



Reasons for God
Resolving doubts. Renewing purpose.



“While Christianity IS about faith, it is not a blind faith!”



12 Now if Christ is preached that He has been raised from the dead, how do some among you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? 13 But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ is not risen.

1 Corinthians 15



14 And **if Christ is not risen,**
then our preaching is empty and **your**
faith is also empty.

1 Corinthians 15



15 Yes, and we are found false witnesses of God, because we have testified of God that He raised up Christ, whom He did not raise up--if in fact the dead do not rise.

1 Corinthians 15



16 For if the dead do not rise, then
Christ is not risen. 17 And **if Christ
is not risen, your faith is
futile**; you are still in your sins!

1 Corinthians 15



18 Then also those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. 19 **If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable.**



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Dr. Simon Greenleaf

Harvard University Law



**Not a believer, he used to put
down the Christians in his law
classes.**



Dr. Simon Greenleaf

Harvard University Law



**...One year, Christian students
challenged him to take his three
volumes on the Laws of Legal
Evidence and apply the principles
to evidence for the resurrection of
Christ...**



Dr. Simon Greenleaf

Harvard University Law



...In the process, he became a believer and concluded “the resurrection is one of the best established facts of history.”



Dr. Simon Greenleaf

Harvard University Law



**It is impossible that the apostles
“could have persisted in affirming
the truths they had narrated...**



Dr. Simon Greenleaf

Harvard University Law



...had not Jesus actually risen from the dead, and had they not known this fact as certainly as they knew any other fact.”



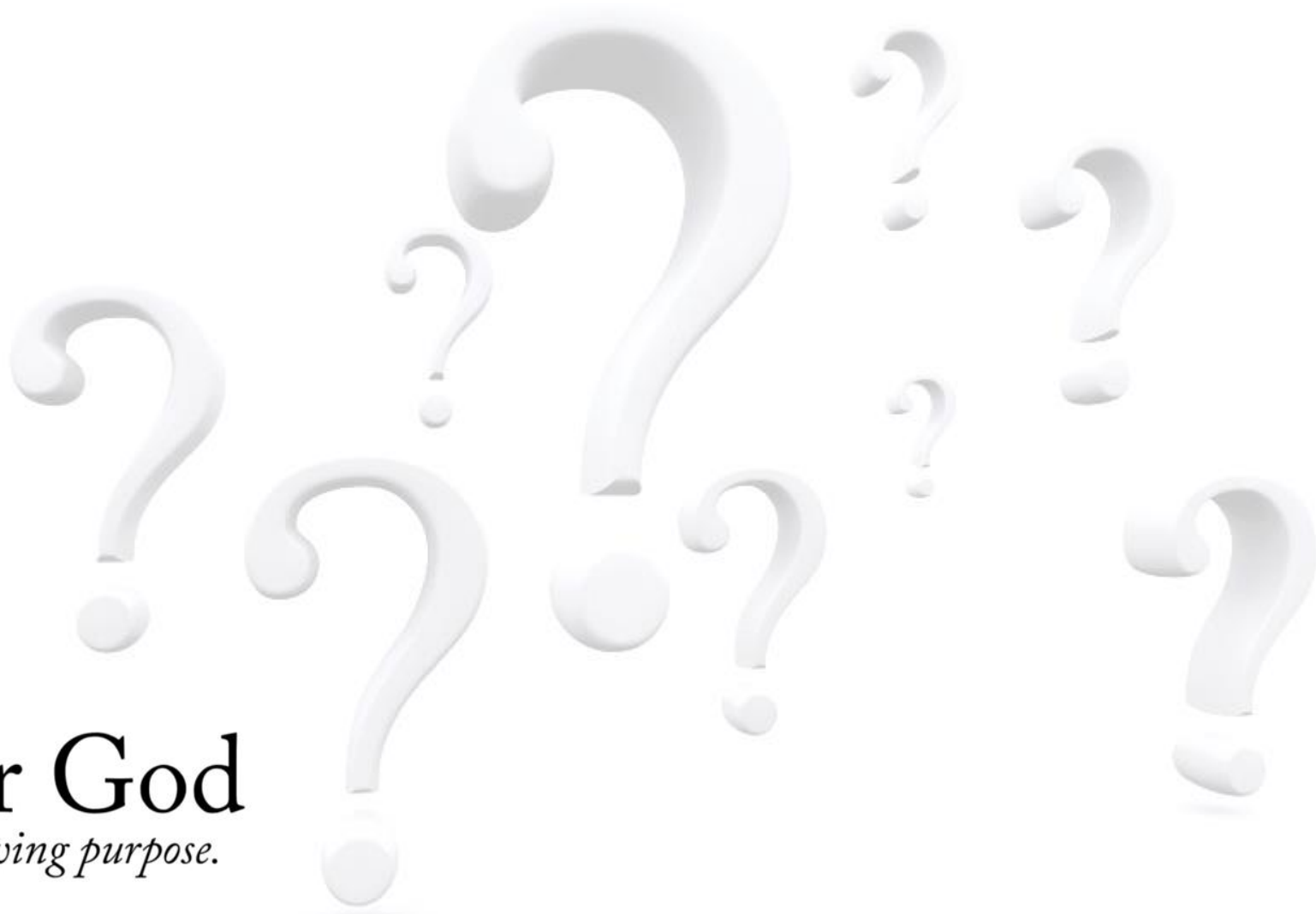
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Greenleaf concludes that the resurrection of Christ is one of the best-supported events in history according to the laws of legal evidence administered in courts of justice.





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The New Testament is the best attested book of antiquity by far!

Chart from "Evidence That Demands A Verdict" pg 42

Author	Time Written	Earliest Copy	Time Span	Manuscripts
Caesar	100-44 B.C.	A.D. 900	1000	10
Josephus,	A.D. 80	A.D. 950	870	
Plato (Tetralogies)	A.D. 427-347	A.D. 900	1200	7
Tacticus (Annals)	A.D. 100	A.D. 1000	900	1
Pliny the Younger (History)	A.D. 61-113	A.D. 850	750	1
Sophocles	496-406 B.C.	A.D. 1000	1400	193
Euripides	480-406 B.C.	A.D. 1100	1500	9
Demosthenes	383-322 B.C.	A.D. 1100	1300	200
Aristotle	384-322 B.C.	A.D. 1100	1400	49
New Testament	A.D. 45-100	A.D. 125	25-250	5300



*The gospels were
written early enough to
be cross checked by
those who were still
alive*



Fact - Jesus died on the cross





“Now there was about this time Jesus, a wise man. For he was a doer of startling deeds, a teacher of such men as receive the truth with pleasure.

Flavius Josephus



***And he gained a following both
among many Jews and many of
Greek origin. And when Pilate, at
the suggestion of the principal men
amongst us, condemned him to the
cross***

Flavius Josephus



, those that loved him at the first did not forsake him. And the tribe of Christians, so named from him, are not extinct at this day.”

Flavius Josephus



***“The importance of this is obvious.
It shows that the narrative in St.
John xix could never have been
invented;***

Samuel Houghton professor of physiology from the University of Dublin



***that the facts recorded must have
been seen by an eye-witness; and
that the eyewitness was so
astonished that he apparently
thought the phenomenon
miraculous”***

Samuel Houghton professor of physiology from the University of Dublin



Jesus died on the cross

Fact - Jesus was buried





57 Now when evening had come, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who himself had also become a disciple of Jesus.



58 This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate commanded the body to be given to him.

Matthew 27



59 When Joseph had taken the body, he wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, 60 and laid it in his new tomb which he had hewn out of the rock; and he rolled a large stone against the door of the tomb, and departed.

Matthew 27



3 For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures,

1 Corinthians 15



4 and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures,



Jesus died on the cross
Jesus was buried

***Fact - The stone was
rolled away***





62 On the next day, which followed the Day of Preparation, the chief priests and Pharisees gathered together to Pilate,

Matthew 27



63 saying, "Sir, we remember, while He was still alive, how that deceiver said, 'After three days I will rise.'

Matthew 27



64 Therefore command that the tomb be made secure until the third day, lest His disciples come by night and steal Him away, and say to the people, 'He has risen from the dead.' So the last deception will be worse than the first."

Matthew 27



65 Pilate said to them, "You have a guard; go your way, make it as secure as you know how." 66 So they went and made the tomb secure, sealing the stone and setting the guard.

Matthew 27



1 Now when the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, that they might come and anoint Him.



2 Very early in the morning, on the first day of the week, they came to the tomb when the sun had risen. 3 And they said among themselves, "**Who will roll away the stone from the door of the tomb for us?**"

Mark16



4 But when they looked up, they saw
that the stone had been rolled away--
for **it was very large.**



Jesus died on the cross
Jesus was buried
The stone was rolled away

Fact - The tomb was empty!





29 “Fellow Israelites, I can tell you confidently that the patriarch **David died** and was buried, and **his tomb is here to this day.**



30 But he was a prophet and knew that God had promised him on oath that he would place one of his descendants on his throne.



31 Seeing what was to come, **he spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah**, that he was not abandoned to the realm of the dead, nor did his body see decay.

Acts 2



32 God has raised this Jesus to life, and
we are all witnesses of it.

Acts 2



***If the tomb was not empty, all
anyone had to do was go to the
tomb and point to the body of
Jesus***



Jesus died on the cross
Jesus was buried
The stone was rolled away
The tomb was empty!

Fact - The account of the women would not have been included if this was made up





Jesus died on the cross
Jesus was buried
The stone was rolled away
The tomb was empty!
The account of the women

***Fact - There were
witnesses to the
resurrection***





3 For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures,

1 Corinthians 15



4 and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures, 5 and that He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve.

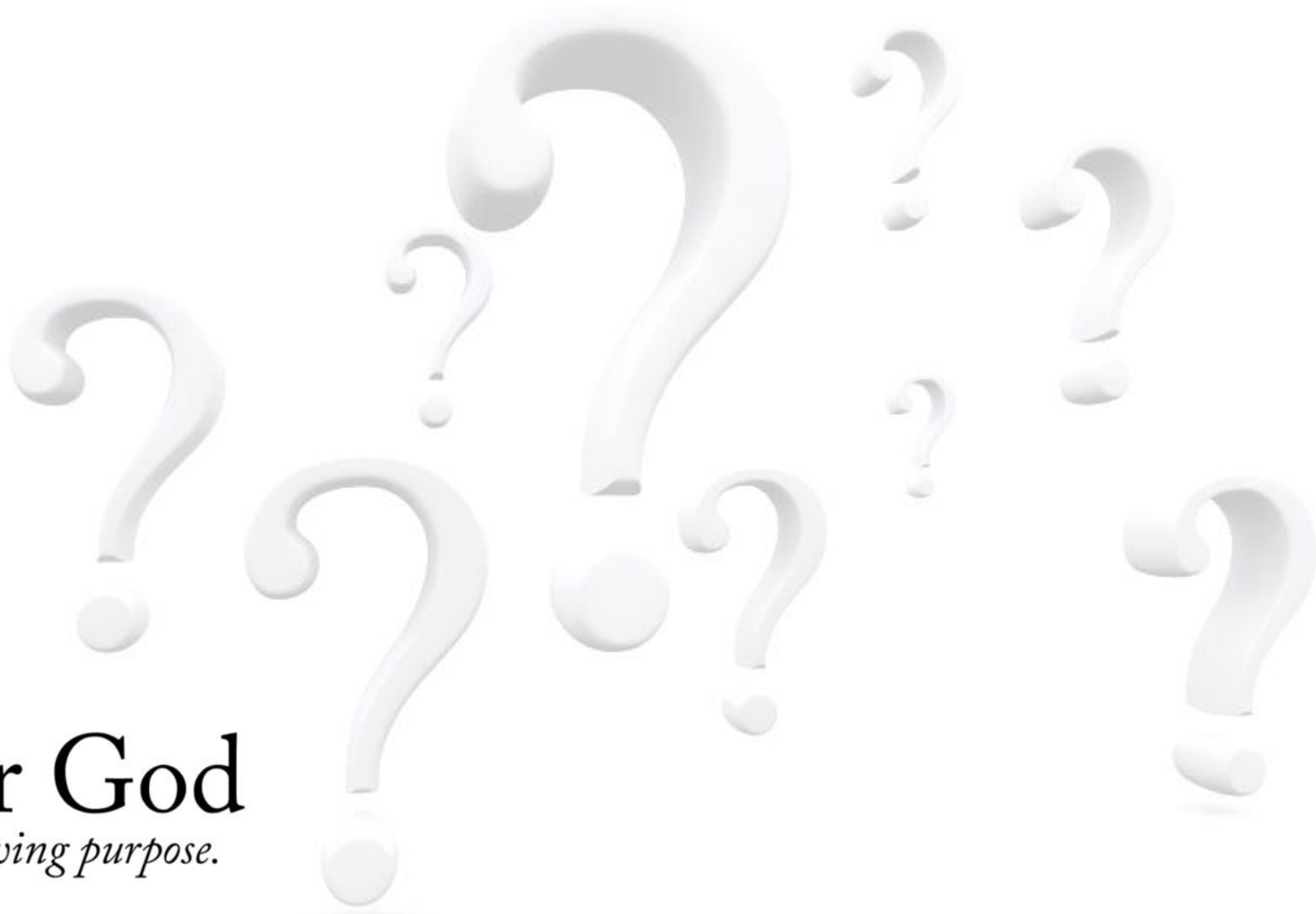


6 After that **He was seen by over five hundred brethren** at once, of whom the greater part remain to the present, but some have fallen asleep.

1 Corinthians 15



7 After that He was seen by James,
then by all the apostles. 8 Then last of
all He was seen by me also, as by one
born out of due time.



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Jesus died on the cross
Jesus was buried
The stone was rolled away
The tomb was empty!
The account of the women
Witnesses to the resurrection

***Fact - The disciples
believed Jesus had risen
from the dead***





Jesus died on the cross

Jesus was buried

The stone was rolled away

The tomb was empty!

The account of the women

Witnesses to the resurrection

Disciples believed Jesus had risen from the dead

Fact - Conversion of Paul





57 Then they cried out with a loud voice, stopped their ears, and ran at him with one accord; 58 and they cast him out of the city and stoned him.



And the witnesses laid down their
clothes **at the feet of a**
young man named Saul. 59
And they stoned Stephen as he was
calling on God

Acts 7



Jesus died on the cross

Jesus was buried

The stone was rolled away

The tomb was empty!

The account of the women

Witnesses to the resurrection

Disciples believed Jesus had risen from the dead

Conversion of Paul

Fact - Conversion of James





17 And when we had come to Jerusalem, the brethren received us gladly. 18 On the following day Paul went in with us to James, and all the elders were present.



17 But motioning to them with his hand to keep silent, he declared to them how the Lord had brought him out of the prison. And he said, "Go, tell these things to James and to the brethren."

Acts 12



17 But motioning to them with his hand to keep silent, he declared to them how the Lord had brought him out of the prison. And he said, "Go, tell these things to James and to the brethren."

Acts 12



“...and brought before them the brother of Jesus, who was called Christ, whose name was James, and some others;

Josephus Flavius



and when he had formed an accusation against them as breakers of the law, he delivered them to be stoned”.

Josephus Flavius



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Lord Darling

Former Chief Justice Great Britain

“In its favor as a living truth there exists such overwhelming evidence, positive and negative, factual and circumstantial...

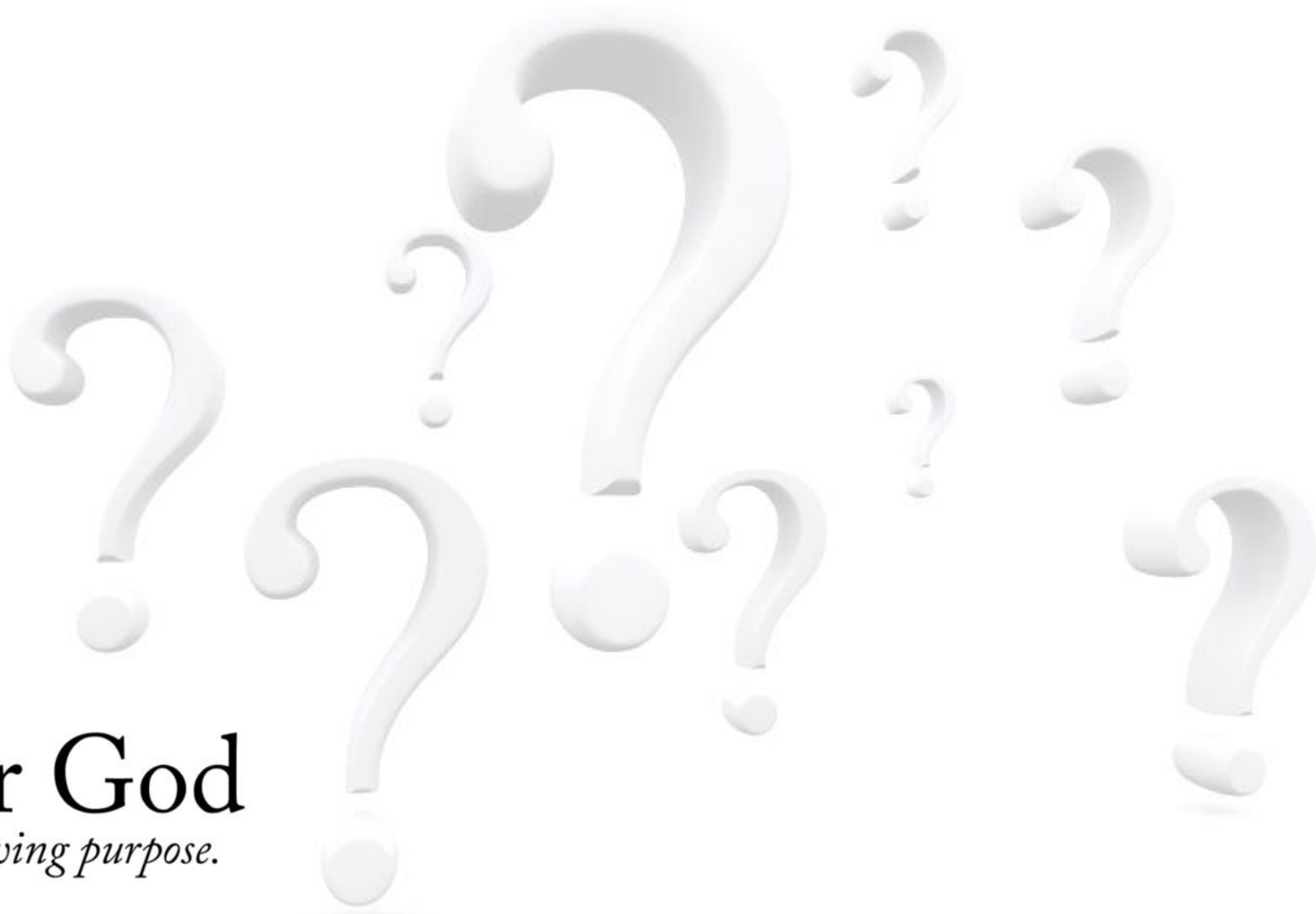


Lord Darling

Former Chief Justice Great Britain

**...that no intelligent jury in the
world could fail to bring in a
verdict that the resurrection story
is true.”**





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Purpose

- **Exalt** - Worship
- **Evangelize** - Tell people about Jesus
- **Equip believers to serve** - make disciples
- **Engage** – Serve others
- **Encourage** – Spend time together



Mission Statement

*To know Jesus and to make Him
known while living, loving and
serving like Him*

confirmation

EVIDENCE

proof

verification

affirmation

substantiation

corroboration

A man rejects God neither because of intellectual demands nor because of the scarcity of evidence. A man rejects God because of a moral resistance that refuses to admit his need for God.