

The Loudest Shouts: An Overview of Christian History
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Text: Topical

Central Idea of Message: Belief in the literal, physical resurrection of Jesus Christ has been, and remains, the common denominator of Christianity in all of its expressions for nearly 2,000 years.

Introduction: I have preached Easter Sunday sermons from 1 Cor. 2-3 detailing the three categories of humans: the natural [unsaved], the carnal [saved], and the spiritual [saved], and then instructed each person present to ask themselves the personal question, "Who am I?"

Also, I have preached Easter Sunday sermons on hell from Luke 16 on Jesus' story about the rich man and Lazarus.

Additionally, I have preached Easter Sunday sermons encompassing the days in the life of Jesus leading to his arrest, trials, and crucifixion, and have done so many times in great detail.

Then, I have preached Easter Sunday sermons explaining the evidences for the literal, physical resurrection of Jesus Christ, going into great detail from an evidentialist's perspective as to why you and I should believe in the resurrection of Jesus and how this belief should impact our lives daily.

But today, on this particular Easter Sunday, I want to review three of the loudest shouts ever voiced in all of human history: "Crucify him," "It is finished," and "He has risen!" and then explain some of what has happened after the resurrection and after the proclamation, "He has risen!"

On this Easter Sunday, why don't we take a quick walk through the nearly 2,000 years of history since the resurrection and review what has happened by focusing on the spread of Christianity while filling in actual names, real dates, and factual places associated with Christianity for the last 1,993 years.

I. The Loudest Shouts

- A. Crucify him! (John 19:1-16)
- B. It is finished! (John 19:28-30)
- C. He has risen! (Matt. 28:1-7; Mark 16:1-6; Luke 24:1-12)

- II. **Christian History Tree with Approximate Dates of Beginnings**
- A. **Bible App > More > Events > First Baptist Church of Pryor > Church History Tree Link**
<https://drmichaelacox.files.wordpress.com/2020/03/churchhistorytree.pdf>
 - B. **Search Engine > drmichaelacox.wordpress.com > Categories > Church > History > History Icon/Photo > Church History Tree**
<https://drmichaelacox.files.wordpress.com/2020/03/churchhistorytree.pdf>
- III. **Christian History Chart**
- A. **Search Engine > drmichaelacox.wordpress.com > Categories > Church > History > History Icon/Photo > Church History Chart**
- IV. **The Spread of Christianity Videos**
- A. "Animated Map Shows How Christianity Spread Around the World" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BJ0dZhHccfU>
[1:51 video]
 - B. "The Spread of the Gospel HD" https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9Gp-_ZsUagc [1:30 video]

Conclusion: Actual names. Real dates. Factual places. Nearly 2,000 years of history, and still going! And what has been the common denominator with every one of these names, churches, and denominations scattered all over the world with nearly 2 billion followers? Belief in the literal, physical resurrection of Jesus Christ!

The conviction of the reality of the resurrection of Jesus Christ has been transforming people, starting churches, shaping communities, establishing colleges, hospitals, universities, children's homes, food banks, crisis pregnancy centers, adoption agencies, and much more since about A.D. 30!

So, what about you? Do you believe? Have you acted in faith on this belief by repenting of your sin and placing your faith in Jesus Christ to save you from the grip and penalty of your sin and making him the Lord of your life? If not, why not today?