

observe with great interest ^{this} the rapid spread of the Christian religion. This progress of the Christian faith is climaxed ^{when} by the emperor Constantine embracing ^{or} the faith.

The factual nature of the resurrection of Jesus is stressed in the New Testament. Throughout the books of the New Covenant the fact that Christ arose from the dead is emphasized. The cardinal fact of the resurrection of Jesus is the unanimous testimony of the Gospels and the Epistles. These sacred writings agree on the great facts of the death of Jesus, His burial, His resurrection from the grave on the ~~the~~ third day. Almost every book in the New Testament ~~has~~ makes mention of the great truth that Christ arose triumphant over death and the grave. In Acts 4:33 we read, "And with great power gave the apostles their witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus." To the apostles the resurrection of Jesus was a ~~stun~~ stupendous fact which had all the reality of a historical event. The ones who had actually seen the risen Lord were qualified to be messengers of ~~the~~ God ^{and to} who proclaimed with great conviction and spiritual fervor that God had raised Jesus from the dead. Since the apostles recognized and understood the preeminent importance of the resurrection of Jesus as a fact, we are not surprized to see it stressed in the books of the New Testament. The Scriptures of the New Covenant set forth with great clearness the foremost truths of the gospel, namely the death of Christ on the cross and His mighty triumph over death when He arose on the third day.

The importance of the resurrection of Jesus as a historical fact has been recognized by scholars in every age of the Christian Church. During the history of Christianity over the past nineteen hundred years the fact that ^{the disciples} Christ arose has been acknowledged by men in various schools of thought. Let us note a few examples of the modern recognition of the resurrection of Jesus ^{the} and its importance as a fact of history. What modern scholars have thought regarding this primary truth