

**Valley Bible Church**  
**Sermon Notes for March 31, 2013**

**Why We Choose to Believe Christ Rose From the Dead**  
**Romans 1:4**

Why should we consider the disciples of Christ to be credible witnesses of the resurrection?

We should consider the disciples to be credible witnesses because they, not anticipating the resurrection, were not inclined to believe in the resurrection when it occurred.

It is clear from Mark 9:30-32 that the disciples not only failed to understand what Christ meant when He prophesied His death and resurrection, but it is also clear they did not want to understand.

We should consider the disciples to be credible witnesses because they, in not anticipating the resurrection, had to be persuaded of the resurrection (Mark 16:9-11; John 20:19-21, 26-28).

Because the disciples were not anticipating the resurrection of Christ, the initial eyewitness report made to them by Mary Magdalene failed to persuade them and was therefore rejected (Mark 16:11).

The disciples, not anticipating the resurrection, were not persuaded until they saw Him, heard Him, and were invited to inspect His wounds (John 20:20, 28).

We should consider the disciples to be credible witnesses of the resurrection, because they would never have been willing to suffer what they suffered in proclaiming the gospel unless they had been fully persuaded that the resurrection was a fact (1 Corinthians 15:17-20).

May we by God's grace, being convinced that Christ did in fact rise from the dead, know that if we place our faith in Christ and in Christ alone for our salvation, that we will also conquer death in Him.