

This message is based on Frank Turek and Norman L. Geisler's book, "I Don't Have Enough Faith to Be an Atheist"

1) The Gospel writers include _____ details about themselves

e.g. Matthew 8:26, 12:39-41, 16:5-12, 17:9, 17, & 22-23, 26:33-35, 28:17; Mark 8:26 & 33, 9:32 & 34, 10:13-14 & 35-40, 14:32-43 & 50; Luke 18:34 & 24:11; John 2:18-22, 3:14-18, 12:1-7 & 16, 21:20; Galatians 2:11

2) The Gospels include embarrassing details and awkward sayings of _____

e.g. Deuteronomy 21:23 & Galatians 3:13; Matthew 11:19; Mark 3:21-22 & 31; Luke 7:36-39; John 6:66, 7:5, 12, & 20, 8:30-31, 48, & 59, 10:20

3) The Gospels include _____ sayings of Jesus

e.g. Matthew 5:28, 32, 39-42, 44-45, 48; 6:19-21; 7:1-2

4) The Gospels make it clear what Jesus actually

5) The New Testament writers include resurrection details that they would not have _____

e.g. The burial of Jesus by Joseph of Arimathea (all 4 Gospels), the first witnesses being women (all 4 Gospels), Mary Magdalene being formerly demon-possessed (Luke 8:2), the conversion of priests (Acts 6:7), the Jewish religious leaders' explanation for the empty tomb (Matthew 28:11-15)

6) The Gospels identify at least than 17 _____ people

i.e. Annas, Caesar Augustus, Caiaphas, Herod Antipas, Herod Archelaus, Herod the Great, Herod Philip I, Herod Philip II, Herodias, Herodias' daughter (Salome), James, John the Baptist, Lysanius, Pilate, Quirinius, Tiberius Caesar, Jesus

7) The Gospels include _____ details

(The 4 Gospels) "...would have been received in evidence in any court of justice, without the slightest hesitation." - Simon Greenleaf

8) The New Testament writers presented _____ facts in their day, even regarding miracles

e.g. Luke 1:1-4; Acts 26:25-26; 1 Corinthians 15:3-7; 2 Corinthians 12:12; 2 Peter 1:16

9) The Gospels describe miracles like other historical events: with simple, _____ accounts

e.g. *The Resurrection in The Gospel of Peter (an apocryphal forgery)* vs. *Matthew 28:2-7; Mark 16:4-8; Luke 24:2-8; John 20:1-12*

"...neither 'going to heaven when you die', 'life after death', 'eternal life', nor even 'the resurrection of all Christ's people', is so much as mentioned in the four canonical resurrection stories. If Matthew, Mark, Luke and John wanted to tell stories whose import was 'Jesus is risen, therefore you will be too', they have done a remarkably bad job of it." – N.T. Wright

10) The Apostles, including the New Testament writers, abandoned their long-held sacred beliefs and practices, adopted new ones, and did not deny their testimony under _____ or threat of _____

e.g. *animal sacrifice replaced by Jesus' sacrifice; Law of Moses replaced by the sinless life of Jesus; strict monotheism replaced by a Trinity including God in the flesh; the Sabbath replaced by Sunday worship; a suffering servant messiah instead of a conquering king messiah; baptism; Communion*

"[The Jewish people] believed that these institutions were entrusted to them by God. They believed that to abandon these institutions would be to risk their souls being damned to hell after death. Now a rabbi named Jesus appears from a lower-class region. >>>

>>> *He teaches for three years, gathers a following of lower - and middle-class people, gets in trouble with the authorities, and gets crucified along with thirty thousand other Jewish men who are executed during this time period. But five weeks after he's crucified, over ten thousand Jews are following him and claiming that he is the initiator of a new religion. And get this: they're willing to give up or alter all five of the social institutions that they have been taught since childhood have such importance both sociologically and theologically... Something very big was going on." – J.P. Moreland*

"Watergate involved a conspiracy to cover up, perpetuated by the closest aides to the President of the United States - the most powerful men in America, who were intensely loyal to their president. But one of them, John Dean, turned state's evidence, that is, testified against Nixon, as he put it, "to save his own skin" - and he did so only two weeks after informing the president about what was really going on - two weeks! The real cover-up, the lie, could only be held together for two weeks, and then everybody else jumped ship in order to save themselves. Now, the fact is that all that those around the president were facing was embarrassment, maybe prison. Nobody's life was at stake. But what about the disciples? Twelve powerless men, peasants really, were facing not just embarrassment or political disgrace, but beatings, stonings, execution. Every single one of the disciples insisted, to their dying breaths, that they had physically seen Jesus bodily raised from the dead. Don't you think that one of those apostles would have cracked before being beheaded or stoned? That one of them would have made a deal with the authorities? None did." – Chuck Colson (former aide to U.S. President Nixon)

While many people will die for a lie that they _____ is truth, no sane person will die for what they _____ is a lie.