

INTRODUCTION

- * FOCUSING ON THE CHRIST ... *The Shadow of Christ ... The Life of Christ*
- * Two weeks ago, as we considered Christ's Arrest, we considered the spiritual war that was going on "behind the scenes."
- * Last week, we saw how that war intensified the closer Christ came to claiming Victory on the Cross ... Tetelestai!
- * Today, we want to examine the ultimate fulfillment of that Victory – Christ's Resurrection!

INSTRUCTION

I. THE E_____ OF CHRIST'S RESURRECTION

A. It Is A Matter of Fa_____

1. THE TESTIMONY OF THE A_____ (cf. Mark 16: 1-7; Matthew 28:5-7; Luke 24:4-8)
2. THE TESTIMONY OF THE W_____ (cf. Mark 16: 7-11; John 20:11-18; Matthew 28: 7-10)
3. THE TESTIMONY OF THE D_____ (cf. Mark 16: 12-14; John 20:19ff; Luke 24:13-36; I Cor 15:3-8)
4. THE TESTIMONY OF THE G_____ (cf. Matthew 28: 11-15)
5. THE TESTIMONY OF THE R_____

- a. Publius Cornelius Tacitus (115 AD) In his Annals, Book 15.44, referring to Nero being blamed for the burning of Rome ... "Consequently, to get rid of the report, Nero fastened the guilt and inflicted the most exquisite tortures on a class hated for their abominations, called Christians by the populace. Christus, from whom the name had its origin, suffered the extreme penalty during the reign of Tiberius at the hands of one of our procurators, Pontius Pilatus, and **a most mischievous superstition**, thus checked for the moment, again broke out not only in Judaea, the first source of the evil, but even in Rome, where all things hideous and shameful from every part of the world find their centre and become popular."
- b. Pliny (the Younger) was the governor of Pontus/Bithynia from 111-113 AD, in a letter to the Roman Emperor Trajan discussed his handling of "Christians" ... "Meanwhile, in the case of those who were denounced to me as Christians, I have observed the following procedure: I interrogated these as to whether they were Christians; those who confessed I interrogated a second and a third time, threatening them with punishment; those who persisted I ordered executed. For I had no doubt that, whatever the nature of their creed, stubbornness and inflexible obstinacy surely deserve to be punished. ... Those who denied that they were or had been Christians, when they invoked the gods in words dictated by me, offered prayer with incense and wine to your image, which I had ordered to be brought for this purpose together with statues of the gods, and moreover cursed Christ--none of which those who are really Christians, it is said, can be forced to do--these I thought should be discharged. ... I therefore postponed the investigation and hastened to consult you. For the matter seemed to me to warrant consulting you, especially because of the number involved. For many persons of every age, every rank, and also of both sexes are and will be endangered. For the contagion of **this superstition** has spread not only to the cities but also to the villages and farms."

B. It Is A Matter of Fa_____ (cf. John 20: 19-31)

II. THE R_____ OF CHRIST'S RESURRECTION

A. The P_____ of Sin Has Been P_____

1. THE E_____T OF THE PAYMENT: FOR TH_____ WH_____ W_____ (cf. Rom 5:12, 18-19; I Jn 2:2; Jn 3:16; Rom 3:21-26)
2. THE L_____T OF THE PAYMENT: FOR TH_____ WH_____ B_____ (cf. Romans 3:26; 10:8-13; I Cor 15:3-4, 12-17)

B. The P_____ of Sin Has Been B_____ (cf. I Cor 15:54-57; John 8: 31-36; I John 3:5-8; Romans 6:1-18)

INTROSPECTION

- * HAVE YOU "BELIEVED IN YOUR HEART" THAT GOD HAS RAISED CHRIST FROM THE DEAD?
ARE YOU WILLING TO DIE FOR THAT BELIEF?
- * ARE YOU APPLYING THE POWER OF CHRIST'S RESURRECTION TO YOUR LIFE?
ARE YOU EXPERIENCING VICTORY OVER THE POWER OF SIN?