



**SEGHERS, Gerard**

*Resurrection of Christ* c. 1620

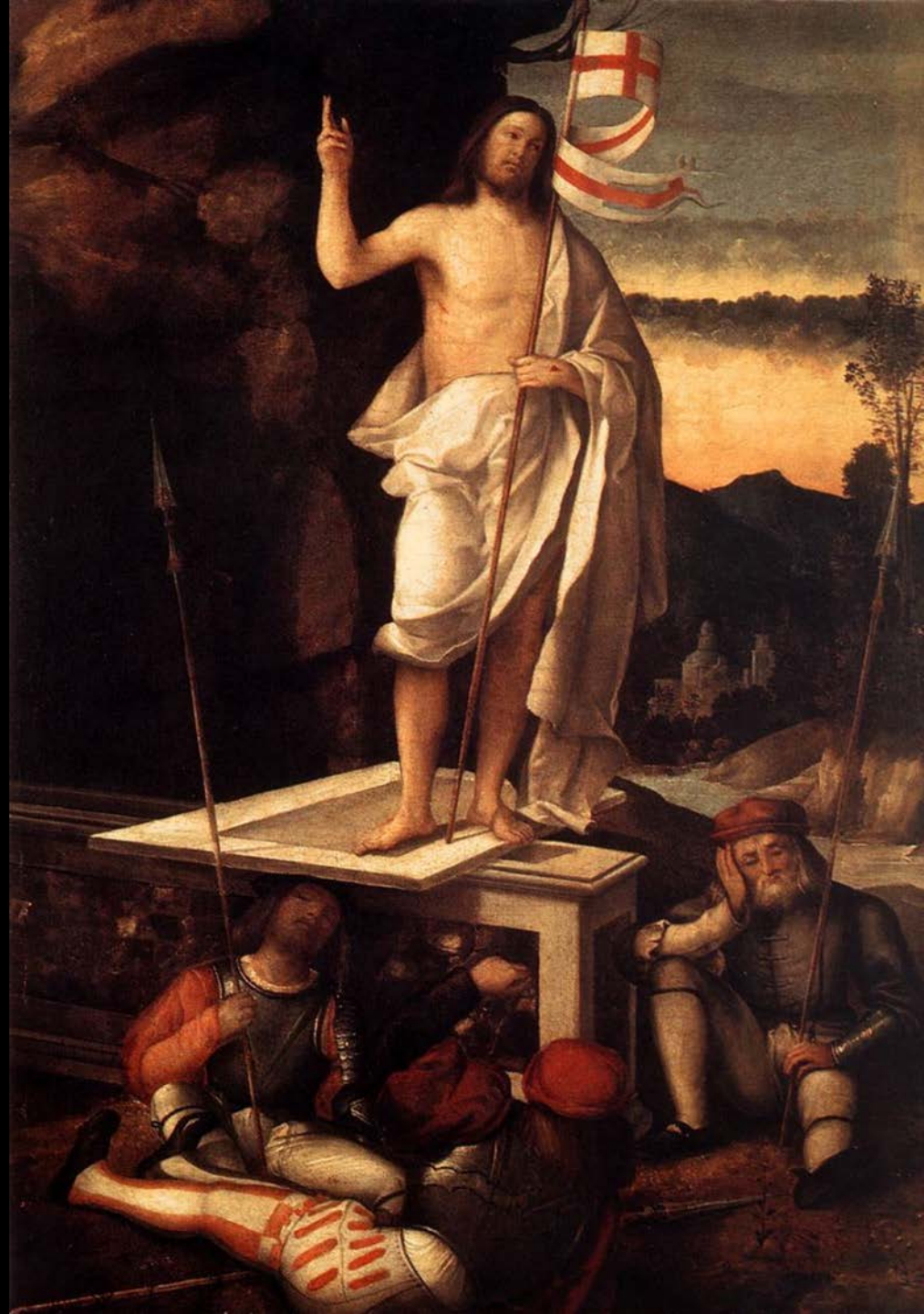
Oil on canvas, 324 x 240 cm

Musée du Louvre, Paris



**RUBENS, Pieter Pauwel**  
*The Resurrection of Christ*  
1611-12 Oil on panel, 138 x 98 cm  
O.-L. Vrouwekathedraal, Antwer

**BASAITI, Marco**  
*Resurrection of Christ* 1520  
Oil on canvas, 140 x 100 cm  
Accademia Carrara, Bergamo



# The First Easter

## Luke 23:50-24:8

<sup>50</sup>Now there was a man named Joseph, a member of the Council, a good and upright man, <sup>5</sup> who had not consented to their decision and action. He came from the Judean town of Arimathea and he was waiting for the kingdom of God. <sup>52</sup>Going to Pilate, he asked for Jesus' body. <sup>53</sup>Then he took it down, wrapped it in linen cloth and placed it in a tomb cut in the rock, one in which no one had yet been laid. <sup>54</sup>It was Preparation Day, and the Sabbath was about to begin.

# The First Easter

**Luke 23:50-24:8**

<sup>55</sup>The women who had come with Jesus from Galilee followed Joseph and saw the tomb and how his body was laid in it. <sup>56</sup>Then they went home and prepared spices and perfumes. But they rested on the Sabbath in obedience to the commandment.

# The First Easter

**Luke 23:50-24:8**

<sup>1</sup>On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. <sup>2</sup>They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, <sup>3</sup>but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. <sup>4</sup>While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them.

# The First Easter

**Luke 23:50-24:8**

<sup>5</sup>In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, “Why do you look for the living among the dead? <sup>6</sup>He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: <sup>7</sup>‘The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.’ ”

<sup>8</sup>Then they remembered his words.

**If Jesus raised from the dead on  
that first Easter Morning...**



**If Jesus raised from the dead on  
that first Easter Morning...**

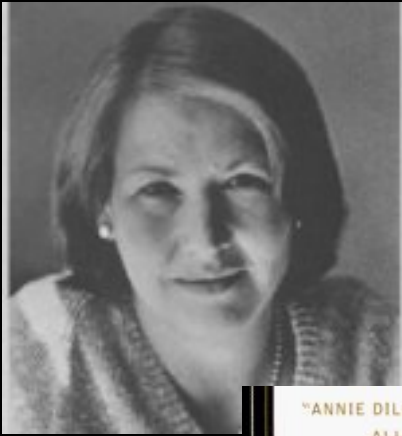
**Why do we live as if he didn't?**



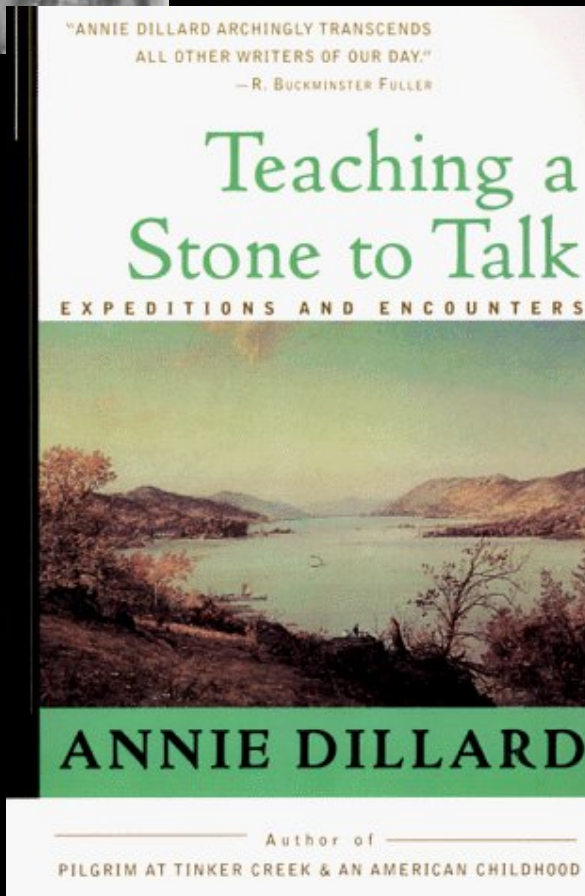
*“I’ve been preaching the same thing every Easter for 25 years...”*

**CHRIST IS RISEN!!**

*Now, let’s go and live like it!”*



On the whole, I do not find Christians, outside of the catacombs, sufficiently sensible of conditions. Does anyone have the foggiest idea what sort of power we so blithely invoke? Or, as I suspect, does no one believe a word of it? The churches are children playing on the



floor with their chemistry sets, making up a batch of TNT to kill a Sunday morning. It is madness to wear ladies hats and straw hats and velvet hats to church; we should all be wearing crash helmets. Ushers should issue life preservers and signal flares; they should lash us to our pews. For the sleeping god may wake someday and take offence, or the waking god may draw us out to where we can never return.

~ *Annie Dillard, Teaching a Stone to Talk, p. 40.*

**We are not 'Atheists' ...**

**We are not 'Atheists' ...**

**But most of us struggle with**

**Functional Atheism**

# How to be a Functional Atheist

# How to be a Functional Atheist

## Luke 24:13-35

<sup>13</sup>Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. <sup>14</sup>They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. <sup>15</sup>As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; <sup>16</sup>but they were kept from recognizing him.

<sup>17</sup>He asked them, “What are you discussing together as you walk along?”

# How to be a Functional Atheist

## Luke 24:13-35

They stood still, their faces downcast. <sup>18</sup> One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, “Are you only a visitor to Jerusalem and do not know the things that have happened there in these days?”

<sup>19</sup> “What things?” he asked.



# How to be a Functional Atheist

## Luke 24:13-35

“About Jesus of Nazareth,” they replied. “He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people.

<sup>20</sup>The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him; <sup>21</sup>but we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel. And what is more, it is the third day since all this took place.

<sup>22</sup>In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning <sup>23</sup>but didn't find his body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive. <sup>24</sup>Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but him they did not see.”

# How to be a Functional Atheist

## Luke 24:13-35

<sup>25</sup>He said to them, “How foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken!  
<sup>26</sup>Did not the Christ have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?” <sup>27</sup>And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.

# How to be a Functional Atheist

## Luke 24:13-35

<sup>28</sup>As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus acted as if he were going farther. <sup>29</sup>But they urged him strongly, “Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over.”  
So he went in to stay with them.

# How to be a Functional Atheist

## Luke 24:13-35

<sup>30</sup>When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them.

<sup>31</sup>Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. <sup>32</sup>They asked each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?”

# How to be a Functional Atheist

## Luke 24:13-35

<sup>33</sup>They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together <sup>34</sup>and saying, “It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon.” <sup>35</sup>Then the two told what had happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognized by them when he broke the bread.

# How to be a Functional Atheist

## Rule #1

Do not let the Word of God  
transform you!

# How to be a Functional Atheist

## Romans 6:1-14

<sup>1</sup>What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? <sup>2</sup>By no means! We died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? <sup>3</sup>Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? <sup>4</sup>We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

# How to be a Functional Atheist

## Romans 6:1-14

<sup>5</sup> If we have been united with him like this in his death, we will certainly also be united with him in his resurrection. <sup>6</sup> For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin — <sup>7</sup> because anyone who has died has been freed from sin.



# How to be a Functional Atheist

## Romans 6:1-14

<sup>8</sup>Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. <sup>9</sup>For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. <sup>10</sup>The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God.

# How to be a Functional Atheist

## Romans 6:1-14

<sup>11</sup>In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus. <sup>12</sup>Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires. <sup>13</sup>Do not offer the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer the parts of your body to him as instruments of righteousness. <sup>14</sup>For sin shall not be your master, because you are not under law, but under grace.

# How to be a Functional Atheist

## Rule #2

**Let sin reign in your life**

# How to be a Functional Atheist

## Ephesians 1:18-21

<sup>18</sup>I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, <sup>19</sup>and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength <sup>20</sup>he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, <sup>21</sup>far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come.

# How to be a Functional Atheist

## Rule #3

**Do not ask for power, nor allow God to transform your heart and mind by His power.**

# How to be a Functional Atheist

## Philippians 3:4b-11

If anyone else thinks he has reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more:

<sup>5</sup> circumcised on the eighth day,

of the people of Israel,

of the tribe of Benjamin,

a Hebrew of Hebrews;

in regard to the law, a Pharisee;

<sup>6</sup> as for zeal, persecuting the church;  
as for legalistic righteousness, faultless.

# How to be a Functional Atheist

## Philippians 3:4b-11

<sup>7</sup>But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. <sup>8</sup>What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ <sup>9</sup>and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith. <sup>10</sup>I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, <sup>11</sup>and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead.

# How to be a Functional Atheist

## Rule #4

Allow your identity to be fully in your status, family position, what you do and accomplish.



# How to be a Functional Atheist

## Colossians 3:1-4

<sup>1</sup>Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. <sup>2</sup>Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. <sup>3</sup>For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. <sup>4</sup>When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

# How to be a Functional Atheist

## Rule #5

**Do not meditate on the glories that are yours in Christ.**

# How to be a Functional Atheist

## 1 Corinthians 15:12-19

<sup>12</sup>But if it is preached that Christ has been raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead?

<sup>13</sup>If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. <sup>14</sup>And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. <sup>15</sup>More than that, we are then found to be false witnesses about God, for we have testified about God that he raised Christ from the dead. But he did not raise him if in fact the dead are not raised. <sup>16</sup>For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either. <sup>17</sup>And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. <sup>18</sup>Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost. <sup>19</sup>If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are to be pitied more than all men.

# How to be a Functional Atheist

## Rule #6

**Make Christianity into a religion that doesn't really matter if it's true, only that it "works for me."**

# How to DEFEAT Functional Atheism

# How to DEFEAT Functional Atheism



# How to DEFEAT Functional Atheism

**Rule #1**

**LET the Word of God  
transform you!**

**Luke 24:32**

<sup>32</sup>They asked each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?”

# How to DEFEAT Functional Atheism

## Rule #2

**Do NOT let sin reign in your life**

### Romans 6:1-14

<sup>11</sup>In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus. <sup>12</sup>Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires.



# How to DEFEAT Functional Atheism

## Rule #3

**Ask for power, and allow God to transform your heart and mind by His power.**

## Ephesians 1:18-21

19...and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength<sup>20</sup>he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead...

# How to DEFEAT Functional Atheism

## Rule #4

**MAKE your identity NEVER be in your status, family position, what you do and accomplish, but in the simple fact that Jesus Christ died and rose again for you.**

## Philippians 3:8

<sup>8</sup>What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ...

# How to DEFEAT Functional Atheism

## Rule #5

**Meditate often on the glories that are yours in Christ.**

### Colossians 3:2

<sup>2</sup>Set your minds on things above,  
not on earthly things.

# How to DEFEAT Functional Atheism

## Rule #6

**Daily, kill the idea that Christianity is a religion and make it about your relationship with the risen Jesus Christ**

### **1 Corinthians 15:20**

**But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.**



*“I’ve been preaching the same thing every Easter for 25 years...”*

**CHRIST IS RISEN!!**

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