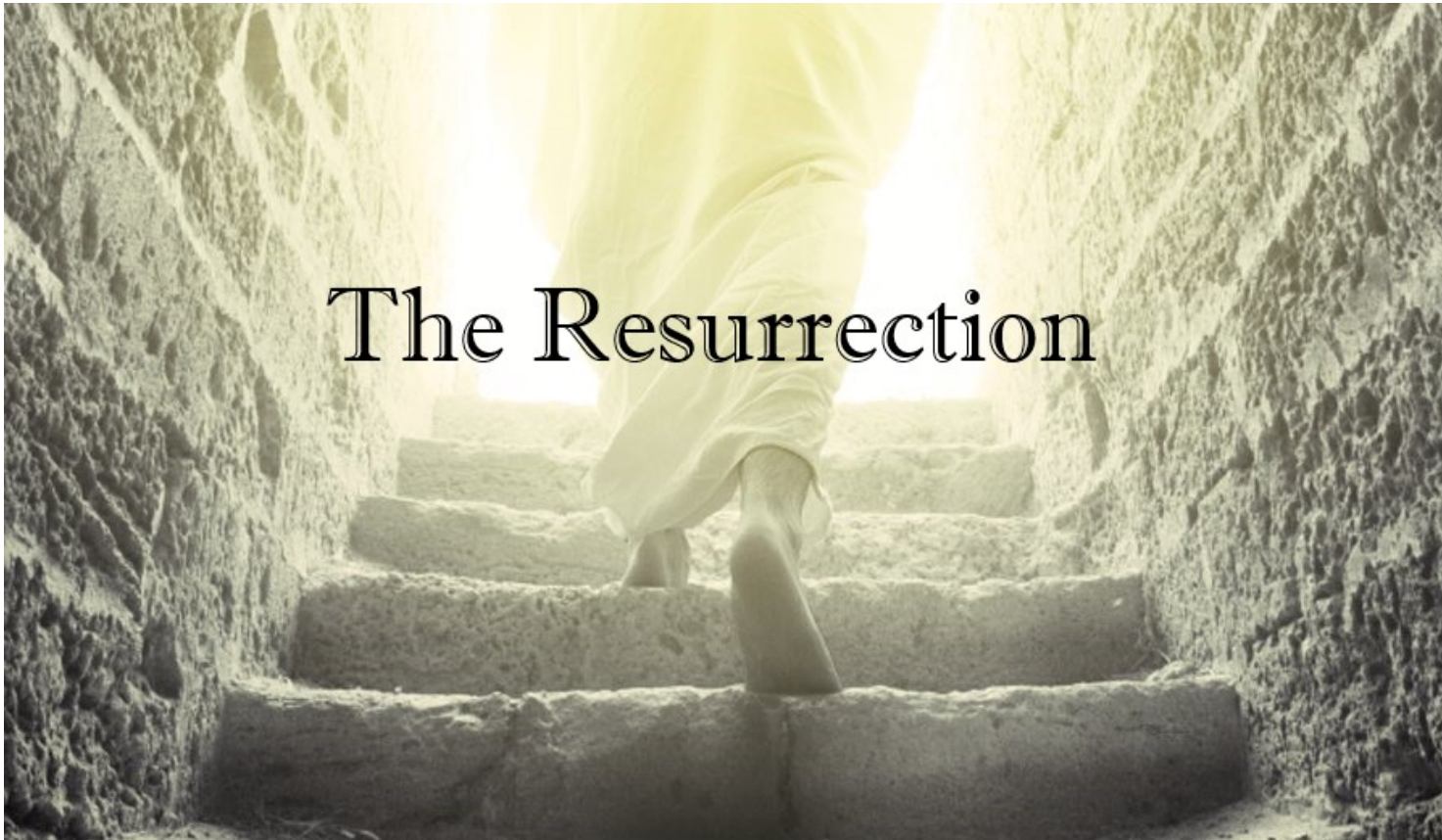


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The Resurrection

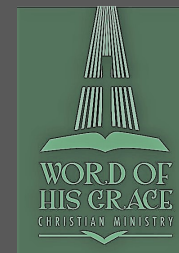
Word of His Grace Christian Ministry

Sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ through the exposition of God's Holy Word, the Bible.

Compiled by Pastor Angel.
Please submit any friendly questions to:

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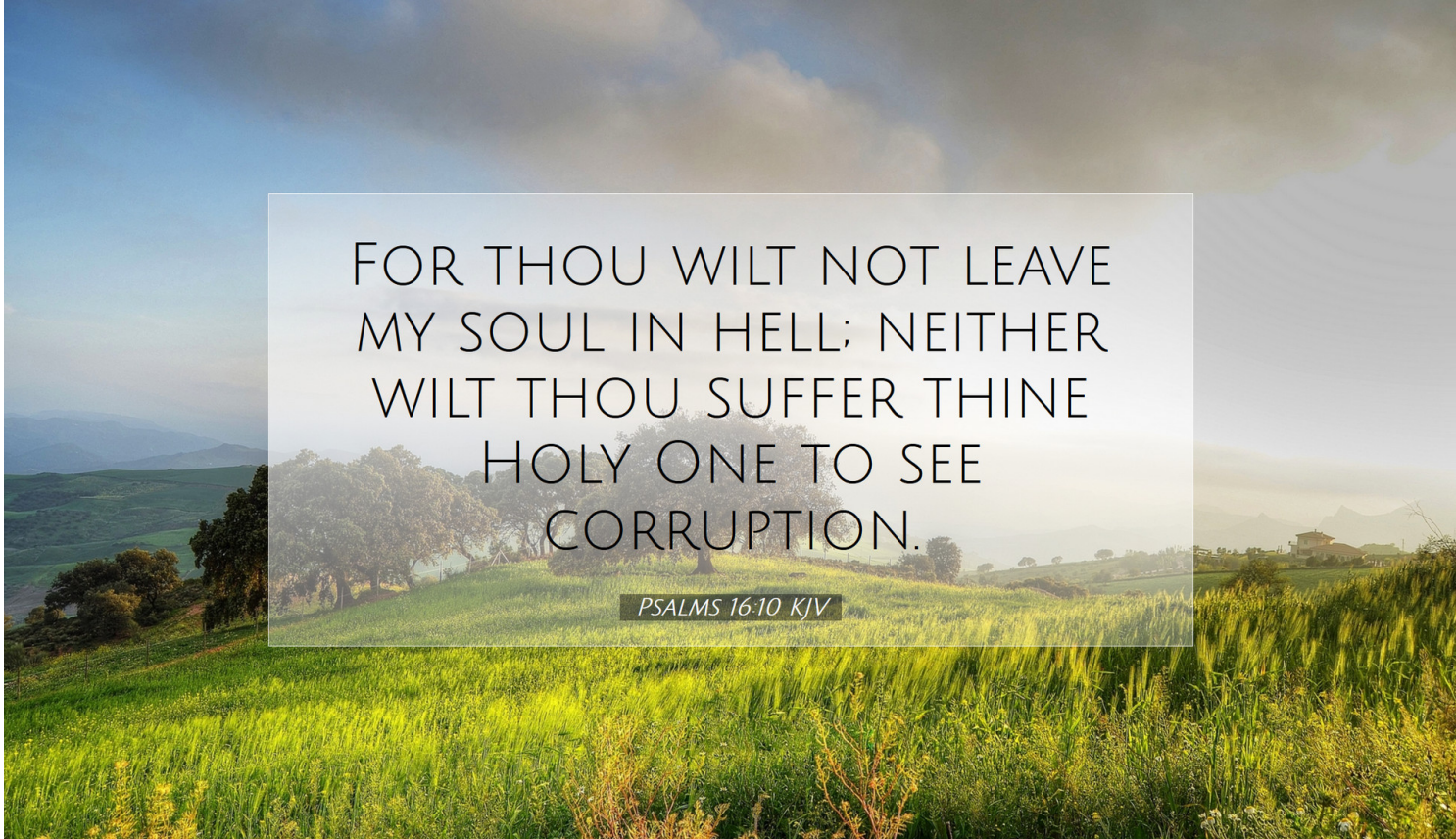
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FOR THOU WILT NOT LEAVE
MY SOUL IN HELL; NEITHER
WILT THOU SUFFER THINE
HOLY ONE TO SEE
CORRUPTION.

PSALMS 16:10 KJV

The resurrection of Jesus Christ is ‘*the*’ essential doctrine on which the entire Christian faith rests or falls. Did Jesus really rise from the grave? If so, was it bodily or was it only in spirit form? For over two thousand years, believers and critics alike have studied and wrestled with the subject of the resurrection with great interest.

Does the Old Testament point to the death and resurrection of Christ?

“Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoiceth: my flesh also shall rest in *hope*. For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine *Holy One* to see corruption” (Psalm 16:9-10).

NOTE: Although the prophecies of Jesus’ resurrection in the Old Testament were not evident to the superficial reader, they do highlight the resurrection of the Messiah (*Christ*). Take the concept of the *Passover Lamb* for example:

“Then Moses called for all the elders of Israel, and said unto them, Draw out and take you a lamb according to your families, and kill the *passover*” (Exodus 12:21).

NOTE: The *Exodus* from Egypt is well-known; the Israelites sacrificed lambs and placed lamb’s blood upon their doorposts of their dwellings.

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This was done so that the angel of death would '*pass over*' their homes during the tenth plague upon Egypt. Also, the entire Jewish sacrificial system was based on the importance of blood. Forgiveness of sins depended the shedding of blood.

This event is also meaningful to Christians since the symbolism of the Passover Lamb is fulfilled in Jesus!

"...For even *Christ* our passover is sacrificed for us" (1 Corinthians 5:7).

NOTE: One cannot speak of the importance of the resurrection without first acknowledging the death of Christ, our passover Lamb!

"I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of *joint*: my heart is like wax; it is melted in the midst of my bowels. My strength is dried up like a potsherd; and my tongue cleaveth to my jaws; and thou hast brought me into the dust of *death*. For dogs have compassed me: the assembly of the wicked have inclosed me: they *pierced* my hands and my feet. I may tell all my bones: they look and stare upon me. They part my garments among them, and cast *lots* upon my vesture" (Psalm 22:14-18).

This portion of *Psalms* clearly highlights Christ's crucifixion, a thousand years before it happened.

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He was pierced for our transgressions,
He was crushed for our iniquities;
the punishment that brought us peace was on Him,
and by His wounds we are healed.



Isaiah 53:5

“Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise *him*; he hath put him to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for *sin*, *he* shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand. He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous *servant* justify many; for *he* shall bear their iniquities. Therefore will I divide him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because *he* hath poured out his soul unto death: and he was numbered with the transgressors; and he bare the sin of many, and made *intercession* for the transgressors” (Isaiah 53:10-12).

This prophecy, commonly known as the ‘*Suffering Servant*’ highlights the death of the Messiah, some seven hundred years before Jesus was born!

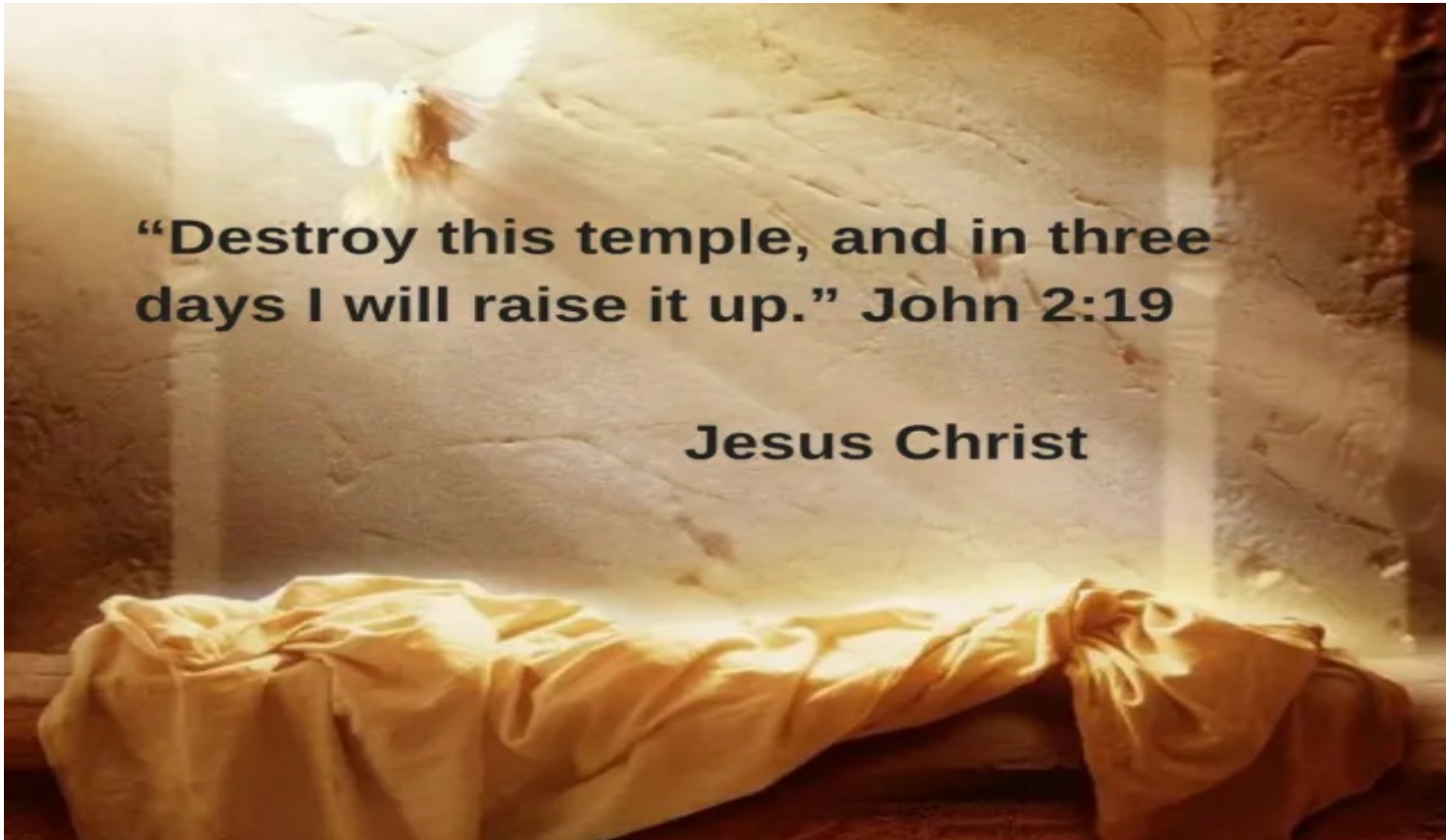
“And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon *me* whom they have *pierced*, and they shall mourn for *him*, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for *him*, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn” (Zechariah 12:10).

Did Jesus apply any Old Testament passages to himself?

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“Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.” John 2:19

Jesus Christ

“For as *Jonas* was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall *the Son of man* be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth” (*Matthew 12:38-40*). Compare with *Jonah 1:17*.

Did Jesus say anything else about his death and resurrection?

“Jesus answered and said unto them, Destroy this *temple*, and in three days I will *raise* it up” (*John 2:19-21*).

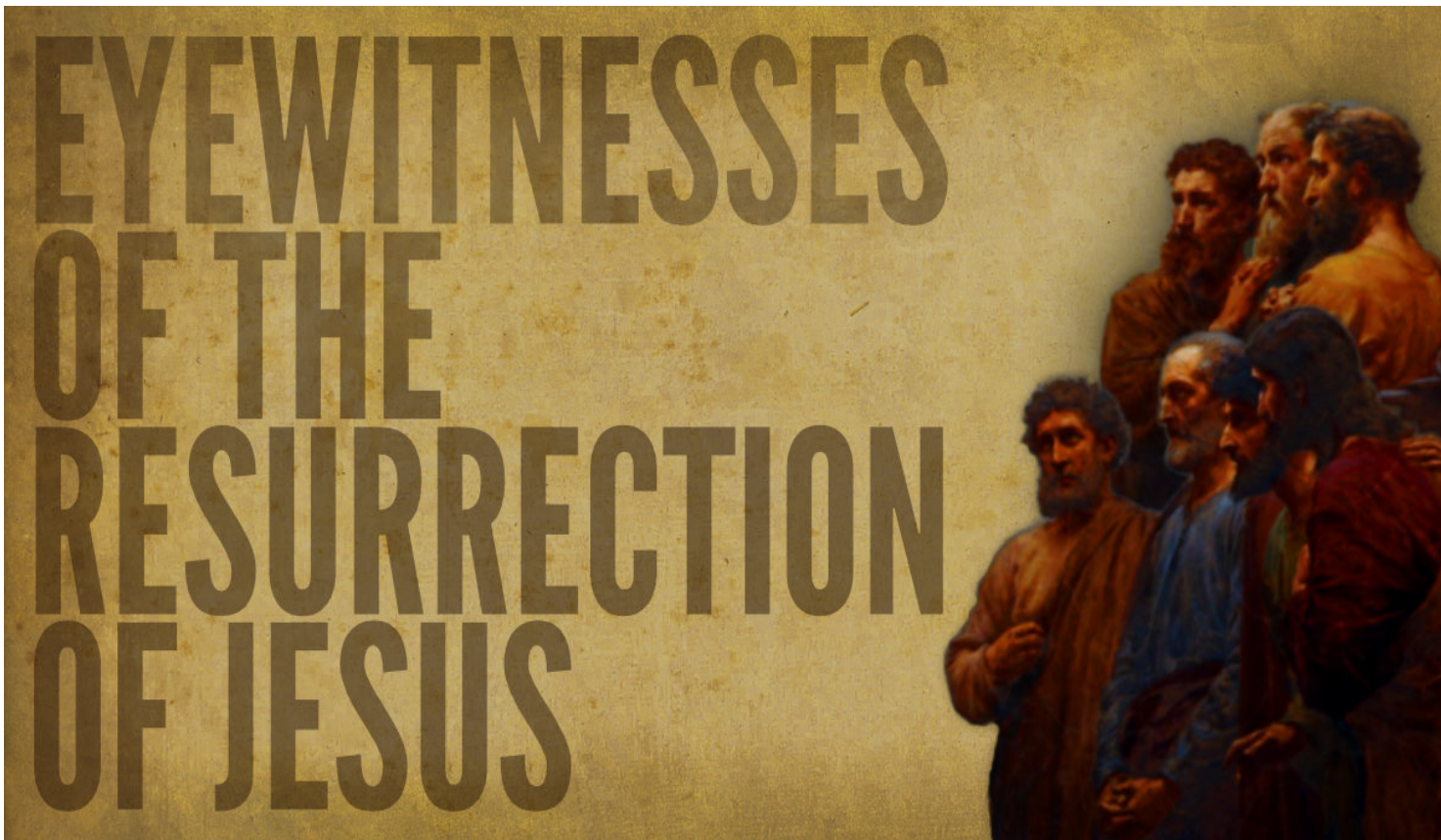
NOTE: For the body being the Temple of God, see *1 Corinthians 3:17,6:19; Ephesians 2:19-22*.

“And he began to teach them, that *the Son of man* must suffer many things, and be rejected of the elders, and of the chief priests, and scribes, and be *killed*, and after three days *rise* again” (*Mark 8:31*).

“Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might *take* it again. No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have *power* to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father” (*John 10:17-18*).

How does the Bible describe Jesus' resurrection?

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“In the end of the sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulchre. And, behold, there was a great earthquake: for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the *stone* from the door, and sat upon it. His countenance was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow: And for fear of him the keepers did shake, and became as dead men. And the angel answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was *crucified*. He is not here: for he is *risen*, as he *said*. Come, see the place where the Lord lay. And go quickly, and tell his disciples that he is *risen from the dead*; and, behold, he goeth before you into Galilee; there shall ye see *him*: lo, I have told you. And they departed quickly from the sepulchre with fear and great joy; and did run to bring his disciples word. And as they went to tell his disciples, behold, *Jesus* met them, saying, All hail. And they came and held him by the feet, and *worshipped* him” (Matthew 28:1-9).

Did the apostles believe Jesus had truly risen from the dead?

“Therefore being a prophet, and knowing that God had *sworn* with an oath to him, that of the fruit of his loins, according to the flesh, he would raise up Christ to sit on his throne; He seeing this before spake of the *resurrection of Christ*, that his soul was not left in hell, neither his flesh did see corruption. This *Jesus* hath God raised up, whereof we all are *witnesses*” (Acts 2:30-32).

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Where the twelve apostles the only ones to have witnessed the risen Christ?

“And that he was seen of *Cephas*, then of the *twelve*: After that, he was seen of above *five hundred brethren* at *once*; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep. After that, he was seen of *James*; then of all the *apostles*. And last of all he was seen of *me* also, as of one born out of due time” (1 Corinthians 15:5-8).

Was Jesus resurrection from the dead bodily or in some other form?

“Behold my hands and my feet, that it is *I myself*: handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see *me* have” (Luke 24:39).

What further arguments can be made for the resurrection of Jesus Christ?

1. The Guarded Tomb - Matthew 27:66.
2. The Testimony of the Roman guards - Matthew 28:11.
3. The Actions taken by the Religious Leaders - Matthew 28:12-15.
4. The Empty Tomb - Mark 16:1-8.
5. The Eyewitnesses of Women - Mark 16:13.

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WHY THE
RESURRECTION
MATTERS

6. The Boldness of the Apostles - Acts 4:13.
7. The Conversion of James, the brother of Jesus - 1 Corinthians 15:7.
8. The Large Crowd of Eyewitnesses - 1 Corinthians 15:6.
9. The Conversion of Paul - Acts 22:6-15.
10. The Apostles died for their belief in the Risen Jesus - Matthew 20:20-23, Acts 12:2, John 21:15-19.

Why is the resurrection of Jesus important for believers?

“Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he *live*” (John 11:25).

“In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be *changed*” (1 Corinthians 15:52).

“For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on *immortality*” (1 Corinthians 15:53).

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“So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this *mortal* shall have put on *immortality*, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory” (1 Corinthians 15:54).

NOTE: As the apostle Paul declares, “And if Christ be *not raised*, your *faith* is vain; ye are yet in your *sins*” (1 Corinthians 15:17). So in essence, Paul says if Jesus did not rise from the grave, then Christianity is false and our faith is useless.