

# Risen, Reliable, Hopeful

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The Resurrection of Our Lord--Easter Day  
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Isa 65:17-25; 1 Cor 15:19-26; Lk 24:1-12

## Introduction

Christ is risen! [He is risen, indeed. Alleluia!]

## I. A Common Objection

Some opponents of Christianity like to say: \_\_\_\_\_  
in God has disastrous social implications.

Belief in God, it is argued, leads inextricably to disastrous social consequences--from wars to slavery, from Arabs and Jews killing one another to Catholics and Protestants going at it, to Islamic Jihadists, to the Crusades, to the Hindu caste system. The maximum amount of social misery has been caused by misguided religionists espousing some form of belief in God.<sup>1</sup>

How do we respond to that?

### 1. Don't run away from history.

We don't run away from the fact that "the Christian church has been peopled by 100-percent sinners since the time of Christ, which means that we should expect sin to be intertwined with the history of the Church."  
(Parton, *Defense*)

### 2. Expose the logical fallacy.

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<sup>1</sup>Parton, Craig A. *The Defense Never Rests: A Lawyer Among the Theologians*. Second ed. St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 2015. Kindle ed

Next, just because individual adherents to a position may have personal moral problems and fail to properly apply the truths of their worldview does not mean there is *necessarily* anything wrong with that worldview...*If Einstein had been convicted of armed robbery, would that mean that  $E=mc^2$ ?*

If some Christian does something sinful that doesn't mean that Jesus didn't rise from the \_\_\_\_\_.

### **3. Look at the facts.**

A commitment to God's existence, and more specifically God's particular existence in the person of Jesus Christ, has in fact resulted in a remarkable track record throughout history of the relief of human suffering and support for the social and cultural progress of mankind. This is in sharp contrast to the social devolution that is the lot of societies wedded to a materialistic metaphysic that is, philosophically at least, based on atheism (Lenin, Stalin, and Mao come to mind.) . . . "The world is still waiting for the first \_\_\_\_\_ leper colony."  
(Parton, *Defense*)

How did most hospitals in our country begin?

How did Oconomowoc Memorial Hospital Begin? Who was one of its "founding fathers"?

What started, fund and support *Family Promise of Western Waukesha County*?

Who does the bulk of the work supplying the food and the labor to distribute the food for local food pantries?

What group of people devotes over half of its resources to support children?

What is the origin of compulsory education for boys and girls?

## **II. Christ is Risen!**

### **A. Why do Christians do all this?**

Because...

Jesus, as God-in-the-flesh had the authority and ability to take the \_\_\_\_\_ for the sins of the whole world upon Him.

You don't need to punish yourself because \_\_\_\_\_ took the necessary punishment . . .

Jesus: "If the Son set you free, you will be free, indeed." (Jn 8.36)

Why? Because the forgiveness of Jesus Christ releases you from guilt and shame, \_\_\_\_\_ you to be the kind of person that you know that God intends you to be.

### **B. For You**

The forgiveness of Christ can change . . .

It won't make you \_\_\_\_\_ in this life, but it can help . . .

CCT: Jesus Christ *is* raised from the dead, reliable, and the proper object of our \_\_\_\_\_.

## **Conclusion**

1 Corinthians 15:19–22

And you, through faith in Christ, are \_\_\_\_\_!

Christ is risen! [He is risen, indeed!]