

Christ Is Alive



That the resurrection is an actual historical event is critical to what we believe. We can debate about the historicity of some events in scripture. Some may believe that a Bible story is a parable or a symbol, and others may believe the same story is historically accurate. Sometimes, these debates create great furor and division. The resurrection of Jesus Christ, however, must not be the subject of such debate among those who claim to have a relationship with the Lord. It is, after all, pretty hard to have a relationship with a dead man.

It is the fact of the resurrection that ultimately separates Christians from many of the religions of the world. There are many who honor Jesus as a “good man,” a “great teacher,” a “philosophical genius,” or a “heroic leader.” The problem with such descriptions, of course, is that they allow for no distinction between Jesus and countless other historical figures: St. Patrick was a “good man;” Socrates was a “great teacher;” Rousseau was called a “philosophical genius;” and Alexander the Great was known as a “heroic leader.” None of these was Jesus, and all of them are dead.

Tim Rice’s lyrics in the rock opera “Jesus Christ Superstar” caused quite a controversy decades ago. This show, while presenting scenes drawn from scripture and addressing some of Christ’s last moments, has an overriding theme that is troubling to many Christians. That theme is that Jesus was “just a man.” The characters of Judas and Mary Magdalene both sing those very words. Rice said, “It happens that we don’t see Christ as God but simply the right man at the right time at the right place.” Finally, and most pointedly, the show ends at the crucifixion.

When you do not tell the whole story, when you end at the crucifixion, you can conclude that Jesus – like Socrates and Alexander, and like Mohammed and Confucius and Abraham and Moses and Billy Graham – was just a man.

The secret to our faith is that Jesus, who was entirely human, was not “just a man.” The incarnation of very God into Christ is fulfilled in death’s puny attempt to hold Him. That is why Christ is among us, saving and healing here and now. That is why women and men today can hear the call of Christ.

Ours is a vibrant faith that looks forward as our Leader continues to come with His good news. We sing because love cannot die. Christ is alive!

©2009 Lyn Robbins