

The Stakes

▪ What We Found

St. Paul stakes the entire faith on one checkable past event: “if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain” (1 Cor 15:14). We agreed to the Rules of the Investigation, opened the Fact Ledger with what all three of us already grant, and heard what the Church actually claims: a real event with historically verifiable manifestations (CCC 639), whose rising itself no one witnessed (CCC 647). The third-day scriptures we hunted (Psalm 16:10; Hosea 6:2; Matthew 12:40; Isaiah 53) opened the question the whole study will carry: “in accordance with the scriptures.”

▪ Voices of the Church

St. Augustine • *The City of God* 22.5

If the world believed without any miracles, that itself would be the greatest miracle of all. (Summary of his argument.)

St. Thomas Aquinas • *Summa Contra Gentiles* I.6

The conversion of the world by a few simple men, preaching hardship, is a public fact demanding explanation. (Summary.)

St. John Paul II • *Fides et Ratio*, opening line

“Faith and reason are like two wings on which the human spirit rises to the contemplation of truth.”

▪ My Verdict (private, sealed tonight)

Complete privately, then seal in your envelope. No one reads this but you, in Session 7.

What I actually think happened that Sunday morning is...

▪ Live It This Week

- Read 1 Corinthians 15:12-19 once more, slowly. Write one sentence: what is Paul risking?
- Notice this week how you decide what to believe about events you did not witness.

▪ Scripture Memory Verse

if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain.
1 Corinthians 15:14 (RSV2CE)

▪ Before Next Session

Before Session 2: read Mark 15:15-39 once, at your own pace.

Catechism connections for this session: CCC 639, 643-644, 647, 156.