

What did the Co-Founder of the Harvard Law School Believe About the Bible and God?

Dr. Simon Greenleaf (1783-1853), Jewish Harvard Law School Co-Founder (1817) was challenged to use his rules of evidence on the Resurrection.

A big skeptic of the resurrection of Jesus Christ, Dr. Simon Greenleaf, helped to put the Harvard Law School on the map. He wrote the three-volume legal masterpiece, 'A Treatise on the Law of Evidence', which is still regarded as 'the greatest single authority in the entire literature of legal procedure.' The U.S. Judicial System today operates on rules of evidence established by Professor Greenleaf.

While teaching law at Harvard, Professor Greenleaf stated to his class that the resurrection of Jesus Christ was simply a legend, a myth. As an atheist he thought miracles to be impossible. In a rebuttal, three of his law students challenged him to apply his acclaimed rules of evidence to the resurrection of the Jesus from the Gospel accounts.

After much prodding, Greenleaf accepted his students' challenge and began an investigation into the evidence. Focusing his brilliant legal mind on the facts of history, Greenleaf attempted to prove that the resurrection account was false.

Yet the more Greenleaf investigated the record of history, the more stunned he was at the powerful evidence supporting the claim that Jesus had indeed risen from the dead. Greenleaf's skepticism was the norm of the day as German higher criticism of the Bible was gaining adherents and challenged the event that had changed the course of human history, namely the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Greenleaf was unable to explain several dramatic changes that took place shortly after Jesus died; the most baffling being the behavior of the disciples. It wasn't just one or two disciples who insisted Jesus had risen, it was all of them. Applying his own rules of evidence to the facts, Greenleaf arrived at the verdict that he couldn't have imagined. Could it be that the Gospels were true?

In a shocking reversal of his position, Greenleaf accepted Jesus' resurrection as the best explanation for the events that took place immediately after his crucifixion. To this brilliant legal scholar and former atheist, it would have been impossible for the disciples to persist with their conviction that Jesus had risen if they hadn't actually seen the risen Christ.

In his book, 'The Testimony of the Evangelists', Greenleaf documents the evidence that caused him to change his mind. In his conclusion, he challenges those who seek the truth about the resurrection to fairly examine the evidence.

Greenleaf was so persuaded by the evidence that he became a committed Christian. He believed that any unbiased person who honestly examined the evidence would conclude what he did—that Jesus Christ had truly risen from the Dead. Next time someone tells you that you Christians believe in fairytales you can tell them that was what the founder of Harvard law school said until he checked out the Gospel evidence for himself!

We are inundated by mindless, Godless dribble, 24/7/365 from all directions. They way people talk and act you wouldn't even guess there was a God at all. People do whatever they want all the time! Here's

the kicker; if you hint you believe in a higher power, a God, you're treated like you are kind of crazy and out of touch.

I just recently spent time with a very lost 19-year-old man who said he believed in nothing. That's right, nothing! He said murder and murderers are necessary to decrease the over population of the planet. I asked him what about the wars, famines, and plagues, and he said it was all necessary to have some kind of balance in the world. I asked him if he was interested in finding out the ultimate truth. He said maybe.

Let me now tell you about one of the ultimate seekers of truth in history, Dr. Simon Greenleaf, Co-Founder of the Harvard Law School. Let me tell you a little about Dr. Greenleaf. He was a brilliant lawyer and atheist. That's right, a proud atheist. He was not just an atheist, but a Jewish atheist.

His students were intrigued at his obsession with truth but not ultimate TRUTH! They challenged him to do it with the Gospels in the Bible. He said it was a waste of his time looking at such myths and fairytales. They insisted that he do it anyway, and he finally gave in.

A week passed and then another and then another, and finally he announced that he was no longer an atheist but a believer in Jesus of Nazareth, the Son of God!

They were amazed and stunned and asked, "what was the evidence that convinced you"? He said that only the Empirical TRUTH could have convinced 11 cowards that Jesus was physically resurrected and was actually God in the flesh, that all of them would give up their lives for these so-called fables.

What are you waiting for? Check it out for yourself like Dr. Simon Greenleaf did! He was so convinced that he wrote a best seller of the time called 'The Testimony of the Evangelists'.

Lawyers all over the world have heard of Dr. Simon Greenleaf, the brilliant lawyer and Co-Founder of Harvard Law School. Most of them don't know that to him being a follower of Jesus Christ was way more important than his founding of the world-famous Harvard Law School.

Keep Seeking His Truth ... Pastor Chris Heeb