Grace Baptist / Crossroads / Bethlehem BP (Tamil)/CIC/JETS-AIC Dr. Rick Griffith

4 April 1999 / 12 April 2009 / 8 April 2012 / 30 Mar 2013 / 12 & 23 Apr 2022 Message 23 of 24

NIV 25 Minutes

**His Body, Our Bodies**

Title

***1 Corinthians 15***

**Topic:** Resurrection

**Subject:** Since Christ rose,

**Complement:** we will too! So live like it!

**Purpose:** The listeners will be encouraged to live confidently in light of Christ’s resurrection and their own resurrection.

**Attribute:** We worship our resurrecting God

# Introduction

Earth Day

### Attention: Happy Earth Day! Oh, that was yesterday —and you thought it was Eastern Good Friday! Blessed Easter! Not for Shalom Auslander at the New York Times. His Passover article—same day as Good Friday this year—tells us to “Give Up God.”

Give Up God

### Did you hear about March 2013 at Florida Atlantic University? Communications Professor Deandre Poole required students to stomp on a piece of paper with “Jesus” written on it to supposedly "discuss the importance of symbols in culture," but junior Ryan Rotela refused as it violated his religious beliefs. Dr. Poole immediately suspended him and a big to-do resulted. The school finally backed down after threats of legal action from the Christian Liberty Institute. The FAU became a FAUX PAUX.

FAU
4 slides

### Have you noticed that nearly every year there is an attack on Jesus around March? *The Da Vinci Code* rolled off the presses in March, then years later the film came out in March. *The Gospel of Judas* attacked Jesus in March too. All of these are attacks on the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

March

### In 2007 the media at a news conference in New York photographed two ossuaries—these are chests made for human bones. Why? Filmmaker James Cameron claimed that these ossuaries were found in a 2,000-year-old tomb in Jerusalem in 1980 and they *may have held* the bones of Jesus and “his wife,” Mary Magdalene. He claims that Jesus and Mary Magdalene may have even had a son named Judah.

BBC

### Need: I wonder if this concerns you. Would it really matter to you *personally* if they *did* find Jesus’ body? What would change in your life if this report was true?

Tomb to you?

#### Would a dead Jesus change how you *invest your time*?

#### Does the resurrection of Christ affect how you *spend your money*?

#### Would it affect your *marriage*? How?

#### What *would* change—for you—if anything?

### Of course, we know that Jesus *did* rise from the dead—like He said He would!

Garden Tomb

#### Did you hear that someone asked the owner of the tomb, Joseph of Arimathea, “That was a great tomb. Why did you give it to *someone else* to be buried in?”

#### “Oh,” Joseph said, “He only needed it for the weekend.” Hodgin, 797

#### The resurrection is a fact! But…

### Subject: What’s so important about Christ’s resurrection? Why should it matter to you and me that Jesus arose?

Door Subject

### Background: Paul addressed this issue to some believers doubting the resurrection.

#### They lived in ancient Corinth—a seaport city where a lot of ideas floated around.

Corinth

#### Nearby philosophies like Epicureanism and Stoicism influenced many people in Corinth to scoff at the idea of bodily existence after death. Epicurus said, “Eat, drink, and be merry—for tomorrow we die!” without an afterlife. So some of the Corinthian Christians had even followed this line of doubt.

Epicurus

### Text: But Paul took this denial of the resurrection very seriously! So let’s see three reasons *Paul says Christ’s resurrection is important* in 1 Corinthians 15. First…

Why vital?

# I. Christ’s resurrection is a key part of the gospel (1-11).

MP

#  [You don’t have the true message of salvation without a living Jesus!]

## The gospel is so vital that our faith is founded on it (1-3a).

### The Corinthians, like us, received the gospel for salvation (1-2).

### The gospel was the most vital doctrine they knew (3a; NIV “as of first importance”).

First importance

(But what’s the gospel?)

## The gospel has three key elements (3b-8):

Gospel

### Christ’s death fulfilled Isaiah 53 to show He bore our sins rather than His own (3b).

### Christ’s burial proved He really died (4a).

### Christ’s resurrection and appearances proved Him to be the Messiah prophesied by the OT (4b-8).

Dead

## The resurrection makes Jesus unique among the world’s religious leaders—not even ONE of them died and rose again! Abraham, Buddha, and Mohammed all are still dead.

Alive

## The gospel of Christ being alive today brings salvation to all who believe (9-11).

Subj + MPI

(So Christ’s resurrection is important because it is a key part of the gospel. Why else is His resurrection so vital? Most of the chapter tells us that…)

# II. Christ’s resurrection will resurrect us in new bodies later (12-57).

MP

#  [Since Christ rose, you will too!]

## His resurrection gives us hope in our own resurrection (12-34).

The Risen Christ

### Some Corinthians believed that Christ rose but believers won’t (12).

### Our hope is rooted in Christ’s resurrection (13-34).

No hope

#### If Christ didn’t rise, then we have no hope (13-19).

• Both

##### Our resurrection and Christ’s resurrection stand or fall together (13).

##### If Christ didn’t rise, then Christian preaching and faith are useless (14).

• Faith

###### Why? Because Christians have always preached a living relationship with the person of Christ.

###### Have you ever had a relationship with a dead man? So if Jesus is still dead, it would be useless to preach about knowing Him.

##### If Christ didn’t rise, then preachers are liars (15a-16).

• Liars

###### No other religion claims an empty tomb for its founder.

###### If this is false then Christians have deceived over a billion people to believe a lie.

##### If Christ didn’t rise, then you aren’t forgiven (17). Why not? Because the resurrection proves that Christ died for *our* sin rather than for His own.

• Hell

• Forgive

##### If Christ didn’t rise, then dead believers are doomed to hell—because they never were forgiven (18).

##### If Christ didn’t rise, then our hope lasts only for this life—because if our founder didn’t defeat death, then neither will we (19a)!

###### As a young man, D. L. Moody was called upon suddenly to preach a funeral sermon. (Tan 5021)

DL Moody

###### He hunted through all four gospels to find one of Christ’s funeral sermons—only to discover that Christ broke up every funeral He ever attended! He raised each corpse back to life!

##### If Christ didn’t rise, then we should be pitied more than anyone else (19b).

• Pitiful

###### Nowadays 833 people are killed daily for believing in a risen Christ!

###### What a tragedy if there’s no bodily afterlife!

Hope

(So the risen Jesus gives us HOPE instead of hopelessness. But what other results come since Christ *did* rise?)

#### Since Christ did rise, we will rise and reign with Him (20-28).

20-28

##### His resurrection *gives hope* that millions more will also rise at His return (20-23)—as the first fruit sheafs brought to Jerusalem, so Jesus is the first raised!

Resurrect
(3 slides)

##### His return *will result in His reign* until He subdues every power (24-27a).

Reign

##### Christ will then *hand His kingdom over* to the Father so that the Triune God will be shown sovereign over everything (27b-28).

Kingdom

#### *More* dismal things result if Christ’s resurrection is false (29-32).

Baptism (29)

##### New Christians baptized in the name of believers who died did so in vain (29). This probably refers to baptizing Christians for believers who had died—not to save them, but to take their places in the church.

##### Persecuted Christians should live for pleasure—if no resurrection (30-32).

#### We should be ashamed to believe false teachers who deny the resurrection (33-34).

Reincar-nation

##### We have all kinds of people around us who don’t believe in resurrection—they hold to reincarnation!

##### This struck me in 1997 when reading a website on how one’s religion helps him or her deal with the recent SilkAir MI185 crash. One respondent—president of the Singapore Buddhist Foundation—noted…

MI 185 crash

###### “What is in store in your next life depends on what you do in this one… If [you don’t share your wealth with others], you could be born into the world of the hungry ghosts or be reborn as an animal…

“Hope” in reincarnation

###### “At times of tragedies and sudden deaths, it helps to regard death as escape from this imperfect world to a *possibly* better next life, so surviving relatives can find peace in their loss.” Not much hope!

T

(But what does the resurrection of Christ offer us instead? Verses 35-57 show where it really gets good! It says that…)

## Christ’s resurrection will give us bodies that far outshine our earthly bodies (35-57).

Bodies

(2 slides)

### Since the resurrection is true, the next question is what kind of body it will be (35).

Illustrate

• An • In

### Paul illustrates the superiority of the resurrected body three ways from nature (36-41):

#### Plant life shows that the first body (the seed) is far inferior to the second body—the grown plant (36-38).

Plant

##### In 1976 a seed was found inside an abbey wall in England from the year 1120. That made it an 856-year old seed! Someone planted it, and it grew into a beautiful rose bush! Think of all that potential in that dead seed!

• seed

Abbey

##### Now think of our bodies as seeds. Despite our age or form, at the resurrection we will “bloom” into the most beautiful bodies ever seen! Tan 5037

#### Animal life shows that the flesh of each species differs from the others (39).

Animal

##### In 1999 a dove flew into our yard with crippled wings and our dog devastated its back, pulling out about 50 feathers. But one of our boys rescued it, and we nursed it back to health in a cage. Within two weeks all the feathers grew back and we saw it fly away to freedom.

• Birds

• Fish

• Skin

##### God knows just what kind of skin to give the bird and the fish and us.

#### Inanimate objects of the earth (mountains, canyons, seas?) are inferior in glory to heavenly bodies—sun, moon, stars (40-41).

Inanimate

### Paul elaborates on the superiority of the resurrected body over the earthly body (42-57).

Resurrected Body

#### [The superiority of the resurrected body over the earthly body is shown in the need for new bodies (42-44a).]

42 die

##### Bodies that can die now will be raised as bodies that will never die (42).

##### Sinful bodies will be raised as bodies that will never sin (43a).

• 43a sin

##### Weak bodies will be raised as powerful bodies—like the ant lifting many times its body weight (43b)!

• 43b weak

##### Physical bodies will be raised as spiritual bodies (44a).

• 44a phy

##### Imagine grieving caterpillars carrying a cocoon shell to its resting place.

Cocoon

###### The poor, distressed caterpillars, clad in black raiment, weep as they trudge on, mourning the loss of their beloved friend.

###### Yet above them flies the beautiful butterfly fluttering happily above the muck and mire of the earth—forever freed from its earthly shell! Tan 5035

• butterfly

###### That’s what it will be like to get these new bodies!

(How quickly will you trade your earthly for your heavenly body? Instantly!)

Lord
(5 slides)

#### Death will be defeated at the Rapture so we can live with God eternally (50-52).

15:55

(So how should we live in light of this wonderful future? Paul tells us in verse 58…)

MP

# III. Our future resurrection should spur us to serve Him confidently now (58).

 **[Since we know we’ll rise *then*, we should rise to service *now*!]**

## Paul concludes with three ways to show your faith in the resurrection (58a-c):

• Stand

### Stand firm in your belief in the resurrection (58a).

• Don’t be shaken

### Never let anyone or anything shake your faith (58b).

• Serve

### Serve Christ wholeheartedly (58c). Why?

## You will be rewarded (58d).

• Reward

Subj

(So what’s Paul saying to us in this chapter? Simply this…)

# Conclusion

### Since Christ rose, you will too! So live like it! (MI). Jesus is alive today—since he also will make us alive again after death, serve him now until death.

M.I.

### But what does a “resurrection life” look like?

Resurrection Life

#### Verse 58 says to “give yourself fully to the work of the Lord”! Do you serve Him with all of your might?

#### “Resurrection life” has hope too. Don’t be like these Corinthians who lost hope (Gospel presentation).

Black

Grace Baptist Church/ Crossroads International Church Dr. Rick Griffith

4 April 1999 / 12 April 2009 Message #23

NIV 35 Minutes

**His Body, Our Bodies**

Title

***1 Corinthians 15***

**Topic:** Resurrection

**Subject:** Since Christ rose,

**Complement:** we will too! So live like it!

**Purpose:** The listeners will be encouraged to live confidently in light of Christ’s resurrection and their own resurrection.

# Introduction

### Attention: Just two years ago members of the media at a news conference in New York photographed two ossuaries—these are chests made for human bones. Well, filmmaker James Cameron claims that these ossuaries were found in a 2,000-year-old tomb in Talpiot Jerusalem in 1980 and they may have held the bones of Jesus and Mary Magdalene. Cameron unveiled the artifacts in New York to promote a documentary film that claims scientists may have found the lost tomb of Jesus Christ and that Jesus and Mary Magdalene may have had a son named Judah.

BBC

### Need: I wonder if this concerns you. Would it really matter to you *personally* if they *did* find Jesus’ body? What would change in your life if this report was true?

Tomb to you?

#### Would a dead Jesus change how you spend your time?

#### Does the resurrection of Christ affect how you spend your money?

#### Would it affect your marriage?

#### What *would* change—for you?

#### Take one minute and tell the person next to you!

### Of course, we know that Jesus *did* rise from the dead—like He said He would!

Garden Tomb

#### Did you hear that someone asked the owner of the tomb, Joseph of Arimathaea, “That was a great tomb. Why did you give it to *someone else* to be buried in?”

#### “Oh,” Joseph said, “He only needed it for the weekend.” Hodgin, 797

#### The resurrection is a fact! But…

### Subject: What’s so important about Christ’s resurrection? Why does it make a difference to you and me that Jesus arose?

Door Subject

### Background: This is the issue that Paul addressed to a church where some members doubted the resurrection.

#### They lived in ancient Corinth—a seaport city where a lot of ideas floated around. In fact, Athens—philosophical centre of the Roman Empire—lay just up the road.

Corinth

#### Philosophies like Epicureanism and Stoicism influenced many people in Corinth to scoff at the idea of bodily existence after death, so some of the Corinthian Christians had even followed this line of doubt.

Epicurus

### Text: But Paul took this denial of the resurrection very seriously! So let’s see *why Paul says Christ’s resurrection is important* in 1 Corinthians 15. First…

Why vital?

# I. Christ’s resurrection is a key part of the gospel (1-11).

MP

#  [You don’t have the true message of salvation without a living Christ!]

## (1-3a) The gospel is so vital that our faith is founded on it.

### (1-2) The Corinthians, like us, received the gospel for salvation.

### (3a) In fact, the gospel was the most important doctrine they knew.

(What’s the gospel anyway? Is it only a type of choir or music? Why is the gospel so important? Because…)

## (3b-8) The gospel has three key elements:

Gospel

### (3b) Christ’s death as Isaiah 53 prophesied proved He bore our sins rather than His own.

• Death

### (4a) Christ’s burial proved He really died.

• Burial

### (4b-8) Christ’s resurrection and appearances proved Him to be the Messiah prophesied by the Old Testament.

• Risen

## The resurrection puts Jesus in a different class altogether among the world’s religious leaders—whether leaders of atheism (which is a religion) or whether leaders of world religions.

Alive

Dead

## (9-11) The gospel of Christ being alive today brings salvation to all who believe.

(So Christ’s resurrection is really important because it is a key part of the gospel. Why else is His resurrection so vital? Most of the chapter tells us that…)

# II. Christ’s resurrection will resurrect us in new bodies later (12-57).

MP

#  [Since Christ rose, you will too!]

## (12-34) His resurrection gives us hope in our own resurrection.

The Risen Christ

### (12) Some Corinthians believed that Christ rose but believers won’t.

#### Maybe they said, “He’s God but we’re not.” Membership in the Trinity has its privileges!

#### But think of the implications if heaven is not a bodily existence! So…

### (13-34) We have no hope if we doubt Christ’s resurrection.

No hope

#### (13-19) If Christ didn’t rise, then we have no hope.

##### (13) Our resurrection and Christ’s resurrection stand or fall together.

• Both

##### (14) If Christ didn’t rise, then Christian preaching and faith are useless.

• Faith

###### Why? Because Christians have always preached a living relationship with the person of Christ.

###### Have you ever had a relationship with a dead man? So if Jesus is still dead, it would be useless to preach about knowing Him.

##### (15a-16) If Christ didn’t rise, then preachers are liars.

• Liars

###### No other religion claims an empty tomb for its founder.

###### If this is false then Christians have deceived over a billion people to believe a lie.

##### (17) If Christ didn’t rise, then you aren’t forgiven. Why not? Because the resurrection proves that Christ died for our sin rather than for His own.

• Hell

• Forgive

##### (18) If Christ didn’t rise, then dead believers are doomed to hell—because they never were forgiven.

##### (19a) If Christ didn’t rise, then our hope lasts only for this life—because if our founder didn’t defeat death, then neither will we!

###### As a young man, D. L. Moody was called upon suddenly to preach a funeral sermon. (Tan 5021)

Black

###### He hunted through all four gospels to find one of Christ’s funeral sermons—only to discover that Christ broke up every funeral He ever attended! He raised each corpse back to life!

##### (19b) If Christ didn’t rise, then we should be pitied more than anyone else.

• Pitiful

###### Today 833 people per day are killed worldwide for believing in a resurrected Christ!

###### What a tragedy if there’s no bodily afterlife!

(But what are the results since Christ *did* rise?)

Hope

#### (20-28) Since Christ did rise, we will rise and reign with Him.

##### (20-23) Christ’s resurrection *gives hope* that millions of others will also rise at His return.

• Rise

##### (24-27a) His return *will result in His reign* until He subdues every power.

• Reign

##### (27b-28) Christ will then *hand His kingdom over* to the Father so that the Triune God will be shown sovereign over everything.

• Kingdom

#### (29-32) More dismal things result if Christ’s resurrection is false.

Baptism (29)

##### (29) New Christians baptized in the name of believers who died did so in vain.

###### No one knows for sure what Paul refers to here by baptism for the dead.

###### But probably this refers to baptizing Christians for believers who had died—not to save them, but to take their places in the church.

##### (30-32) Persecuted Christians may as well live for pleasure.

#### (33-34) We should be ashamed to believe false teachers who deny the resurrection.

Reincar-nation

##### We have all kinds of people around us who don’t believe in resurrection—they hold to reincarnation!

MI 185 crash

##### This really struck me in 1997 when reading a web page devoted to how one’s religion helps him or her deal with the SilkAir MI185 crash. Responses came from six religions on this event. One respondent—president of the Singapore Buddhist Foundation—noted…

###### “What is in store in your next life depends on what you do in this one… If [you don’t share your wealth with others], you could be born into the world of the hungry ghosts or be reborn as an animal…

Buddhist

###### At times of tragedies and sudden deaths, it helps to regard death as escape from this imperfect world to a *possibly* better next life, so surviving relatives can find peace in their loss.” esch Ts

###### It struck me how this viewpoint is filled with admirable compassion, but ultimately little hope—perhaps you’ll be an *animal* or human and *possibly* have a better next life? Not much comfort indeed…

(But what does the resurrection of Christ offer us instead? Verses 35-57 show where it really gets good! It says that…)

## Christ’s resurrection will give us bodies that far outshine our earthly bodies (35-57).

Bodies

### (35) Since the resurrection is true, the next question is what kind of body it will be.

Planes

#### Here’s where Christianity really shines!

#### How? Because our resurrected bodies compared to these ones we have now are as different lightning and a lightning bug!

### (36-41) The superiority of the resurrected body is shown in three illustrations from nature.

Seed

#### (36-38) Plant life shows that the first body (the seed) is far inferior to the second body (the grown plant).

• Plant

##### In 1976 a seed was found inside an abbey wall in England dating from the year 1120. That made it an 856-year old seed! Someone planted it, and it grew into a beautiful rose bush! Think of all that potential preserved in that dead seed!

##### Now think of our bodies as seeds. Despite our age or form, at the resurrection we will “bloom” into the most beautiful bodies ever seen! Tan 5037

#### (39) Animal life shows that the flesh of each species differs from the others.

• Animal

##### In 1999 a dove flew into our yard with crippled wings and our dog devastated its back, pulling out about 50 feathers. One of our boys rescued it, though, and we nursed it back to health in a cage. We were amazed to see the feathers grow back halfway in only a week! Within two weeks all the feathers grew back and we saw it fly away to freedom.

##### God knows just what kind of skin to give the bird and the fish and us.

#### (40-41) Inanimate objects of the earth (mountains, canyons, seas?) are inferior in glory to heavenly bodies (sun, moon, stars).

• Inanimate

### (42-57) Paul elaborates on the superiority of the resurrected body over the earthly body.

Resurrected Body

#### [(42-44a) The superiority of the resurrected body over the earthly body is shown in the need for new bodies.]

##### (42) Bodies that can die now will be raised as bodies that will never die.

Black

##### (43a) Sinful bodies will be raised as bodies that will never sin.

##### (43b) Weak bodies will be raised as powerful bodies—like the ant lifting many times its body weight!

##### (44a) Physical bodies will be raised as spiritual bodies.

##### Imagine a crowd of grieving caterpillars carrying the corpse of a cocoon to its final resting place.

###### The poor, distressed caterpillars, clad in black raiment, weep as they trudge on, mourning the loss of their beloved friend.

###### Yet above them flies the beautiful butterfly fluttering happily above the muck and mire of the earth—forever freed from its earthly shell! Tan 5035

###### That’s what it will be like to get these new bodies!

(And how quickly will you exchange your earthly body for your heavenly one? Instantly! Jump to verse 50…)

Lord reigns

#### (50-52) Death will be defeated at the Rapture so we can live with God eternally.

##### Verse 51 has often been put in church nurseries: “We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed!”

Not all sleep

##### No, this is talking about being instantly changed from dying bodies into eternally *living* ones!

Rapture

##### This will occur at the Lord’s return noted in 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17.

###### Put these two passages together and you’ll see that we rise and get new bodies at the same event.

Meet in clouds

###### Often it’s pictured that Christians will disappear when Christ returns, but that’s not what it says—it says we will rise!

###### And *when* will we get the new bodies? I hope it’s not when we get to the clouds! Otherwise those indoors will have a rather painful exit! Imagine being on the first floor of your apartment building, rising floor by floor until you get out of the top. You’ll *need* a new body by then! No, new bodies will be given where we stand—instantaneously—*then* we’ll rise!

We will rise

(So how should we live in light of this wonderful future? Paul tells us in verse 58…)

# III. Our future resurrection should spur us to serve Him confidently now (58).

MP

 **[Since we know we’ll rise *then*, we should rise to service *now*!]**

## (58a-c) Paul concludes with three ways to show your faith in the resurrection:

### (58a) Stand firm in your belief in the resurrection.

• Stand

#### Don’t buy into reincarnation.

#### Realize that you will see Christ! Remember 1 John 3:2? “Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.”

### (58b) Never let anyone or anything shake your faith.

• Don’t shake

#### Some of us take “Let nothing move you” too literally! We’re not even moved by the Spirit of God!

#### No! It means don’t be shaken by any heresy about Christ’s resurrection or yours.

### (58c) Serve Christ wholeheartedly. Why?

• Reward

## (58d) You will be rewarded.

(So what’s Paul saying to us in this chapter? Simply this…)

# Conclusion

### Since Christ rose, you will too! So live like it! (MI).

M.I.

### But what does a “resurrection life” look like?

#### That last exhortation of the chapter provides one clear indicator whether you live a “resurrection life”—do you “give yourself fully to the work of the Lord”?

##### Do you serve Him with all of your might?

##### Are you a businessman that happens to be a Christian? If you live in light of your future resurrection you are a Christian who happens to be a businessman!

##### The difference between full-time and part-time Christian workers is not based on occupation but on preoccupation! What preoccupies you?

#### The “resurrection life” has hope too. Don’t be like these Corinthians who had lost their hope.

### [The truth of the resurrection continues on…]

#### A couple of F-15’s were escorting a C-130 Hercules, and their pilots are chatting with the pilot of the transport to pass the time. Talk comes around to the relative merits of their respective aircraft. The fighter pilots contend that their airplanes were better because of their superior speed, maneuverability, weaponry, and so forth, and pointed out the Hercules deficiencies in these areas. After taking this for a while, the C-130 pilot says, "Oh yeah? Well, I can do a few things in this old girl that you’d only dream about." Naturally, the fighter pilots challenge him to demonstrate. "Just watch," comes the quick retort. And so they watch. But all they see is that C-130 continue to fly straight and level…After several minutes the Hercules pilot comes back on the air, "There! How was that?" The fighter pilots reply, "What are you talking about? What did you do?" And the Hercules pilot replies, "Well, I got up, stretched my legs, and got a cup of coffee."

Planes

#### Similarly, many of us don’t really recognize what God has done in the Easter story. We’ve got hi-tech toys, with great graphics and things that the generations before us could only dream of. And the simple 2,000-year-old Easter story comes along, and it feels like a great old C-130 Hercules. We figure, "It’s old and so what can it do?" We search the Internet, and we think we’ve got Christianity nailed down. I mean look at the colossal failures of Christians through the centuries, and they are numerous. But through the centuries and even with modern hi-tech sophistication and our evolved sensibilities, no one can explain away the resurrection of Jesus from the dead. The resurrection of Christ comes to us, sneaking into our consciousness, and somehow we hear a voice in that Easter story: "There! How was that?"

Empty Tomb

### Will this unshakable resurrection truth enable you to “give yourself fully to the work of the Lord” with an unshakable hope too? I trust that you will.

Black

15 illustrations in 35 minutes.

# Discussion Questions:

1. Why is having a resurrected body so important to you personally? What would be wrong with being a spirit without a body forever?

# Preliminary Questions

**Verses Questions**

# Context What did the author record just prior to this passage?

### He has just finished his discussion on spiritual gifts in chapters 12–14. Now he turns his attention to a great concern he has about false teaching in the body.

# Purpose Why is this passage in the Bible?

### This is the most important chapter in Scripture on the resurrection of Christ and believers as a result.

### This chapter on the resurrection is the foundation of our faith in salvation by grace.

# Background What historical context helps us understand this passage?

### The Corinthian church ministered in the midst of many pagan philosophies, some of which denied any afterlife.

### Evidently some church members carried this denial of the resurrection that they heard from unbelieving friends into the church too (15:33-34).

# Questions (few of these were answered due to time constraints—only #2, 3, 6, & 9)

### Does verse 2 teach that perseverance in the faith is necessary for salvation?

### What is the baptism for the dead Paul notes (29)? Is he advocating it?

### Did Paul fight literal wild beasts in Ephesus (32)? or were these false teachers? Which religions and philosophies would Paul fight today because they don’t teach the resurrection?

### Why is it so foolish to ask the kind of body resurrected people have (35-36)?

### What is meant by the “earthly bodies” as compared to the “heavenly bodies”: the sun, moon, and stars (40-41)?

### When will this bodily change come about (51)?

### Does victory over death at the resurrection that takes away the sting of death mean there will no longer be death after the resurrection (54-55)? How will this fit into an earthly millennium to follow when death still exists?

### What does it mean that the “power of sin is in the law” (56)?

### What does “let nothing move you” mean (58)? Some of us take this as we won’t be emotionally moved by anything!

# Tentative Subject/Complement Statements

Since Christ rose, you will too!

# Possible Illustrations

##### I’ve been really encouraged lately by Ken Chan—one of my Hong Kong students who was diagnosed with lymphatic cancer last month. He’s been planning on getting married in August and together with his wife translate the Scriptures into a language never written before.

##### But since his illness he has inundated me with questions on the resurrection body and afterlife. And through it all I have seen a genuine joy and hope in him. This would be impossible apart from his knowing he’ll rise as well.

Last week a dove flew into our yard with crippled wings and our dog devastated its back.

RESURRECTION place faith in a Reliable Source, Jesus (Romans 7:24-25)

Category: Resurrection

**Final Escape**

**Author: Illustration Exchange**

Published: "Final Escape," Episode 8, Season 1, 1985 (Remake of the original from 21 February 1964)

Contributor: Illustration Exchange

The famed TV producer of the eerie and bizarre, Alfred Hitchcock, hosted his own hit TV show of a generation ago. One episode in 1987 ([a remake of the original 1964 story](http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0394041/))  told the tale of a murderous woman who, once condemned to prison, vowed she’d never be held captive and would surely find a way out.

She studied her surroundings and soon took note of a gravedigger, whose job it was to cart away deceased inmates for burial in the plots just beyond the prison confines. He was old and moved slowly, as his eyesight was badly impaired by cataracts. She approached him one day to bribe him into helping her escape.

Her plan was simple: When the death bell tolled, heralding the death of another inmate, she would make her way to the morgue and climb into the coffin with the deceased. He (the gravedigger) would then wheel the coffin to the plot, bury it in a shallow grave, then come back after dark to release her. All this in exchange for the money to have the cataract surgery to restore his sight. The old man agreed, and together they waited for their opportunity.

Time passed, when suddenly the woman heard the death toll. To her ears, it was the sound of freedom bells chiming.  The scheme went just as planned. She waited an appropriate amount of time, slinked her way to the basement, and slipped quietly into the morgue. She felt her way through the dark room to the coffin laid out on the cart. Opening the lid, she crawled inside and pulled the lid shut.

Soon she felt the cart moving. She could almost taste her freedom. Moments later she felt the thud as the coffin was lowered into the ground. She heard the dirt as it hit the lid. Then silence. She waited in anticipation. Minutes turned to hours with no relief. Panicked, she struck a match, surveying the situation. To her utter horror, she discovered that she was face to face with … the gravedigger!

Application:

Hitchcock’s murderous inmate had foolishly placed her life in the hands of an unreliable deliverer––one with no more power over the grave than she.

So, in whose trust have you placed *your* hope of deliverance?

“Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death? Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord!” (Romans 7:24-25)

# What Happened on Easter?

A Sunday School teacher asked her class on the Sunday before Easter if they knew what happened on Easter and why it was so important. One little girl spoke up saying: "Easter is when the whole family gets together, and you eat turkey and sing about the pilgrims and all that." "No, that’s not it," said the teacher.

"I know what Easter is," a second student responded. "Easter is when you get a tree and decorate it and give gifts to everybody and sing lots of songs." "Nope, that’s not it either," replied the teacher.

Finally a third student spoke up, "Easter is when Jesus was killed, and put in a tomb and left for three days."

"Ah, thank goodness somebody knows" the teacher thought to herself. But then the student went on: "Then everybody gathers at the tomb and waits to see if Jesus comes out, and if he sees his shadow he has to go back inside and we have six more weeks of winter."

Some of us have some weird ideas about Easter. What does the Bible have to say about it? What’s Easter to you? What really happened? Why is it important for Christians, and what implications does Easter have for the world?

Contributor: Andrew Chan

Expand Illustration

# All the Difference

All but four of the major world religions are based on mere philosophical propositions. Of the four that are based on personalities rather than philosophies, only Christianity claims an empty tomb for its founder. In 1900 B.C. Judaism’s Father Abraham died. In 483 B.C. Buddhist writings say Buddha died "with that utter passing away in which nothing whatever remains behind." June 6, 632 A.D. Mohammed died. In 33 A.D. Jesus died but came back to life appearing to 500 people over a period of 40 days. "And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith." (1 Corinthians 15:14).

Source: McDowell, Josh. *Evidence that Demands a Verdict.* Page 180. San Bernardino, CA: Here’s Life Publishers, Inc., 1979.

# Long Walk Part of Gift

Let me close an excerpt from Sharon Jaynes’ book, *Celebrating a Christ-centered Christmas*:

An African boy listened carefully as his teacher explained why Christians give presents to each other on Christmas Day. "The gift is an expression of our joy over the birth of Jesus and our friendship for each other," she said. When Christmas day came, the boy brought the teacher a seashell of lustrous beauty. "Where did you ever find such a beautiful shell?" the teacher asked. The youth told her that there was only one spot where such extraordinary shells could be found. When he named the place, a certain bay several miles away, the teacher was left speechless. "Why … why, it’s gorgeous … wonderful, but you shouldn’t have gone all that way to get the gift for me." His eyes brightening, the boy answered, "Long walk part of gift."

God came from heaven to a manger, from a manger to a cross, from a cross to the grave and from a grave back to heaven. And we ask, "Why all this trouble, God?" And God would say to us, "Long walk part of gift."

Contributor: Dana Chou

# He Intended it for You

In Peggy Noonan’s book *When Character Was King*, she tells about a meeting between President George W. Bush and President Vladimir Putin of Russia. It was their first meeting as world leaders and Bush wanted to be sure they connected—that they looked for depth of soul and character, not simply had a political meeting.

Bush brought up a story he had read about Putin. His mother had given him a Christian cross that Putin had had blessed while in Jerusalem. Bush had been touched by the story. Putin told a story in response. He had taken to wearing the cross, and one day had set it down in a house he had been visiting. Strangely, the house had burned down, and all Putin could think about was that his cross was lost in the rubble. He motioned for a worker to come to him, so he could ask him to look for the cross. The worker walked over to Putin, stretched out his hand, and showed him the already recovered cross. Putin told Bush "It was as if something meant for me to have the cross," inferring that he believed in a higher power. Bush said, "Mr. Putin, President Putin, that’s what it’s all about—that’s the story of the cross." The story of the cross is that God intended it just for you.

Peggy Noonan. *When Character Was King*, pp 306-307. New York: Viking, 2001.

# Book Excerpt

Max Lucado in his book, *Six Hours One Friday*, tells the story of a missionary in Brazil who discovered a tribe of Indians in a remote part of the jungle. They lived near a large river. The tribe was in need of medical attention. A contagious disease was ravaging the population. People were dying daily. A hospital was not too terribly far away—across the river, but the Indians would not cross it because they believed the river was inhabited by evil spirits. And to enter its water would mean certain death. The missionary explained how he had crossed the river and was unharmed. But they were not impressed. He then took them to the bank and placed his hand in the water. They still wouldn’t go in. He walked into the water up to his waist and splashed water on his face. It didn’t matter. They were still afraid to enter the river. Finally, he dove into the river, swam beneath the surface until he emerged on the other side. He raised a triumphant fist into the air. He had entered the water and escaped. It was then that the Indians broke into a cheer and followed him across. Isn’t that what Jesus did? He entered the river of death and came out on the other side so that we might no longer fear death, but find eternal life in Him.

Contributed by: Melvin Newland

# Question and Answer

One lady wrote in to a question and answer forum. "Dear Sirs, Our preacher said on Easter, that Jesus just swooned on the cross and that the disciples nursed Him back to health. What do you think? Sincerely, Bewildered.”

Dear Bewildered, Beat your preacher with a cat-of-nine-tails with 39 heavy strokes, nail him to a cross; hang him in the sun for six hours; run a spear thru his side…put him in an airless tomb for 36 hours and see what happens. Sincerely, Charles.

Contributed by: A. Todd Coget

# Easter is Not a Creed

Bruce Larson said, "The events of Easter cannot be reduced to a creed or philosophy. We are not asked to believe the doctrine of the resurrection. We are asked to meet this person raised from the dead. In faith, we move from belief in a doctrine to the knowledge of a person. Ultimate truth is a person. We met him. He is alive."

Contributed by: Scott Sharpes

# There! How Was That?

A couple of F-15’s are escorting a C-130 Hercules, and their pilots are chatting with the pilot of the transport to pass the time. Talk comes around to the relative merits of their respective aircraft. The fighter pilots contend that their airplanes were better because of their superior speed, maneuverability, weaponry, and so forth, and pointed out the Hercules deficiencies in these areas. After taking this for a while, the C-130 pilot says, "Oh yeah? Well, I can do a few things in this old girl that you’d only dream about." Naturally, the fighter pilots challenge him to demonstrate. "Just watch," comes the quick retort. And so they watch. But all they see is that C-130 continue to fly straight and level…After several minutes the Hercules pilot comes back on the air, "There! How was that?" The fighter pilots reply, "What are you talking about? What did you do?" And the Hercules pilot replies, "Well, I got up, stretched my legs, and got a cup of coffee."

Similarly, many of us don’t really recognize what God has done in the Easter story. We’ve got hi-tech toys, with great graphics and things that the generations before us could only dream of. And the simple 2,000-year-old Easter story comes along, and it feels like a great old C-130 Hercules. We figure, "It’s old and so what can it do?" We search the Internet, and we think we’ve got Christianity nailed down. I mean look at the colossal failures of Christians through the centuries, and they are numerous. But through the centuries and even with modern hi-tech sophistication and our evolved sensibilities, no one can explain away the resurrection of Jesus from the dead. The resurrection of Christ comes to us, sneaking into our consciousness, and somehow we hear a voice in that Easter story: "There! How was that?"

Contributed by: Andrew Chan

MI 185 SilkAir crash On 19 December 1997, a SilkAir Boeing 737- 300 en route from Jakarta to Singapore crashed near Palembang, Sumatra. All 97 passengers on board, the five cabin crew, Captain Tsu Way Ming and co- pilot Duncan Ward died in the crash.

Flight MI 185 had taken off from Jakarta at 3.37 p.m., climbing to a normal cruising altitude of 35,000 ft. At some time after 4 p.m., radar readings revealed that the aircraft had dropped some 400 ft below cruising altitude, and had entered into a rapid descent. The plane then disappeared from radar screens, and crashed into the Musi River.

There was a general outpouring of public grief in Singapore following the crash, and a memorial service was held at the Singapore Indoor Stadium.

Three years later, the Indonesian National Transport Safety Committee reported that it was unable to establish why the aircraft had strayed from its normal cruising level. At one stage, there was speculation that pilot suicide was the cause, but no conclusive evidence was produced to confirm this theory. In August 1999, the Singapore Police Force initiated its own investigation. However, after careful examination and analysis of all available materials, the police announced in December 2000 that there was no evidence of any wrongdoing.

Although most families accepted the US$200,000 compensation per victim offered by SilkAir, several other relatives initiated lawsuits against the airline, Boeing and equipment manufacturer, Parker Hannifin Corp. On 8 July 2004, a Los Angeles Superior Court jury found that a malfunctioning component in the Boeing 737’s rudder control system had caused the accident, and ordered Parker Hannifin to pay US$43.6 million to the relatives of three victims. The manufacturer is appealing against the ruling.

Photo credit: Singapore Press Holdings/The Straits Times

<http://www.singapedia.com.sg/entries/m/mi_185_silkair_crash.html>

**His Body, Our Bodies**

***1 Corinthians 15***

**Exegetical Outline**

# Exegetical Idea: The results of Christ’s resurrection were the Corinthian believer’s future resurrection and confident service for Christ now.

# I. (1-11) The message of the resurrection of Christ was a key part of the gospel that the apostles preached and the Corinthians believed.

## (1-3a) The importance of the gospel was so vital that the Corinthians’ faith was founded on it.

### (1-2) The message the Corinthians received for salvation was the gospel.

### (3a) The gospel Paul received from tradition and preached at Corinth was the most important doctrine the Corinthians knew.

## (3b-8) The content of the gospel that Paul preached at Corinth had three major elements: Christ’s vicarious death, burial, and resurrection.

### (3b) Christ’s death as Isaiah 53 prophesied proved He bore our sins rather than His own.

### (4a) Christ’s burial proved He really died.

### (4b-8) Christ’s resurrection and appearances proved Him to be the Messiah prophesied by the Old Testament.

## (9-11) The result of the gospel was the salvation of Paul and the Corinthians through apostolic preaching of God’s grace.

### (9-11a) Paul was saved by grace through the gospel.

### (11b) Paul and the apostles preached this gospel message.

### (11c) The Corinthians believed the gospel message.

# II. (12-57) The result of Christ’s resurrection will be the resurrection of believers in new bodies.

## (12-34) The important implications of Christ’s resurrection should shame the Corinthian believers who doubted this.

### (12) Some Corinthians doubted the believers’ resurrection despite their belief that Christ rose.

### (13-34) The implications of Christ’s resurrection should shame believers who doubt their own resurrection.

#### (13-19) The results if Christ’s resurrection is false is hopelessness.

##### (13) Our resurrection and Christ’s resurrection stand or fall together.

##### (14) If Christ is still dead, Christian preaching and faith are useless.

##### (15-16) If Christ is still dead, preachers are liars.

##### (17) If Christ is still dead, living believers are not forgiven.

##### (18) If Christ is still dead, dead believers are doomed to hell.

##### (19a) If Christ is still dead, our hope lasts only for this life.

##### (19b) If Christ is still dead, Christians should be pitied more than anyone else.

#### (20-28) The results if Christ’s resurrection is true is our resurrection and His reign until the end of the millennium.

##### (20-23) Christ’s resurrection gives hope that millions of others will also rise at His return.

##### (24-27a) His return will result in His reign until He subdues every power.

##### (27b-28) Christ will then hand His kingdom over to the Father so that the Triune God will be shown sovereign over everything.

#### (29-32) The results if Christ’s resurrection is false is meaninglessness in baptism and persecution.

##### (29) If Christ is still dead, new Christians baptised in the name of believers who died do so in vain.

##### (30-32) If Christ is still dead, persecuted Christians may as well live for pleasure.

#### (33-34) The Corinthians who doubted the resurrection through false teachers should feel ashamed and return to their senses.

## (35-57) The nature of believers’ resurrected bodies is far superior than our present earthly bodies.

### (35) Since the resurrection is true, the question arises as to what kind of body it will be.

### (36-41) The superiority of the resurrected body is shown in three illustrations from nature.

#### (36-38) Plant life shows that the first body (the seed) is far inferior to the second body (the grown plant).

#### (39) Animal life shows that the flesh of each species differs from the others.

#### (40-41) Inanimate objects of the earth (mountains, canyons, seas?) are inferior in glory to heavenly bodies (sun, moon, stars).

### (42-57) The superiority of the resurrected body over the earthly body is shown in the need to exchange temporal bodies like Adam’s for an eternal body like Christ’s.

#### (42-44a) The superiority of the resurrected body over the earthly body is shown in the need for new bodies.

##### (42) Bodies that can die will be raised as bodies that will never die.

##### (43a) Sinful bodies will be raised as bodies that will never sin.

##### (43b) Weak bodies will be raised as powerful bodies.

##### (44a) Physical bodies will be raised as spiritual bodies.

#### (44b-49) The superiority of the resurrected body over the earthly body is shown in Christ’s superiority to Adam.

##### (45) As Adam brought physical life into existence, so Christ will give spiritual life to men.

##### (46) Adam’s physical life had to precede Christ’s spiritual life.

##### (47) Adam was from earth but Christ from heaven.

##### (48) As Adam passed on physical life, so Christ will Christ pass on spiritual life.

##### (49) As Adam passed on his sinful likeness to all men, so Christ will pass on His sinless likeness to all believers.

#### (50-57) The superiority of the resurrected body over the earthly body is shown in the need to defeat death at the Rapture to live with God eternally.

# III. (58) The result of God’s promise of the believer’s resurrection should be confident service for Christ now with assured reward.

## (58a-c) The Corinthian believers should show their faith in the resurrection in three ways.

### (58a) They should stand firm in their belief in the resurrection.

### (58b) They should never let anyone or anything shake their faith.

### (58c) They should serve Christ wholeheartedly.

## (58d) The reason the believers should serve Christ wholeheartedly and without wavering is because this service will be rewarded.

**Homiletical Outline** (Cyclical inductive form)

# Introduction

### BBC reported in 1995 that archaeologists had found Christ’s body.

### Subject: What’s so important about Christ’s resurrection?

# I. (1-11) Christ’s resurrection is a key part of the gospel.

## (1-3a) The gospel is so vital that our faith is founded on it.

##  (3b-8) The gospel has three key elements:

##  (9-11) The gospel brings salvation to all who believe.

# II. (12-57) Christ’s resurrection will resurrect us in new bodies later.

## (12-34) Christ’s resurrection is so vital that you should feel ashamed if you doubt it or your own resurrection.

### (13-19) If Christ didn’t rise, then we have no hope.

### (20-28) Since Christ did rise, we will rise and reign with Him.

### (29-32) More dismal things result if Christ’s resurrection is false.

### (33-34) Believing false teachers who deny the resurrection should make us feel ashamed.

## (35-57) Christ’s resurrection will give us bodies that far outshine our earthly bodies.

### (35) Since the resurrection is true, the next question is what kind of body it will be.

### (36-41) The superiority of the resurrected body is shown in three illustrations from nature.

###  (42-57) Paul elaborates on the superiority of the resurrected body over the earthly body.

# III. (58) Our future resurrection should spur us to serve Him confidently now.

## (58a) Stand firm in your belief in the resurrection.

## (58b) Never let anyone or anything shake your faith.

## (58c) Serve Christ wholeheartedly since you will be rewarded.

# Conclusion

### Since Christ rose, you will too! So live like it! (MI).

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# Conclusion

### Since Christ rose, you will too! So live like it! (Main Idea).

### What does a resurrection life look like?

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### Time and again archaeologists say they found Christ’s body.

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### What does a resurrection life look like?

**Rick Griffith**

31 March 2013

*Message 23 of 24 in “Becoming Who We Are” 1 Corinthians Series*

**His Body, Our Bodies**

**1 Corinthians 15**

# Introduction

### Time and again people seek to discredit Christ’s resurrection.

### What’s so important about Christ’s resurrection?

# I. Christ’s resurrection is a key part of the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (1-11).

## The gospel is so vital that our faith is founded on it (1-3a).

## The gospel has three key elements (3b-8):

## The gospel brings salvation to all who believe (9-11).

# II. Christ’s resurrection will \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ us in new bodies later (12-57).

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### (12-19) If Christ didn’t rise, then we have no hope.

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### (36-41) The superiority of the resurrected body is shown in three illustrations from nature.

### (42-57) Paul proves the superiority of the resurrected body over the earthly body.

# III. (58) Our future resurrection should spur us to serve Him \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ now.

# Conclusion

### Since Christ rose, you will too! So \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_ (Main Idea)!

### What does a resurrection life look like?

**Thought Questions**

1. Read through 1 Corinthians 15 aloud. Which of Paul’s evidences for the resurrection is the most *convincing* to you?

The gospel wouldn’t be complete without a resurrection (15:4)

The OT prophesied of his resurrection (Ps. 16:10)

Resurrection appearances (15:5-9)

There were many resurrection eyewitnesses even 23 years later (15:6b)

Jesus is as much alive today as he was in the first century (15:6)

Paul and others risked their lives for the resurrection truth (15:30-32)

1. Which argument of Paul is the most *confusing*?

Christ was the first fruits of the dead (15:20)

Baptism for the dead (15:29)

When did Paul wrestle with wild beasts (15:32)?

1. What would be left of Christianity without the resurrection of Christ?

Our faith and preaching is useless

Nothing would be left but a bunch of liars believing in a hoax

We would not have the Holy Spirit present in our hearts

The disciples would have died *out* rather than died *for* Christ

We would have only some decent moral truths based on a lie

Christianity would be no different from other religions

1. How often do you talk to people about Christ’s resurrection?

Word search for resurrect\* and raise\* in NLT in Acts

Not often enough––probably only once every month or two

Acts 1:22 from the time he was baptized by John until the day he was taken from us. Whoever is chosen will join us as a witness of Jesus’ **resurrection**.”

Acts 2:24 But God released him from the horrors of death and **raised** him back to life, for death could not keep him in its grip.

Acts 2:31 David was looking into the future and speaking of the Messiah’s **resurrection**. He was saying that God would not leave him among the dead or allow his body to rot in the grave.

Acts 2:32   “God **raised** Jesus from the dead, and we are all witnesses of this.

Acts 3:15 You killed the author of life, but God **raised** him from the dead. And we are witnesses of this fact!

Acts 3:26 When God **raised** up his servant, Jesus, he sent him first to you people of Israel, to bless you by turning each of you back from your sinful ways.”

Acts 4:2 These leaders were very disturbed that Peter and John were teaching the people that through Jesus there is a **resurrection** of the dead.

Acts 4:10 Let me clearly state to all of you and to all the people of Israel that he was healed by the powerful name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, the man you crucified but whom God **raised** from the dead.

Acts 4:33 The apostles testified powerfully to the **resurrection** of the Lord Jesus, and God’s great blessing was upon them all.

Acts 5:30 The God of our ancestors **raised** Jesus from the dead after you killed him by hanging him on a cross.

Acts 10:40 but God **raised** him to life on the third day. Then God allowed him to appear,

Acts 13:30 But God **raised** him from the dead!

Acts 13:34   For God had promised to **raise** him from the dead, not leaving him to rot in the grave. He said, ‘I will give you the sacred blessings I promised to David.’

Acts 13:37 No, it was a reference to someone else—someone whom God **raised** and whose body did not decay.

Acts 17:18   He also had a debate with some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers. When he told them about Jesus and his **resurrection**, they said, “What’s this babbler trying to say with these strange ideas he’s picked up?” Others said, “He seems to be preaching about some foreign gods.”

Acts 17:32   When they heard Paul speak about the **resurrection** of the dead, some laughed in contempt, but others said, “We want to hear more about this later.”

Acts 23:6   Paul realized that some members of the high council were Sadducees and some were Pharisees, so he shouted, “Brothers, I am a Pharisee, as were my ancestors! And I am on trial because my hope is in the **resurrection** of the dead!”

Acts 23:8 for the Sadducees say there is no **resurrection** or angels or spirits, but the Pharisees believe in all of these.

Acts 24:15 I have the same hope in God that these men have, that he will **raise** both the righteous and the unrighteous.

Acts 24:21 except for the one time I shouted out, ‘I am on trial before you today because I believe in the **resurrection** of the dead!’”

Acts 26:8 Why does it seem incredible to any of you that God can **raise** the dead?