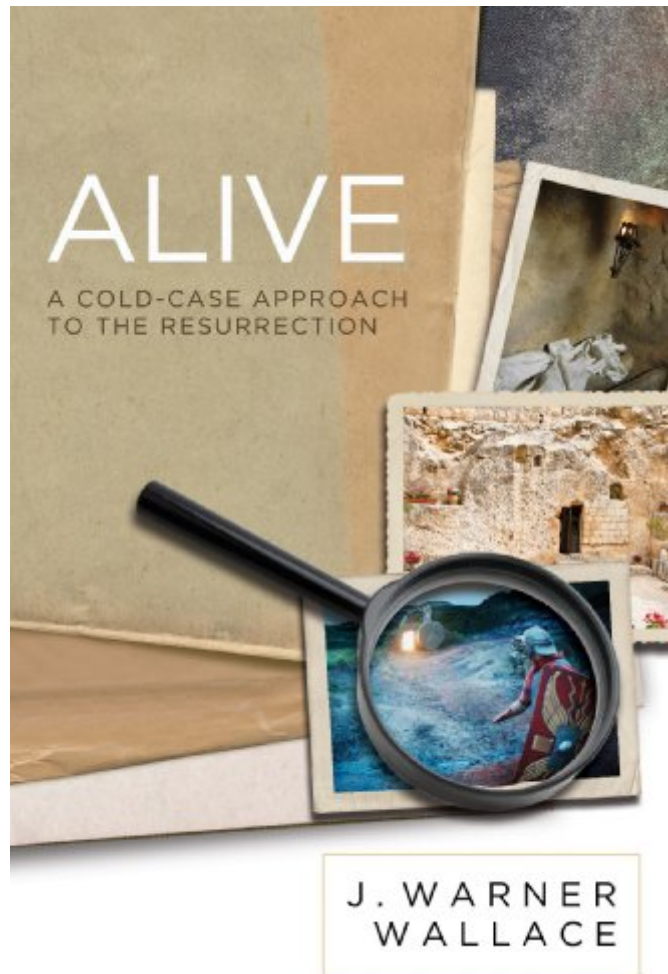


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Alive: A Cold-Case Approach To The Resurrection



Synopsis

"If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins" (1 Cor. 15:17). The resurrection. As far as doctrines go, it's a game changer. Many accept the resurrection without giving it much thought. But isn't something so important worthy of our wrestling with it? What if we approached the issue of the resurrection in an unbiased manner and assessed it as a cold case detective would evaluate a crime scene? Author J. Warner Wallace is a cold-case detective. He also used to be an atheist. Follow along in this brief presentation of his approach in applying his detective's expertise to the accounts of the resurrection. Wallace believes the case is nothing but compelling: Jesus is alive!--J. Warner Wallace is a cold case homicide detective, a missions leader, and a church planter. As a result of his work on cold cases, Wallace has been featured on numerous television programs including Dateline, FOX News, and Court TV. Wallace's visual presentations in the courtroom have revolutionized how capital offense trials are presented in Los Angeles County and across the country. A vocal atheist for many years, Wallace is now an apologist for Christianity and the founder of the ColdCaseChristianity.com Blog, Podcast, and Website. He has a master's degree in theological studies. He and his wife have four children and live in southern California.

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Customer Reviews

There is no better book out there if you're looking for a concise introduction to historical inquiry about the resurrection. Warner begins by discussing abductive logic (inference to a most likely explanation), the cornerstone for all historical inquiry, and then applies abductive reasoning as well as his cold-case detective methodology to the events surrounding Jesus' death and alleged resurrection. He discusses several possible explanations for the events as reported (the disciples made up a story; they were all hallucinating, etc) and demonstrates how each one fails to account for critical pieces of evidence. The only explanation that accounts for all the evidence (Christian, Jewish, and secular Roman historical accounts; eyewitness testimony; etc) is that Jesus really rose from the dead. The only thing that could cause a person to dismiss all the evidence is the belief that supernatural things don't happen, but perhaps this is backward: perhaps the weight of evidence for the resurrection should be proof that the supernatural does happen.

J. Warner Wallace was once an Atheist and a Cold-Case Detective. He is now a prolific author and speaker on presenting evidences for the cogency of the Christian world-view. What sets Wallace apart from other modern apologists is that he really puts the "cookies on the shelf" for the general reader to be exposed to great evidence in an understandable and interesting manner. In this short book - one designed to be cheap and as a giveaway for Easter - Wallace approaches the subject of Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection the same way he would investigate a homicide. The minimal facts that Wallace investigates are the following: (1) Jesus died on the cross and was buried; (2) Jesus' tomb was empty, and no one ever produced His body; (3) Jesus' disciples believed that they saw Jesus resurrected from the dead; (4) Jesus' disciples were transformed following their alleged resurrection observations. Next, Wallace proceeds to tackle the skeptical explanations that deny the above facts: (1) The Disciples were wrong about Jesus' death; (2) The Disciples lied about the resurrection; (3) The Disciples were delusional; (4) The Disciples were fooled by an imposter; (5) The Disciples were influenced by limited spiritual sightings; (6) The Disciples observations were distorted later - with each of these six skeptical views Wallace demonstrates how each of these views contains at least four to six inherent problems tied to the argument. The most logical explanation requires a belief in the supernatural: a belief that Jesus had the supernatural power to

rise from the dead and thus Wallace defends the position that The Disciples were accurately reporting the literal bodily resurrection of Jesus. Wallace concludes his examination of the evidence with a very important point: "Moving from the most reasonable inference to a decision of trust...It's one thing to 'believe that' Jesus rose from the dead and is who He said he was, but it's another to 'believe in' Him as Savior. Every one of us, at some point in our investigation of the claims of Christianity, has to move from 'belief that' to 'belief in.'" Wallace's little book is a great way to get the essence of the Christian message in the hands of the curious and skeptics alike. This is a short book that deserves a wide reading and should be bought in bulk as a giveaway - especially during Easter as we celebrate the great hope of the world - the One who lived, died, was buried, and raised so that we might have salvation by Him and through Him - the Lord Jesus Christ.

Wallace presents a short, concise set of logical, rational answers to the main arguments against the resurrection of Jesus Christ. I have a friend on facebook who denies that Jesus and the Apostle Paul existed. In contrast to this stupendous unbelief, Wallace tells the reader "Many first-century and early second-century unfriendly Roman sources (i.e., Thallus, Tacitus, Mara Bar-Serapion, and Phlegon) and Jewish sources (i.e., Josephus and the Babylonian Talmud) affirmed and acknowledged that Jesus was crucified and died." (1) My friend, although a student of archaeology at the University of Oklahoma, scoffed at the testimony of these early sources. That kind of irrationality is inexcusable. I told my friend there are twice as many historical sources for Jesus than for Tiberius Caesar, some of which they share. I think this short book would make a great handout since it succinctly and clearly refutes the common objections to the resurrection. It could also be used as an excellent short study for small groups. 1. Wallace, J. Warner (2014-03-01). *Alive: A Cold-Case Approach to the Resurrection* (Kindle Locations 145-146). David C. Cook. Kindle Edition.

Alive: A cold-case approach to the resurrection by J. Warner Wallace is a quick read. I read it in under 30 minutes. This is very similar, if not a shortened version, of his book *Cold Case Christianity*. The author states in his book "I compare the evidence to the potential explanations and determine which explanation is, in fact, the most reasonable inference in light of the evidence" and this is exactly what he does in this book. He uses his detective skills to explain why the resurrection had to be true. He uses 4 statements that are agreed upon by both Christians and non-Christians to explain the resurrection (example would be Jesus died on the cross and was buried). He then takes claims that have been said by non-Christians, or skeptics, to explain away these 4 statements (example would be that Jesus did not

die, that the disciples were mistaken). The author will then tell you the problem(s) with that counter argument against Jesus's death. I will not tell you what he said, though. You will need to read this book to see what else the author says. I like this book because it is a short read and it gets to the point quickly. I also like the fact that he lists the problems with those counter arguments people raise about the resurrection. He uses logical arguments for Christianity and detective skills to show how he came to these conclusions. This would be a good book for someone who is not sure about their faith or is struggling with believing that Jesus really did rise from the grave.

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