

“IF CHRIST BE NOT RISEN...”

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They're at it again! Hollywood is once again hot on the trail of disproving Christianity. filmmaker James Cameron claims to have irrefutable evidence that two stone caskets found in 1980 in a Jerusalem suburb contain the remains of Jesus, Mary Magdalene whom He supposedly married- remember “The Da Vinci Code?”), and Judah (a son the two supposedly had). Cameron's documentary is set to air on the Discovery Channel on March 4. Commenting on the impact of the “discovery,” a Hollins University professor ignorantly stated that even if these are the remains of Jesus that would in no way discredit His life and teachings, and that people could still view Him as the Son of God and as Savior.

Paul plainly stated that *“if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain”* (I Cor. 15:14). He added, *“Yea, and we are found false witnesses of God; because we have testified of God that he raised up Christ: whom he raised not up, if so be that the dead rise not”* (I Cor. 15:15). *“And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins”* (I Cor. 15:17).

Thus, if the bones of Jesus are indeed in that stone box discovered in 1980, the preaching and writings of the apostles are false, there is no basis for Christianity and man is still in his sins and has no hope. The very foundation of Christianity rests upon this one matter- the bodily resurrection of Jesus. Simply stated, if He was not raised from the dead, He was a fraud, Christianity crumbles and no part of it is plausible.

However, His body was raised from that tomb! He was *“declared to be the Son of God with power, by the resurrection from the dead”* (Rom. 1:4). After His resurrection He was seen by well over 500 credible witnesses (I Cor. 15:6). Neither James Cameron nor any other man shall ever be able to prove otherwise! Those stone boxes may contain bones, but they are not the bones of Jesus. He has been raised from the dead to die no more (Rom. 6:9), and ever lives to make intercession for His own (Heb. 7:25).

Praise our God, *“He is not here, for He is risen”* (Mt. 28:6)!