

fine book entitled "The Christian Faith in the Modern World" the late Dr. J. Gresham Machen says, "The truth is that the origin of the Church in Jerusalem is explicable if Jesus really rose from the dead, and it is not explicable if He did not so rise. The very existence of the Christian Church is a mighty testimony to the resurrection of our Lord." To Dr. Machen the resurrection of Jesus was a fundamental doctrine of the Christian faith which had its roots in history. Another modern writer, Professor John Mackintosh Shaw, recognizes the importance of the resurrection in these words, "Take away the resurrection and the history of the Christian Church is unintelligible." ("Essentials and Non-Essentials of the Christian Faith" - page 138) The fact of the resurrection of Christ has been acknowledged by the Church historian, F. J. Foakes-Jackson. In his book on "The Rise of Gentile Christianity" he writes, "That after Jesus was put to death He rose from the grave may be questioned, but all must assent to the proposition that His immediate followers believed that He had done so; and before the earliest Christian writings had appeared this was the accepted belief of the community. Indeed, without a belief in the resurrection, Christianity as a religion would never have begun to exist." Dr. Percy Gardner, an English scholar, writes, "For any one who studies the marvellous story of the rise of the Church, it soon becomes clear that that rise was conditioned--perhaps was made possible--by the conviction that the Founder was not born, like other men, of an earthly father, and that His body did not rest like those of other men in the grave." ("A Historic View of the New Testament") We read also with much interest the words of the great German historian, Ferdinand Christian Baur, who says, "In the faith of the disciples the resurrection of Jesus Christ came to be regarded as a solid and unquestionable fact. It was in this fact that Christianity acquired a firm basis for its historical development."