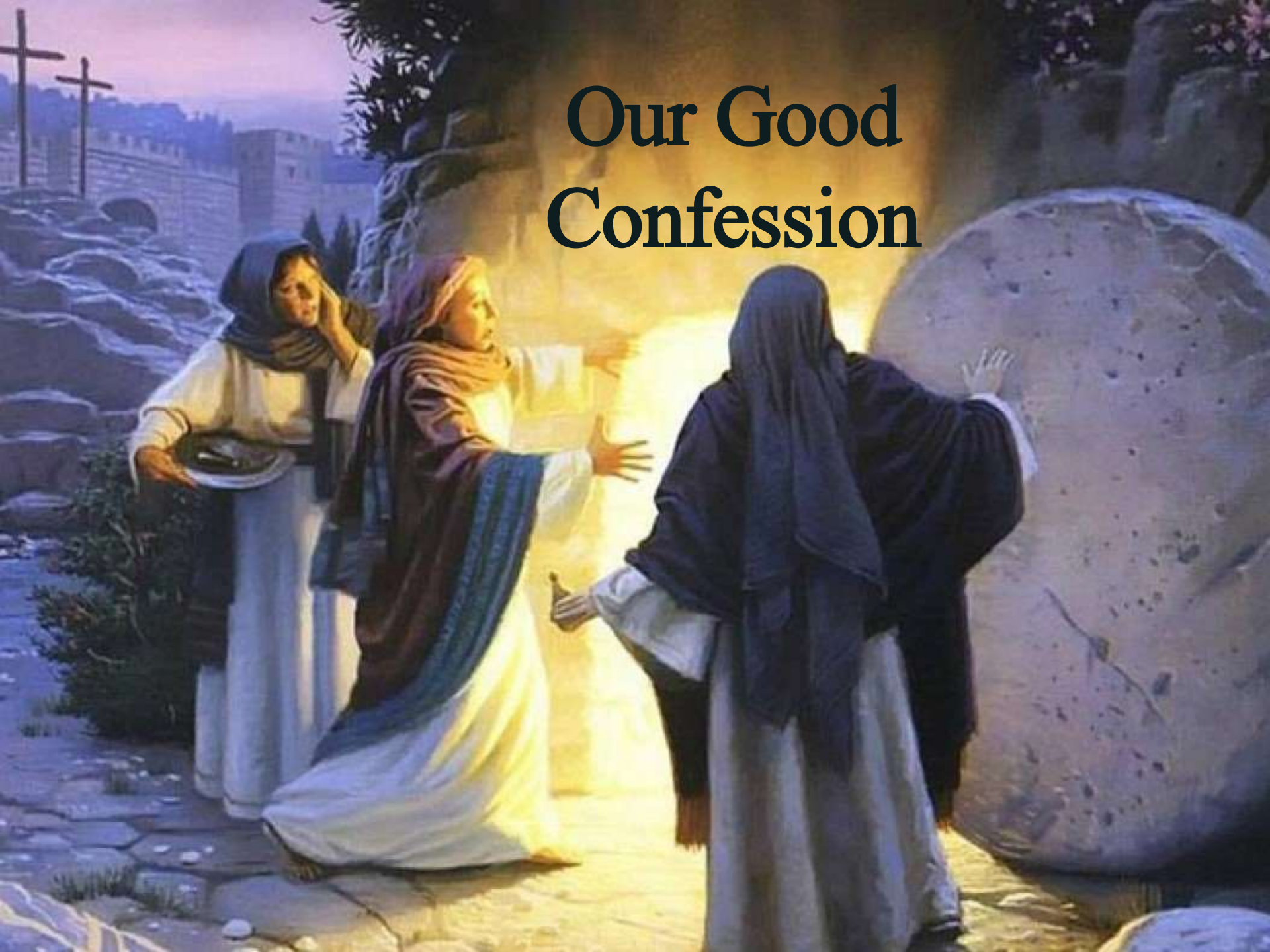


Our Good Confession





Honduran Taxi

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Take Hold of Eternal Life

“Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called and about which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.” (1 Timothy 6:12)

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Christ's Resurrection Really Happened!

Why does belief in a true resurrection matter?

- **It proves the Jesus was who he said he was.**
- **It's a foundation of our salvation (Rom. 10:9) and the hope that we will be raised, too.**
- **It turns our faith from a collection of truths into a vibrant, transformative relationship with God and others.**

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Can We Strengthen Our Faith with Evidence?

“Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves.” (John 14:11)

- **Our ideal is faith in the unseen, but God understands our need for evidence.**
- **No amount of evidence can provide absolute certainty.**
- **Our faith in the resurrection should be based on many things.**

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General Evidence for the Resurrection

- **An empty tomb.**
- **Eyewitness accounts (the first by women).**
- **Transformed and committed disciples.**
- **The growth of Christianity**
- **A resurrection emphasis in early teaching.**

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The Evidence of Confession



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The Evidence of Confession



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The Evidence of Confession

“I believe what I believe is what makes me what I am.

I did not make it. No, it is making me.

It is the very truth of God and not the invention of any man.”

– *Creed* by Rich Mullins

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The Evidence of Confession

“I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received:

That Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures.

That he was buried.

That he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures.

That he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve.”

(1 Corinthians 15:3-5)

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The Evidence of Confession

*“Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me.”
(1 Corinthians 15:3-8)*

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The Evidence of Confession

“I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received:

That Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures.

That he was buried.

That he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures.

That he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve.”

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The Evidence of Confession

“This is the kind of foundation story with which a community is not at liberty to tamper. It was probably formulated within the first two or three years after Easter itself, since it was already in formulaic form when Paul ‘received’ it.”

– N.T. Wright

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The Evidence of Confession

“There is no reason to doubt that this [*creed*] was communicated to Paul as part of his introductory catechesis. He would have needed to be informed of precedents in order to make sense of what had happened to him.”

– James Dunn

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Evidential Links



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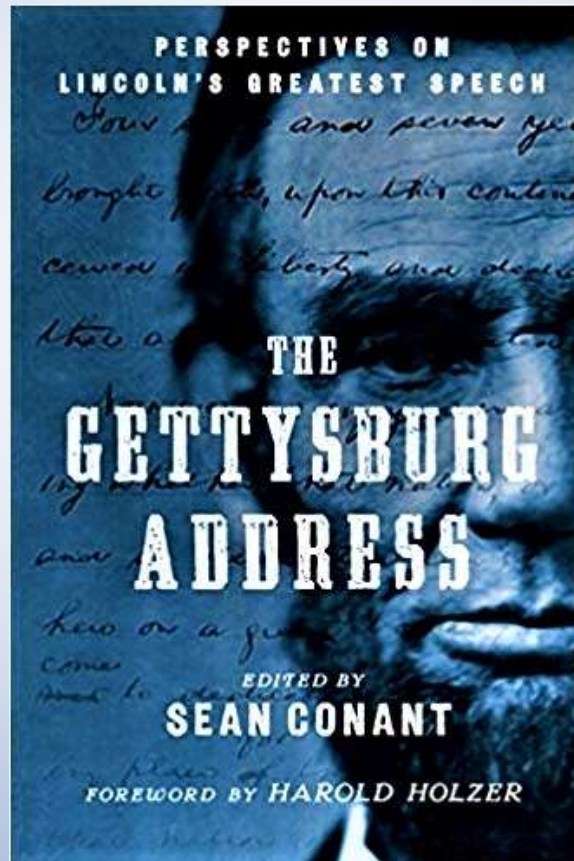
Evidential Links



p46 (200 AD, 170 years after the resurrection.)

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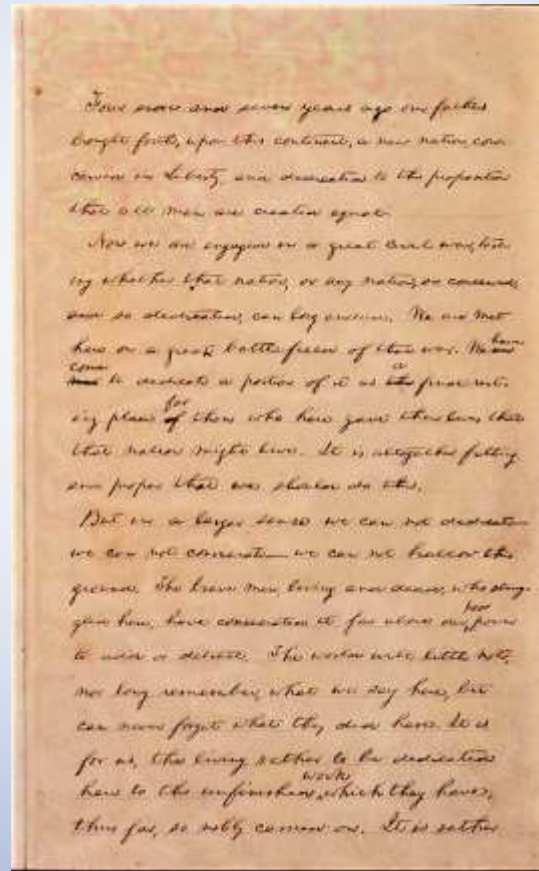
Evidential Links



Published 2015 (152 years after Gettysburg Address)

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Evidential Links



The “Hay Draft” of the Gettysburg Address (1863)

Our Good Confession

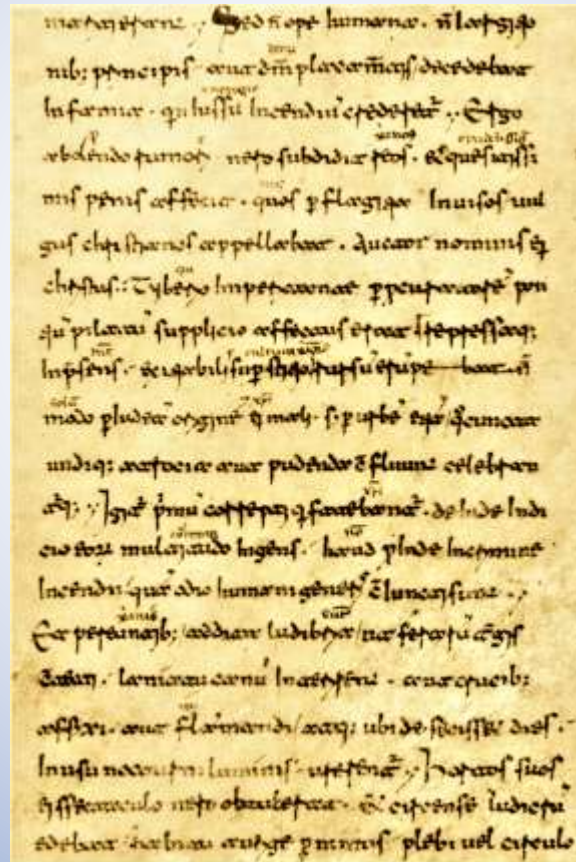
Truth or Legend?



Did Nero fiddle while Rome burned?

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Truth or Legend?



The Annals of Tacitus (116 AD)

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Truth or Legend?

“Nero fastened the guilt and inflicted the most exquisite tortures on a class hated for their abominations, called Christians...”

– Tacitus, The Annals, Book 15, Chapter 44

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Truth or Legend?

“Christus [*Christ*], from whom the name had its origin, suffered the extreme penalty during the reign of Tiberius at the hands of one of our procurators, Pontius Pilatus, and a most mischievous superstition, thus checked for the moment, again broke out not only in Judaea, the first source of the evil, but even in Rome, where all things hideous and shameful from every part of the world find their center and become popular.”

– Tacitus, *The Annals*, Book 15, Chapter 44

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Truth or Legend?

“Mockery of every sort was added to their deaths. Covered with the skins of beasts, they were torn by dogs and perished, or were nailed to crosses, or were doomed to the flames and burnt, to serve as a nightly illumination, when daylight had expired.”

– Tacitus, The Annals, Book 15, Chapter 44

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Truth or Legend?

“Hence, even for criminals who deserved extreme and exemplary punishment, there arose a feeling of compassion. For it was not, as it seemed, for the public good, but to glut one man’s cruelty, that they were being destroyed.”

– Tacitus, The Annals, Book 15, Chapter 44

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In the Presence of Many Witnesses

“I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes...

For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, ‘The righteous shall live by faith.’” (Romans 1:16-17)

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