

## **John 20:1-18**

### **The Empty Tomb**

#### **Introduction:**

There are liberal theologians as there are orthodox theologians. To some extent everyone's a theologian, some are good and some are not so good. Some are weak and unbiblical and some are theologically Biblical. Rudolf Bultmann was a German theologian who taught New Testament theology at Marburg and was famous for demythologizing the Scripture which is essentially anything that appears to be unnatural to human reasoning is rejected. Bultmann interprets the resurrection of Christ in I Corinthians 15, as unnatural in other words the resurrection is a myth and Paul got it wrong and the apostolic testimony got it wrong.

As RC Sproul puts it, "People can have a religion without believing in the resurrection and they can even call it a Christian religion, but it has nothing to do with the Biblical message of Christ and the original Christian faith...Paul said there is no Christian faith apart from the resurrection."

#### **I. Is the Empty Tomb Sufficient Evidence?**

##### **A. Paul's summary statement – I Cor. 15:3,4**

##### **B. Other resurrections before Christ:**

1. The son of the widow Zarepath under Elijah's ministry – I Kings 17:17-24
2. The son of the widow of Nain – Luke 7:11-15
3. Jairus' daughter – Luke 8:41-42; 49-56
4. Lazarus – John 11:1-44

##### **C. Mary was lost in sorrow – v.11-15**

1. Jesus delivered her from seven demons – Mk, 16:9; Luke 8:2; Psa. 40:2;
2. Jesus said she has been forgiven much and loves much – Luke 7:47

##### **D. Peter and John arrive at the tomb – v. 2-10**

#### **II. What is Sufficient Evidence?**

##### **A. Answer is witnesses – Deut. 17:2**

1. Mary a credible witness - 16
2. Two angels are credible witnesses – v.12 (Donald G. Barnhouse)

##### **B. Mary's emotion –v.17**

1. "Stop clinging to me"

##### **C. Human witnesses – I Cor. 15:4-8; I John 1:3**

#### **Conclusion:**

##### **The Absolute Necessity of the Resurrection:**

1. *The resurrection of the body of Christ is the most fundamental doctrine of the Christian faith without it there is no hope of salvation – I Cor. 15:14,17*
2. *The resurrection of Christ guarantees our justification – Rom. 4:25*
3. *The resurrection guarantees our resurrection on the last day – John 11:25-26; I Cor. 15:20;  
I John 3:2*