"He Saw and Believed"

Intro: As we open to the 20th chapter of the Book of John we come to read of the event that sets Christianity apart from all other major world religions, and that event which also _________ that Jesus is the _________ and that all other so-called "messiahs" are imposters, and that is the event of the resurrection of the crucified Christ. _________ _________ from the dead!

A. Let us not underestimate the importance of the resurrection for without it there is no gospel (_______ _______).

B. The Apostle Paul expressed the direct and necessary connection of the resurrection to the gospel message saying, 1 Cor 15:1-5, "Now I make known to you, brethren, the _________ which I preached to you, which also you received, in which also you stand, 2 by which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain. 3 For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ ________ for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 and that He was ________, and that He was _________ on the third day according to the Scriptures, 5 and that He appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve." And, Paul went on to say, verse 14, "... ___ Christ has _____ been raised, then our preaching is vain, your faith also is _________."

I. Mary Magdalene came to the tomb of Christ early on the _________ _______ of the week.

A. It was the first day of the week. It is for this reason that we meet together on Sunday (the first day of the week): to commemorate the _______________ of our Lord. Beloved, we meet on this day each week to remember and celebrate the resurrection; to __________ our ________ Savior!

B. When Mary arrived she "saw" that "the _________" had "already" been "taken ________ from the tomb."

C. Mary ran to tell Simon Peter and John the Beloved of that which she had discovered: the heavy stone that sealed the tomb had been removed and the Lord's _________ was ________!

D. Understandably, Mary _____________ that someone had carried the Lord's body away and laid it elsewhere.

II. Both Peter and John ________ to the tomb ___ ______ if what Mary said was true (cf. Luke 24:11).

A. As it were, _________ ________ Peter and consequently, he came to the tomb first.
B. John the Beloved stooped to look in and he did not see the Lord's body, but only the linen grave _________ lying there by themselves, _________ and unoccupied.

III. When Peter arrived he _________ to tomb immediately and _________ the vacant grave wrappings.

A. As Peter entered the tomb and saw the linen wrappings lying there he observed the articles with _________ intently scrutinizing them. He looked them over with amazement, but inconclusively. By that we mean that he was astonished and full of wonder, yet _________ the _________ of what the empty grave clothes evidenced.

B. To add to Peter's astonishment (bewilderment) the _______ _______ which had been on the Lord's head was _________ in a place by itself.

IV. When _________ entered the tomb He saw the articles and _________ what was evidenced, and _________.

A. Here John explained why he and Peter responded as they did. Up to this point, they had not yet understood what the Scripture expressed: that Jesus _________ be crucified, buried, and _________ from the dead.

B. Thus, did _________ respond in wonder, _________ to fathom what had taken place. And thus, did _________ then, at that time and not until then, come to understand, seeing and _________ that Christ had risen from the dead.

V. "So the _________ went away again to their own _________.”

Finally then: Here, today, we are _________ _________ for unbelief for unlike Mary, Peter and John who experienced these events as they happened we have the completed Written Word of God as recorded by the eye-witness and Holy Spirit inspired John the Beloved. And as he wrote at the end of chapter 20, this record has "been _________ that you may _________ that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name" (20:31).

We need not see with our physical eyes to come to belief for we have the historical written testimony in the Word of God. _________ comes by hearing, and _________ by the Word of _________.

Let us rejoice for on that first Lord's Day when Mary, Peter and John went to the tomb they did not find the crucified body of Christ, but only a rolled away stone, an empty tomb, and vacant grave clothes. _________ is _________! He is risen _________!

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