

Valley Bible Church
Sermon Notes for March 23, 2008

Were The Apostles Credible Eyewitnesses of Christ's Resurrection?
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There are four different criteria that are used in a court of law to determine whether or not a witness should be considered credible.

Did the apostles of Christ, in bearing witness to the resurrection, comply with the four legal criteria necessary in order to establish them as credible witnesses?

Were the apostles capable of knowing thoroughly the things about which they testified in respect to the resurrection?

Based on the testimony of the apostles and the willingness of others to receive their testimony, we would have to conclude that the apostles were capable of knowing the things about which they testified (1 John 1:1-3).

Were the apostles actually present to see what they said they saw and to hear what they said they heard?

What the apostles said about being present at various post-resurrection appearances of Christ not only was confirmed through their own mutual testimony, but by the testimony of others.

Were the apostles of Christ paying sufficient attention during their post-resurrection contacts with Christ to qualify them as competent reporters of those contacts?

The apostles, in light of the extraordinary nature of their encounters with Christ, would have paid close attention and would have been considered competent reporters of those events (John 20:19-29).

Were the apostles honestly relating their encounters with Christ fully as they knew them without any purpose or desire to deceive or suppress or add to the truth?

In light of all that the apostles suffered in declaring what they declared about their encounters with Christ, subsequent to His resurrection, their honesty in respect to those declarations should be readily accepted.

May we, in light of the absolute certainty of Christ's resurrection, be as courageous and resolute in proclaiming the gospel of Christ as the apostles.