



Don't Be Fooled

Tim Gill - Easter Sunday, April 1, 2018

Easter and foolishness have collided before.

²⁵ Then Jesus said to them, "You are foolish and slow to realize what is true."
Luke 24:25a (ICB)

¹¹ Their words sounded like foolish talk. The followers did not believe them.
Luke 24:11 (NLV)

⁸ Why would any of you think it is absurd to have hope that God raises the dead?
Acts 26:8 (VOICE)

²⁵ "I am not insane, most excellent Festus," Paul replied. "What I am saying is true and reasonable."
Acts 26:25 (NIV)

I won't be fooled by the resurrection of Jesus Christ...

1. When I look objectively at His execution.

"One of the most certain facts of history is that Jesus was crucified on orders of the Roman prefect of Judea, Pontius Pilate."
Bart Ehrman (NCU)

"Jesus' death as a consequence of crucifixion is indisputable."
Gerd Ludemann (Atheist Scholar)

2. When I investigate the early accounts.

¹ Now, brothers and sisters, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. ² By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain. ³ For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴ that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, ⁵ and that he appeared to Cephas, and then to the Twelve. ⁶ After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. ⁷ Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, ⁸ and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born.
1 Corinthians 15:1-8 (NIV)

3. When I review the reports of the empty tomb.

¹¹ While the women were on their way, some of the guards went into the city and reported to the chief priests everything that had happened. ¹² When the chief priests had met with the elders and devised a plan, they gave the soldiers a large sum of money, ¹³ telling them, "You are to say, 'His disciples came during the night and stole him away while we were asleep.' ¹⁴ If this report gets to the governor, we will satisfy him and keep you out of trouble." ¹⁵ So the soldiers took the money and did as they were instructed. And this story has been widely circulated among the Jews to this very day.
Matthew 26:11-15 NIV)

4. When I accept the testimony of eye witnesses.

¹ In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach ² until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. ³ After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God.
Acts 1:1-3 (NIV)

³² God has raised this very Jesus from death, and we are all witnesses to this fact.
Acts 2:32 (GNT)

What does the resurrection say to me?

1. Every claim of Jesus is true.
2. Every promise God has made, He'll make good.
3. God has the last laugh over death.
4. There are eternal consequences to a godless life.

¹ Only fools think there is no God... **Psalms 14:1a (ERV)**
