

Words... In Other

A RESEARCH SERVICE FOR CHRISTIAN COMMUNICATORS

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BELIEF: The state of Wyoming has been the brunt of an online conspiracy theory joke about its very existence. It's the least populated state with fewer than 600,000 residents, which means over a dozen U.S. cities have more people - and it's not on a well-traveled path. Seattle Mariners pitcher Logan Gilbert joined the fun on TikTok in 2024. Citing his spoofed disbelief he said, "Think about it. Have you ever met somebody from Wyoming? Nobody has." The 44th state joined the union in 1890, it's the 10th largest state by area, and is known as the "Equality State," but it doesn't seem to be getting equal belief. Sadly, far too many people treat Jesus and His resurrection about as flippantly as Wyoming's naysayers. *WyomingNews.com, 11/21/2020; The Week, 4/5/2024, p.6*

CERTAINTY: Baseball season is in that long march to the World Series. The last October Classic closed out with a double-play in the bottom of the 11th inning on November 1, 2025 to give the Los Angeles Dodgers their victory. It was Clayton Kershaw's last game of his storied career and he was focused on warming up in the bullpen as he prepared to enter the extended game. Bullpen coach Josh Bard saw the final play and shouted that they'd won. Kershaw missed it so he asked, "Are you sure?" The 37-year-old left-hander had just entered retirement as a world champion and he didn't realize it. Easter is the day Christians shout, "We're sure!" *USA Today, 11/7/2025, p.A4*

EASTER: Chinese evangelist & theologian Watchman Nee wrote, "Our old history ends with the cross; our new history begins with the resurrection." *Today's Christian Living, March 2025, p.21*

EASTER: Timothy Keller wrote, "The Christian gospel is that I am so flawed that Jesus had to die for me, yet I am so loved and valued that Jesus was glad to die for me." Both dimensions of that sentence reveal the magnitude of Easter. *Reason For God, Timothy Keller, 2008, p.181*

EASTER: The literary wizard, J.R.R. Tolkien, coined a word in 1947 to express what he called "the Consolation of the Happy Ending." He wed the Greek prefix *eu*, which means good, and the word catastrophe, which holds the idea of unexpected disaster. "Eucatastrophe" describes tragedy being transformed into triumph. Tolkien asserts God's redemptive story through Christ "is the greatest and most complete conceivable eucatastrophe." He wrote, "The Resurrection is the eucatastrophe of the story of the Incarnation. This story begins and ends in joy." He then declared, "There is no tale ever told that men would rather find true, and none which so many skeptical men have accepted as true on its own merits...To reject it leads either to sadness or to wrath." Eucatastrophe is Good Friday turning into Easter. *On Fairy Stories, J.R.R. Tolkien, 1947, p.15*

EASTER: Along Sheffield Street in London, Mark Wallinger's artwork is uniquely displayed. The sculpture is that of a giant, colorful globe, 13 feet in diameter, upside down. The North Pole rests on the pavement and Antarctica is at the top of this 2019 piece titled *World Turned Upside Down*. It's a statement about global turmoil but it could just as easily describe the world for which Jesus died to turn things right side up. That first Easter flipped the script! *Wikipedia.org, 3/18/26*

GOD: J.T. English has written about his first theology class in seminary. The professor dissected the Greek words to point out that theology is "words about God." Everyone knew that pastors & scholars have words about God. But this wise teacher helped his students see that "everyone has words about God," even an atheist. English states, "The question is not whether we are theologians but whether we are good ones or bad ones." *You Are A Theologian, Wilkin & English, 2023, p.7*

INTENTIONS: Victor Calderon boarded a United Airlines plane in Los Angeles for a connecting flight in Houston to Nicaragua. Six hours into the August 2025 flight, he asked why it was taking so long to reach their destination of Houston. The flight attendant told him he was on a plane to Tokyo. He had to stay two nights in Japan before United sorted it out and covered his expenses to Nicaragua. It doesn't seem possible with stringent airline regulations, but one man's experience reminds us that even the best of intentions can take us the wrong way. *Examiner*, 3/5/26, p.21B

JESUS: A very short note from 1930 was written by a layman under the title, "Short Definition of Relativity." These words followed: "There is no hitching post in the universe—so far as we know." Albert Einstein endorsed the statement with his signature and four German words that translate to, "Read and found to be correct." The famed physicist's theory postulates the entire universe is in motion and there aren't any anchors. That appears to be true physically, but Scripture affirms Jesus is our constant spiritual anchor (Hebrews 6:19 & 13:8). *WSJ*, 3/9/2024, p.C9

PURPOSE: In the port city of Shanghai, you can board a ship that goes...nowhere. "The Louis" is one of Louis Vuitton's latest creations for their expansion into what they call "retail-tainment." This ship is longer than a football field and rises 100 feet. It's anchored to a mall that was flagging in business just a year ago. But since the ship's opening in June of 2025, the mall now attracts about 100,000 visitors per day. The Louis has become a must-see landmark in Shanghai as the venue mixes entertainment with retail. The experience requires an advanced reservation, but once you're in, you can shop for Vuitton merchandise, eat at the upstairs café run by a Michelin-star chef, or buy a latte with a LV monogrammed into the frothy foam. The *Wall Street Journal* headline for this article was "A Ship to Nowhere Marks the New Age of Luxury." It could be a headline for many people who seem to be on a ship going nowhere. *Wall Street Journal*, 12/20/25, p.B1

RESURRECTION: While Mark Twain was living in London, rumors started circulating in the spring of 1897 that he was either gravely ill or had died. A reporter from the *New York Journal* tracked down the famous author who was very much alive and not the least bit ill. Twain told him, "The report of my death has been grossly exaggerated." The death, burial and resurrection of Jesus are anything but exaggerated. *Mark Twain At Your Fingertips*, Caroline Harnsberger, 2009, p.76

SALVATION: My wife & I saw a Houston pizzeria with this marquee sign: "Any day that ends in Y is a great day for pizza." The same is true for salvation. *Editor's Personal Experience*, 2026

SIN: Mark Dever has succinctly stated, "Either your sins will be wiped out by Jesus, or you will be wiped out by your sins." *The Message of the New Testament*, Mark Dever, 2005, p.129

EVERYDAY HUMOR

CONFUSION: In the pioneer days, a cowboy came to town carrying a rope. When asked why, he replied, "I'm not sure. Either I found some rope or lost a horse." It's not uncommon for people to show up on Easter with an equal level of confusion. *Preaching Magazine*, Summer 2003, p.42

HEAVEN: Early in his ministry, Billy Graham was looking for the post office in a small town where he was preaching a revival service. He spotted a boy and asked for directions. The young guy put Dr. Graham on the right path so the evangelist thanked him and invited him to church that night. He added, "I'll be telling everyone how to get to heaven." The boy replied, "I don't think I'll be there. You don't even know how to get to the post office." *Bits & Pieces*, Volume T #37

RESURRECTION: Award-winning author Bob Hostetler reminds us that the conspiracy theory against Jesus' resurrection is quite comical. In trying to explain away this miracle, the religious leaders worked hard to concoct their best plan, which was...say the disciples did it while you were asleep (Matt 28:12-13). How'd they know if they were asleep? *Mature Living*, Sept 2014, p.14

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