in the Nixon White House. He said: “Compare the Watergate scandal with the resurrection. With Watergate, there was a human conspiracy; but once it began to break, it collapsed completely.” And 80 men went to jail—Colson being one of them. But nothing (not even torture) could stop the disciples who proclaimed the resurrection of Jesus.

The evidence is, as Flew put it, “*outstandingly different in quality and quantity.*” The scope and strength of the evidence for the resurrection is such that one cannot both reject the resurrection and, at the same time, believe in any ancient event.

The 2,000-year-old claim that “**He is risen indeed**” is true indeed.

Honest skeptics who have examined the evidence eventually became be-

lievers. Repeatedly.

* General Lew Wallace, the author of Ben-Hur: A Tale of the Christ, was an unbeliever and set out to disprove the faith that he later came to embrace and help to promote.

* One of the best known defenders of the Christian faith of today is Josh McDowell, author of the immensely helpful Evidence That Demands a Verdict. But as a young college student, he was very skeptical about the historicity of Christ and His church. McDowell spent time on a study leave at the British Museum specifically to refute the faith. He thought it would be easy and simple. But after a few weeks of intense study, he realized how wrong he was. He gave his life to Christ and has now spoken all over the world to share the good news of Christ.

* C. S. Lewis was one of the greatest writers of the 20th century. He taught at Oxford and at Cambridge University. As a young man, he was an atheist, until he examined Christ more closely. He describes himself in Surprised by Joy as “*the most dejected, reluctant convert in all of England...dragged into the kingdom kicking, struggling, resentful, and darting [my] eyes in every direction for a chance of escape.*”

* Dr. Mike Adams, a criminology professor at the University of North Carolina, grew up with believing parents but declared himself an atheist as a young man. He even shouted at the TV against evangelists as they preached. But after personally witnessing man’s inhumanity to man, he professed his faith: “*I realized when you cast your eyes upon absolute evil, it kind of proves there’s something that’s good. The shadow proves the sunshine, as C.S. Lewis was fond of saying.*”

* Author Dr. Mike Licona, professor at Houston Baptist University, said he had serious doubts as a young man: “*So I resolved to do a thorough investigation and go where the evidence led. After*

years of research, the conclusion was inescapable that Jesus had risen from the dead, and the Christian [sic] gospel turns out being true.”

* Dr. Gary Habermas of Liberty University was one of Mike Licona’s key professors and is a renown scholar on the resurrection alive. He said: “*I struggled through many years of religious doubt, for some ten years straight and then more sporadically for many more years beyond that. It dominated my thinking during those years... Having studied other philosophies and world religions along the way, at one point I thought I was becoming a Buddhist. Throughout my entire search for answers, nothing quieted my toughest questions more thoroughly than did my detailed study of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. This event became my anchor and foundation for faith ever since.*”

Skeptics are welcome to examine the evidence for themselves. He is risen indeed!

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RFRA, from p. 3

government and 19 other states. Arkansas is poised to follow in Indiana’s foot-steps, with a final vote expected next week in the House on legislation that Republican Gov. Asa Hutchinson has said he’ll sign.

The Indiana law is good policy. Like the federal Religious Freedom Restoration Act, Indiana’s law prohibits substantial government burdens on religious exercise unless the government can show a compelling interest in burdening religious liberty and does so by the least restrictive means. These protections for religious freedom provide a common-sense way to balance the fundamental right to religious liberty with compelling government interests. By passing its Religious Freedom Restoration Act, Indiana joined the 19 other states that have implemented such laws. Eleven additional states have religious liberty protections that state courts have interpreted to provide a similar level of protection. These sensible laws place the onus on the government to justify its actions in burdening the free exercise of religion.



God makes my heart clean in 2015 "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me." —Ps 51:10

Religious Freedom, from p. 4 interference.

- Neither gays, lesbians, nor sexual orientation are mentioned anywhere in the law.
- Then-State Senator Barack Obama voted for the same law in Illinois in 1998, which passed unanimously and stands to this day.
- 19 other states besides Indiana *already have* RFRA laws, including Connecticut, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and Louisiana.
- There is already a RFRA law applying to the federal government that passed the Congress almost unanimously in 1993 and stands today. It was sponsored by then-Representative Chuck Schumer in the House, and co-sponsored by Ted Kennedy in the Senate. It was signed by Bill Clinton, and had the staunch support of the American Civil Liberties Union.
- Just six years ago, the liberal ACLU helped defend Texas' RFRA law, and hailed the court decision upholding it.

But you wouldn't know any of that if you only heard the sensational stories in the mainstream media.

Since Pence signed the bill into law, Indiana has been widely criticized by businesses and organizations around the nation, as well as on social media with the hashtag #[boycottindiana](#). Already, consumer review service *Angie's List* has said it will suspend a planned expansion that includes Indianapolis because of the new law. *Angie's List* had sought an \$18.5 million incentive package from Indian-

Discipleship Here At Home

apolis's City-County Council to add 1,000 jobs over 5 years. The Indianapolis-based NCAA has expressed concerns and has suggested it could move future events elsewhere; the men's Final Four is in the city this weekend.

Big business leaders jingled some silver in front of Indiana's elected leaders to entice them away from defending religious freedom, and sadly they took the silver. After huddling with CEOs and LGBT groups, Indiana's legislative leadership unveiled a new bill that not only guts the state's newly enacted Religious Freedom Restoration Act but imposes punishing fines on people who follow their beliefs about marriage. While most were expecting some kind of 'clarification,' few expected the proposed law that outrageously contemplates criminal prosecution for business owners who decline to be a party to a same-sex ceremony. The proposal doesn't directly create criminal punishment, but for the first time establishes that if the legislature were ever to adopt criminal penalties in the future, a religious freedom claim would provide no defense against imprisonment. The Becket Fund for Religious Liberty describes the proposed language as making "specific allowances for criminal prosecution."

Some national gay-rights groups opposing the RFRA say it is a way for lawmakers in Indiana and several other states where such bills have been proposed this year to grant a state-sanctioned waiver for discrimination as the US Supreme Court prepares to mull the gay marriage question.

Supporters of the RFRA, including Pence, contend discrimination claims are overblown and insist it will keep the government from compelling people to provide services they find objectionable on religious grounds. They also maintain courts haven't allowed discrimination under similar laws covering the federal

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PRAY FOR healing, protection, help

- **Judy Strand**—heart valve surgery tomorrow at CU Aurora in prep for liver transplant; ICU a few days
- **Kaylee Chavez**—age 10, PRAISE—spinal fluid no cancer cells; MRI clear; treatment continues
- **Rod Green**—recovering from severed thumb
- **Nell Free**—rehab recovery for broken hip; Arvada Care & Rehab, 6121 W. 60th Ave, Arvada 80003, rm 7, bed A
- **Ed Fink**—prostate cancer; treatment for brain tumors
- **Pat Wilkes**—surgery recovery for torn shoulder tendon
- **Bill Dennis**—home following rehab on infected knee drainage; pseudo-gout
- **Sandra Perry**—possible kidney failure, may need dialysis or transplant; heart valve issues recently diagnosed; neuropathy from diabetes
- **Chris Bennett**, former member—all tools for biz stolen; recovering from fall, fractured pelvis
- **Buford Wrather, Cheryl Reames's dad**—stroke, complicated by Parkinson's; in CO Springs
- **Sylvia Chapman, Brett's grandmother**—third stage pancreatic cancer; chemo
- **Judy Sartin**—cold; rotator cuff injury; spinal stenosis; arthritis
- **Brittany Tope's mother**—breast cancer in spine; pain in broken ribs which tumor has injured; grandmother—on dialysis
- **Kim Howell's niece Tonya Robison**—delivered 32-week, 2 lb, 5 oz **Malachi Taylor Robison** 2 wks ago; in NICU in Louisville, KY, at least a month
- **Patty Barber**, friend of Sandra Perry—hematoma
- **Kenny Boyd's coworker Kim Phillips**—asks our prayers for heart problems
- **Rick Robbins**, friend of Howells—brain surgery

CHRONIC CONDITIONS

- **Logan Corray; Addison Tope; Christian Harrod; Rocco Jr; Tim Huelsman**—asthma
- **Nell Free**—pacemaker, heart; back pain
- **Autumn Hadders**—epilepsy; celiac disease
- **Jonathan Hadders**—RA
- **Danielle Huelsman**—vertigo, CV syndrome
- **Hannah Huelsman**—polycythemia, thickening of blood; heart murmur, acid reflux, chest pain
- **Kirk Johnson**—MS
- **Menards**—aging; **Lloyd**, diabetes, weak;
- **Virginia**, macular degeneration; high BP
- **Cheryl Reames**—diverticulitis; fibromyalgia
- **Lynda Szymanski**—COPD, lung weakness
- **Travel Brett Witherington** in FL Through April helping father refurbish houses

"Let every man and woman...say not merely, 'Christ is risen,' but 'I shall rise.'" —Phillips Brooks



Exposing current thoughts & trends *religious liberty*

The Facts About Religious Freedom Laws, by Sarah Torre

Only a week ago Indiana Gov. Mike Pence said that a new state law that attempts to protect long-standing religious freedoms “is not about discrimination” and that he and other state lawmakers do not intend to change the legislation. Pence, a Republican, said the legislation that he signed in March prohibits Indiana laws that “substantially burden” a person’s ability to follow his or her religious beliefs.

Since then, the mainstream media has launched an all-out blitz over the law that protects the fundamental freedom of Indiana citizens from unnecessary and unreasonable government coercion. The media’s gross mischaracterizations of the Indiana Religious Freedom Restoration Act ignore the truth: Religious Freedom Restoration Laws prevent government discrimination against religious free exercise and simply provide a way to balance religious liberty with compelling government interests.

Religious liberty isn’t an absolute right. Religious liberty doesn’t always trump. Religious liberty is balanced with concerns for a compelling state interest that’s being pursued by the least restrictive means possible. The definition of “person” includes religious institutions, businesses and associations, which is being interpreted as allowing a cake maker, for example, legally to refuse an order for a wedding cake for a gay couple.

Pence told ABC’s This Week that the original federal law is more than 20 years old and the purpose of the new Indiana one is to expand individual rights for those who feel government has impinged on their personal rights. “This is not about discrimination,” he said. “This is about empowering people to confront government overreach.”

- The law sets a standard that state government must follow when dealing with cases that involve religious freedom. The government must demonstrate that it has a “*compelling interest*” to get involved, and then, if a remedy is called for, it must use the “*least restrictive*” solution. “*Compelling interest*” and “*least restrictive*” are terms of art in the legal profession. The law sets a high bar to get involved and a low bar for any solution. That’s all. It does not give anyone a “license” to do anything. It does not say what the outcome of challenges should be. It does offer similar protections to what’s already in federal law.

- The law reiterates the freedom, under the long-established rights guaranteed in the First Amendment to the Constitution, to act according to one’s convictions without government compulsion or

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meets at
13789 W. 8th Avenue
Golden, Colorado 80401
720-295-4530

Pastors

Larry Campbell (303) 246-8810
DeWayne Howell (303) 973-7283

Preacher

Jim Reingrover (303) 973-5102

info@thechurchingolden.com

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Westside-Church-of-Christ/276475819148309>

Assembly Schedule

Sunday

| | |
|--------------------|----------|
| Bible classes | 9:00 am |
| Morning assembly | 10:00 am |
| Afternoon assembly | 1:30 pm |

Wednesday

| | |
|---------------|---------|
| Bible classes | 7:30 pm |
|---------------|---------|

Sunday morning

- **adult Bible class**, “*Marriage Boot Camp: Basic Training in Communication*,” Jim Reingrover

- **Sermon**, “Peter’s Epistle to Westside, 10,” Jim Reingrover

Sunday afternoon

- Lessons from the Life of Christ, “How Jesus Dealt with Non-Sequiturs—Luke 12:13-21,” Jeff Wilkes

Wednesday night adult class: Islam—Night and Day