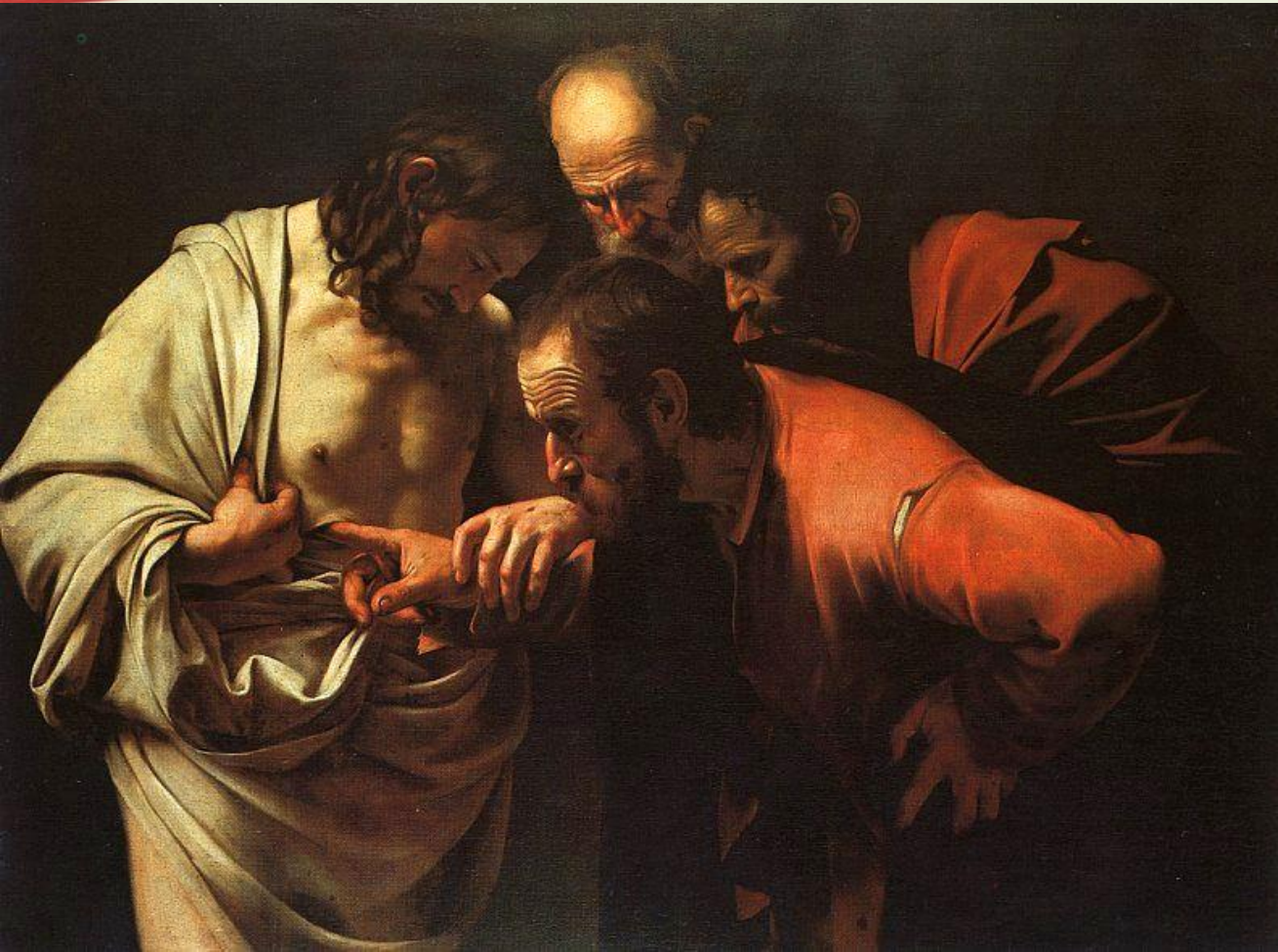


THE POWER OF THE RESURRECTION!

PHILIPPIANS 3:9-14



The Incredulity of Thomas by Caravaggio 1602

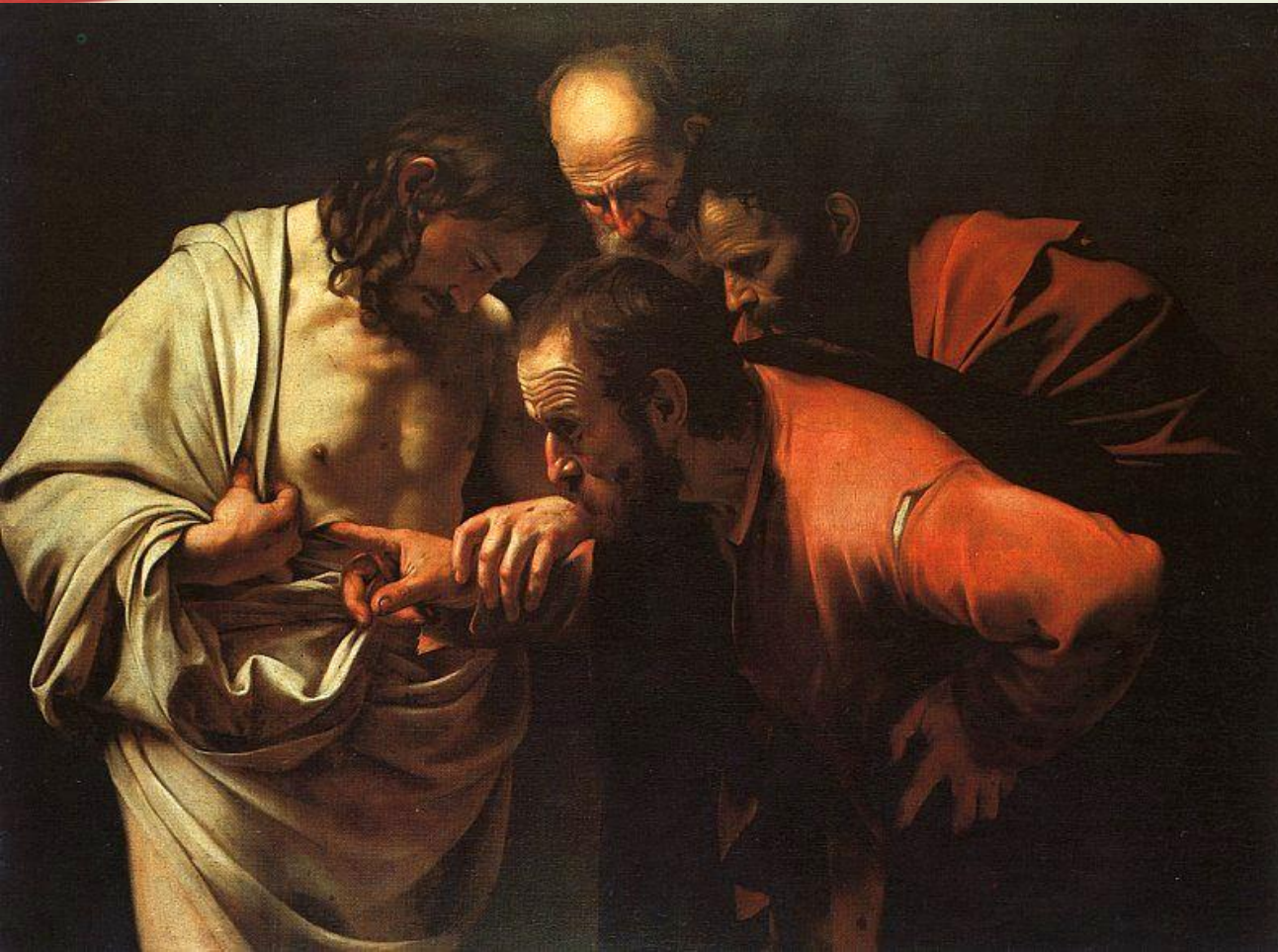
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This painting by Caravaggio was completed in 1602. Like all of Caravaggio's work it is a masterpiece of the use of light. The light highlights the event by drawing attention to the face of Thomas then from there to Christ's hand as it directs Thomas' pointing finger into the wound on his own side. It is a study in the struggle of belief. Caravaggio lived at the close of the Renaissance in eight decades the Enlightenment Period [1685-1815] would begin with its hyper skepticism.

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THE POWER OF THE RESURRECTION!

PHILIPPIANS 3:9-14



The Incredulity of Thomas by Caravaggio 1602

Series: Resurrection Sunday

The Enlightenment would be inspired by the works of Francis Bacon, Thomas Hobbes, René Descartes and the discoveries of Galileo Galilei and Johannes Kepler in the mid 1600s. It would be Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz, Isaac Newton and John Locke whose writings and observations would begin the period known as the Enlightenment. It would be Immanuel Kant in his essay of 1784 "What is Enlightenment?" that would define the era and its motto: "Dare to know! Have courage to use your own reason."

The French Revolution and Republic [1789-1804] would be seen as the supreme expression of this era with its worship of reason and skepticism of religion.

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PHILIPPIANS 3:9-14

9 ... and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith; 10 that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, 11 if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead. 12 Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. 13 Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, 14 I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

THE POWER OF THE RESURRECTION!

PHILIPPIANS 3:9-14



The Road To Emmaus by James Tissot. In this painting Jesus is teaching while one is bringing up objections and one is struggling to keep up with the discussion. Notice Jesus' hand on the shoulder of the one man. This is likely Cleopas the one who narrates to Jesus the events.

Luke 24:13-35

The gospel of Luke chapter 24 beginning in verse 13 Luke recounts the appearance of the resurrected Jesus to 2 disciples as they are traveling toward the village of Emmaus. They are troubled by the event of Sunday morning. They share with the stranger their belief in Jesus as a Prophet but their disappointment at his crucifixion and death. They share their hope that he was the Messiah but it had been dashed to pieces with his death. They also recount their incredulity at the testimony of the women who came back from the tomb with their account of the empty tomb and the testimony of angels to his resurrection.

THE POWER OF THE RESURRECTION!

PHILIPPIANS 3:9-14



The Road To Emmaus by James Tissot. In this painting Jesus is teaching while one is bringing up objections and one is struggling to keep up with the discussion. Notice Jesus' hand on the shoulder of the one man. This is likely Cleopas the one who narrates to Jesus the events.

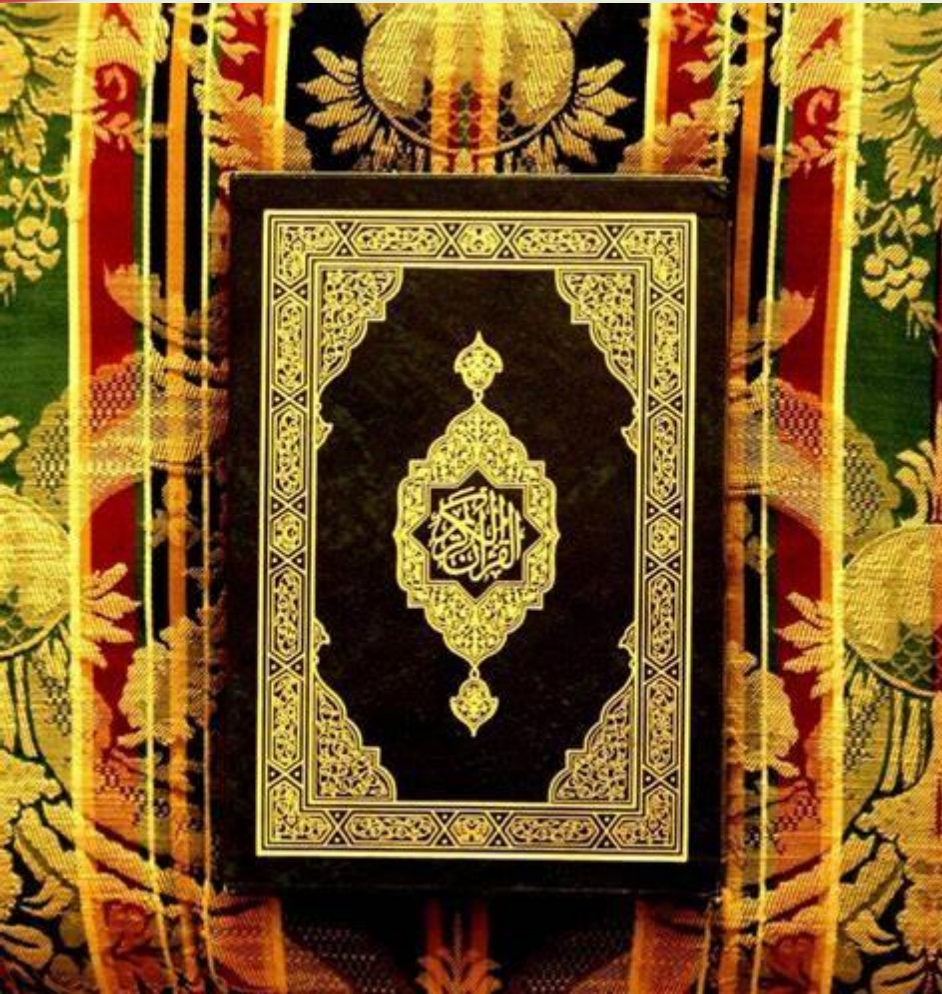
Luke 24:13-35

It is interesting that Luke devotes so much of his narrative to this event and its aftermath. For Luke and possibly for Paul this event had particular significance. Only one of the men is mentioned by name, Cleopas. We know that neither of these men were of the 11 apostles, yet they were clearly close enough to have access to the 11 who were in hiding. Their questions are the questions that we all have. Can I believe the witnesses? Is there precedent for this? Was the tomb really empty? Is it really possible? These are the same questions we ask today.

For these 2 disciples the possibility that Jesus had raised from the dead seemed impossible.

THE POWER OF THE RESURRECTION!

PHILIPPIANS 3:9-14



Quran, Muhammed died in AD 632
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Muhammed as we learned from the video study "Seeking Allah Finding Jesus" taught that Jesus was the Messiah and was Virgin Born. But he denied that Jesus was divine and denied that Jesus had died or was crucified. As a result Jesus could not have been resurrected.

Islam has a very different concept of sin and its impact on human nature. Sin within Islam does not need to be atoned.

Muhammad in his early prophetic work dealt with Christian communities which likely held a very high view of Mary. They were very likely Monophysite communities. To declare that Jesus was not virgin born would have challenged the chastity of Mary and thus lost their support at a critical time in his early prophetic work.

Islam by denying the crucifixion denies by default the resurrection. I Corinthians 15:12-16 Garrison COG - Apr. 04, 2021

1 CORINTHIANS 15:12-16

12 Now if Christ is preached that He has been raised from the dead, how do some among you say that there is no resurrection of the dead?

13 But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ is not risen. 14 And if Christ is not risen, then our preaching *is* empty and your faith *is* also empty. 15 Yes, and we are found false witnesses of God, because we have testified of God that He raised up Christ, whom He did not raise up — if in fact the dead do not rise.

16 For if *the* dead do not rise, then Christ is not risen. 17 And if Christ is not risen, your faith *is* futile; you are still in your sins!



Peter and John run to the empty tomb by James Tissot.

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THE POWER OF THE RESURRECTION! *PHILIPPIANS 3:9-14*

The Enlightenment period of Western history gave birth to modern skepticism. The mark of a skeptic became a denial of faith as a basis of knowledge. By the late 1700s Deists like Thomas Jefferson denied the possibility of miracles including the resurrection. They claimed that much of the material included in the gospels was myth and legend. By the mid - 1800s you had people who believed that Jesus was not an historical person but was a legendary mythological construct created in the 200's based on oral traditions. This was aided by the belief that the New Testament books were written centuries after the events described. This was possible because manuscripts of the New Testament only dated to the early Middle Ages. With the discovery of earlier manuscripts in the 20th century such views are no longer possible. In fact no credible scholar still believes that the New Testament books were written after turn of the 1st Century.

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Peter and John run to the empty tomb by James Tissot.

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THE POWER OF THE RESURRECTION! *PHILIPPIANS 3:9-14*

The earliest books written in the New Testament were likely Paul's epistles of Galatians and 1 Corinthians. Others argue that one of the Gospels may have preceded these. The composition of 1 Corinthians is accepted to be between AD 50 to 55. Then 1 Corinthians 15 contains the earliest explanation of the beliefs of the Christian community.

Paul clearly sees the Resurrection of Jesus Christ as central to the Christian faith. So it is impossible to argue that the resurrection of Jesus Christ is a late invention of the 2nd or 3rd century.

That leaves the skeptic with a glaring problem. No one now questions the historical reality of Jesus of Nazareth except a few rabid atheists. Historically it can be proved that Jesus was considered a miracle-worker and a prophet. It is clear that he viewed himself in a unique Messianic role. And it is clear he died by crucifixion.

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Peter and John run to the empty tomb by James Tissot.

THE POWER OF THE RESURRECTION!

PHILIPPIANS 3:9-14

The arguments against the Resurrection have collapsed to:

1. The miraculous is not possible in our material world without resorting to God. You must prove the existence of God.
2. The swoon theory has been abandoned by all but a few who believe that Jesus survived crucifixion and revived in the tomb. This is impossible due to Roman practice.
3. Hallucination. No case of mass hallucination has ever been recorded.
4. A pious scam. No one gives their life for a belief they know is untrue. Most of the Apostles who personally knew Jesus died horrible deaths affirming the resurrection.
5. Spiritual apparition. Christ's spirit appeared to the disciples [not accepted by agnostic or atheists].
6. Jesus had a twin. One of the twins was crucified.



Gary Habermas
Originator "Minimal
Facts" Argument

William
Lane Craig

Michael R.
Licona



THE POWER OF THE RESURRECTION!

PHILIPPIANS 3:9-14

Dr. Gary Habermas constructed an argument based on the minimal facts accepted by all historians there are 12:

- Jesus died by crucifixion
- He was buried.
- His death caused his disciples to despair and lose hope.
- The tomb was empty.
- The disciples believed that they had experiences with the risen Jesus.
- The disciples were transformed from doubters to bold proclaimers.
- The resurrection of Jesus was their central message.
- They preached the message of Jesus' resurrection in Jerusalem.
- The church was born and grew.

THE POWER OF THE RESURRECTION!

PHILIPPIANS 3:9-14

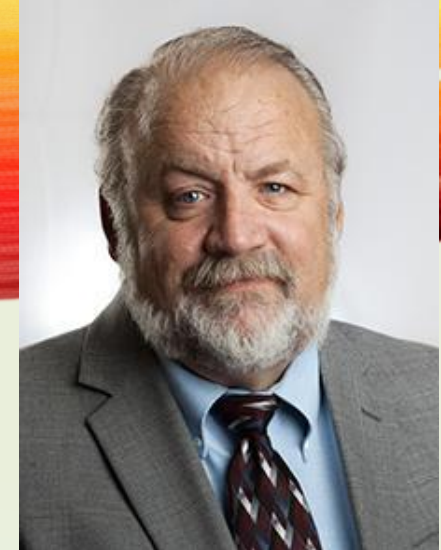
Dr. Gary Habermas constructed an argument based on the minimal facts accepted by all historians there are 12:

- Orthodox Jews who converted made Sunday their primary day of worship.
- James, the half-brother of Jesus converted when he saw the risen Christ [he was a family skeptic].
- Paul was converted [he was an antagonist to the Christian message].

Dr. Michael Licona has popularized the Minimal facts argument for the resurrection of Jesus.

Dr. William Lane Craig is considered the best Christian apologetics debater in the world, at present, and he has refined this argument down to 4 critical arguments. He also refined and established the “Kalam Cosmological” argument for the existence of God.

1 Corinthians 15:1-8



Gary Habermas
Originator “Minimal
Facts” Argument

William
Lane Craig

Michael R.
Licona



1 CORINTHIANS 15:1-8

1 Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, 2 by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you — unless you believed in vain.

3 For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures, 5 and that He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve.

6 After that He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once, of whom the greater part remain to the present, but some have fallen asleep.

7 After that He was seen by James, then by all the apostles.

8 Then last of all He was seen by me also, as by one born out of due time.

THE POWER OF THE RESURRECTION!

PHILIPPIANS 3:9-14



William Lane Craig

Dr. Craig established 6 criterion by which an event or teaching in Jesus' life can be judged as historically reliable:

1. Historical congruence: The event fits in with known historical facts concerning the context when it is said to have occurred.
2. Independent, early attestation: The event appears in multiple sources which are near to the time at which it is alleged to have occurred and which depend neither upon each other nor a common source.
3. Embarrassment: The event is awkward or counter-productive for the persons who serve as the source of information for the event.
4. Dissimilarity: The event is unlike antecedent Jewish thought-forms and/or unlike subsequent Christian thought-forms.
5. Semitisms: traces in the narrative of Aramaic or Hebrew linguistic forms.
6. Coherence: It is consistent with already established facts about Jesus.

THE POWER OF THE RESURRECTION!

PHILIPPIANS 3:9-14



William Lane Craig

The Kalam Cosmological Argument for the existence of God – “The most prominent form of the argument, as defended by William Lane Craig, states the Kalam cosmological argument as the following brief syllogism:[4]

1. Whatever begins to exist has a cause.
2. The universe began to exist.
3. Therefore, the universe has a cause.

Given the conclusion, Craig appends a further premise and conclusion based upon a conceptual analysis of the properties of the cause of the universe:[5]

4. The universe has a cause.
5. If the universe has a cause, then an uncaused, personal Creator of the universe exists who *sans* (without) the universe is beginningless, changeless, immaterial, timeless, spaceless and enormously powerful.
6. Therefore, an uncaused, personal Creator of the universe exists, who *sans* the universe is beginningless, changeless, immaterial, timeless, spaceless and enormously powerful.” –Source: Wikipedia

Matthew 28:11-15

MATTHEW 28:11-15

11 Now while they were going, behold, some of the guard came into the city and reported to the chief priests all the things that had happened.

12 When they had assembled with the elders and consulted together, they gave a large sum of money to the soldiers, 13 saying, “Tell them, ‘His disciples came at night and stole Him away while we slept.’

14 “And if this comes to the governor’s ears, we will appease him and make you secure.”

15 So they took the money and did as they were instructed; and this saying is commonly reported among the Jews until this day.

THE POWER OF THE RESURRECTION!

PHILIPPIANS 3:9-14

The supper at Emmaus
by Caravaggio, 1606



The spiritual appearance of Jesus to His disciples as an apparition has become again popular among modern “Progressive Christian” groups as it was among Deists and Liberal Christians who wished to hold on to the moral and “spiritual” truths of the message of Christ. In fact as Paul indicated such views were even present in the 1st century. But the story of Thomas in John’s gospel and the story of the locked up disciples in **Luke 24:36-43** contradict this view.

LUKE 24:36-43

36 Now as they said these things, Jesus Himself stood in the midst of them, and said to them, "Peace to you."

37 But they were terrified and frightened, and supposed they had seen a spirit.

38 And He said to them, "Why are you troubled? And why do doubts arise in your hearts? 39 "Behold My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself. Handle Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see I have."

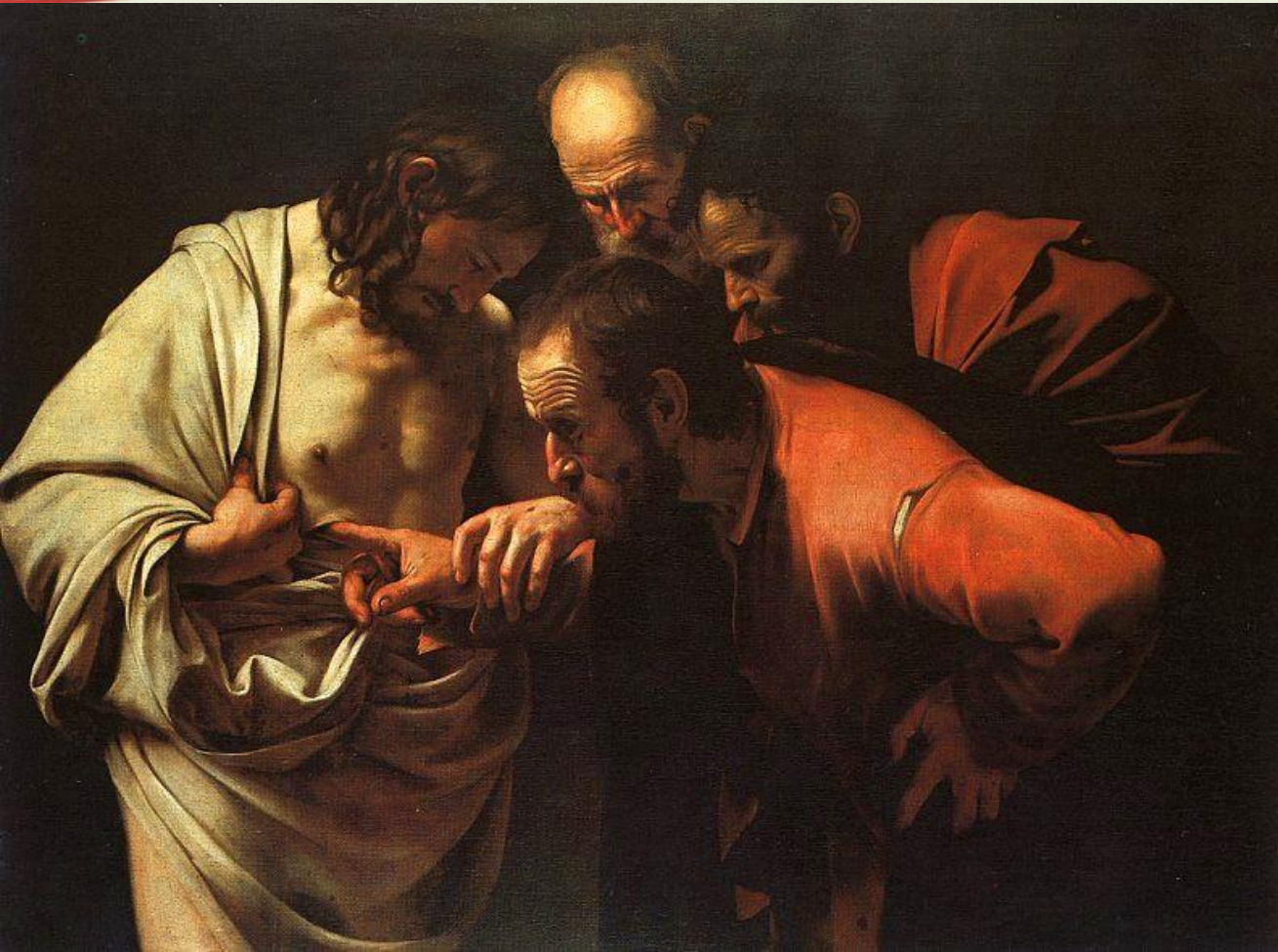
40 When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His feet.

41 But while they still did not believe for joy, and marveled, He said to them, "Have you any food here?"

42 So they gave Him a piece of a broiled fish and some honeycomb. 43 And He took *it* and ate in their presence.

THE POWER OF THE RESURRECTION!

PHILIPPIANS 3:9-14



The resurrection of Jesus Christ is at work in our lives as we await the resurrection of our bodies.

Romans 6:4 Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

The Incredulity of Thomas by Caravaggio 1602

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