

Easter Sunday, March 31, 2024
Raymond Road Baptist Church, Jackson, Mississippi
Pastor Aaron Tucker

Lie down... dead.
Get up... alive.

In the Past: Jesus LAID DOWN his life and died for all sins... and GOT UP alive!

On Friday,
 Jesus laid down... dead.
On Sunday,
 Jesus stood up... alive.

1 Corinthians 15:3–8

- In accordance with the Scriptures
- In Line with the Bible...

3 For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins **in accordance with the Scriptures**, 4 that he was **buried**, that he was **raised** on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, 5 and that he **appeared** to Cephas, then to the twelve. 6 Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. 7 Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. 8 Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me.

Isaiah 26:19

- Prophecy: Your dead shall live
- awake and sing for joy!

19 Your **dead shall live**; their bodies shall rise. You who dwell in the dust, awake and sing for joy! For your dew is a dew of light, and the earth will give birth to the dead.

Hebrews 11:13–16

- O.T. saints did not see Messiah come, but believed.
- They were strangers and exiles here on earth.
- Seeking a homeland.

- Desire a better country, a heavenly country.
- God claims them; he is THEIR God.
- He has built them a city.

13 These all died in faith, **not having received** the things promised, but having **seen** them and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were **strangers and exiles** on the earth. 14 For people who speak thus make it clear that they are seeking a **homeland**. 15 If they had been thinking of that land from which they had gone out, they would have had opportunity to return. 16 But as it is, they desire **a better country**, that is, a **heavenly** one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called **their** God, for he has prepared for them a **city**.

John 11:25

- JESUS – I am resurrection and life
- Believer never dies

25 Jesus said to her, “I am the **resurrection** and the **life**. Whoever **believes** in me, though he die, yet shall he live...”

John 20:25–29

- I will never believe.
- Do not disbelieve, but believe.
- My Lord and my God!
- Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.

25 So the other disciples told him, “**We have seen** the Lord.” But he said to them, “**Unless I see** in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will **never** believe.” 26 Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, **Jesus came** and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” 27 Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. **Do not disbelieve, but believe.**” 28 Thomas answered him, “**My Lord** and my God!” 29 Jesus said to him, “Have you believed **because** you have seen me? Blessed are those who have **not seen** and yet have believed.”

In the Present: The Christian LAYS DOWN her old life... and GETS UP a new person.

We let go of our old way of doing things;
we lay our lives down... and die,
So that Jesus,
stands us up... alive,
with a new life of doing things His way.

1 Corinthians 15:12–19

- If there is NO such thing as resurrection,
- then Christ has not taken away sin.

12 Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? 13 But **if there is no resurrection** of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. 14 And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain. 15 We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified about God that he raised Christ, whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. 16 For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised. 17 And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are **still in your sins**. 18 Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. 19 If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied.

Romans 6:1–11

- Jesus laid down and died, he was buried, he got up alive
- We lay down our old life which dies, we get up alive to a new life in Christ
- Baptism symbolizes this burial and resurrection
- By baptism, we are buried with Christ into death,
- and just as Christ was raised from the dead,
- we rise to walk in newness of life,
- our old self is crucified
- we are dead to sin and alive to God

1 What shall we say then? Are we to **continue in sin** that grace may abound? 2 By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? 3 Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were **baptized into his death**? 4 We were **buried** therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as **Christ was raised from the dead** by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in **newness of life**. 5 For if we have been **united with him in a death** like his, we shall

certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. 6 We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. 7 For one who has died has been set free from sin. 8 Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. 9 We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. 10 For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. 11 So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Romans 8:10–11

- Body – Dead – Sin // Spirit – Life – Righteousness
- IF the Spirit... dwells in you,
- he will give life to your mortal bodies
- Strength to resist temptation, to act like Jesus, to keep believing

10 But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. 11 If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.

In the Future: We will LIE DOWN and die... and GET UP to meet with Jesus.

At the end of our life,
 We lay down... dead.
Our souls immediately
 stand up... alive,
To be judged by the things we did.

If we have sins,
 We are sent down... to die, in eternal punishment, in hell,
And we never, never
 Come up... alive.

If Jesus has erased our sins,
 we are NOT sent down... to die,
But instead
 we are sent up... alive, to eternal heaven.

1 Corinthians 15:31–34

- If there is NO resurrection,
- then we can do whatever we want
- because there is no afterlife, and death is the end of it all
- (read the passage)
- Wake up!
- Stop sinning!

31 I protest, brothers, by my pride in you, which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die every day! 32 What do I gain if, humanly speaking, I fought with beasts at Ephesus? If the dead are not raised, "Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die." 33 Do not be deceived: "Bad company ruins good morals." 34 Wake up from your drunken stupor, as is right, and do not go on sinning. For some have no knowledge of God. I say this to your shame.

1 Thessalonians 5:1–11

- Just when you think everything is fine, the Lord will destroy evil very, very suddenly.
- Jesus died for us, that we might live with him
- Our destiny is not God's wrath, but salvation
- You are awake, and see the light of Christ.
- Others are asleep, and do not see in their darkness.
- Hope of salvation protects us, and we add faith and add love.
- Those Christians asleep (dead) are LIVING WITH HIM right now
- Those Christians awake (alive) are LIVING WITH HIM right now
- When Jesus returns, unbelievers will be afraid of punishment
- When Jesus returns, believers are protected by salvation and are not afraid at all, but instead are full of hope

1 Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you. 2 For you yourselves are fully aware that the **day of the Lord** will come like a thief in the night. 3 While people are saying, "There is peace and security," then **sudden destruction** will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. 4 But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief. 5 For you are all **children of light**, children of the day. We are **not of the night** or of the darkness. 6 So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us **keep awake and be sober**. 7 For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, are drunk at night. 8 But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the **breastplate of faith and love**, and **for a helmet the hope of salvation**. 9 For God has **not destined us for wrath**, but to obtain **salvation** through our Lord Jesus Christ, 10 who **died for us** so that whether we are awake or asleep we might **live with him**. 11 Therefore **encourage** one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

In the End: Jesus will return,
and all Christians will LAY DOWN their mortal bodies... and GET UP with a spiritual body
that will live forever with Christ in heaven.

(When Jesus returns...)
We had laid down... dead.
Our resurrection bodies will stand up... alive.

OR

(When Jesus returns, if we are still alive...)
We will lie down in our mortal bodies and be transformed,
And stand up with new immortal bodies.

1 Corinthians 15:20–26

- In Adam all die; In Christ all will be made alive.
- Christ has been resurrected,
- Next Christ comes back,
- Then Christians are resurrected,
- Then Jesus destroys all powers,
- including destroying death itself,
- Then comes the end, the rule of God's Kingdom under Jesus.

20 But in fact Christ HAS been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. 21 For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. 22 For as **in Adam all die**, so also **in Christ shall all be made alive**. 23 But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then **at his coming** those who belong to Christ. 24 Then comes the end, when he delivers the **kingdom** TO God the Father after **destroying** every rule and every authority and power. 25 For he must **reign** until he has put all his enemies under his feet. 26 The last enemy to be destroyed is **death**.

1 Corinthians 15:35–49

- On the last day, when Jesus returns,
- We lay down our bodies of death
- And God raises us up with bodies of eternal life.

- Bury down in dirt a bare kernel of a seed (and it dies);
 - When it comes up, God gives it a different body (it is resurrected).

- Buried down in dirt a perishable / mortal body;
 - Raised up an imperishable / immortal body.
- Buried down in dirt a dishonorable body;
 - Raised up a body of glory.
- Buried down in dirt a weak body;
 - Raised up a powerful body.
- Buried down in dirt a body of nature;
 - Raised up a body of spirit.

- In Garden of Eden, the First Adam became a living being;
 - At the Resurrection, the Second Adam (Jesus) became a spirit who gives life.
- First man (Adam) is from dirt / from earth;
 - Second man (Jesus) is from heaven.
- Those of dirt are like / bear the image of the man from dirt;
 - Those of heaven are like / bear the image of the man from heaven.

1 Corinthians 15:35–49

35 But someone will ask, “How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?” 36 You foolish person! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. 37 And what you sow is not the body that is to be, but a bare kernel, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. 38 But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body. 39 For not all flesh is the same, but there is one kind for humans, another for animals, another for birds, and another for fish. 40 There are heavenly bodies and earthly bodies, but the glory of the heavenly is of one kind, and the glory of the earthly is of another. 41 There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for star differs from star in glory. 42 So is it with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable; what is raised is imperishable. 43 It is sown in dishonor; it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness; it is raised in power. 44 It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body. 45 Thus it is written, “The first man Adam became a living being”; the last Adam [Jesus] became a life-giving spirit. 46 But it is not the spiritual that is first but the natural, and then the spiritual. 47 The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. 48 As was the man of dust, so also are those who are of the dust, and as is the man of heaven, so also are those who are of heaven. 49 Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven.

1 Thessalonians 4:13–18

- Use this to encourage each other
- Don’t grieve like others, because they do not have hope.
- Those who are asleep (dead) are with God.
- At the second coming, the dead in Christ will rise again,

- Just like Jesus died and rose again.
- At the second coming, the living believers will be caught up to join them.
- When all this happens, we will ALWAYS BE WITH THE LORD.

13 But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may **not grieve as others** do who have **no hope**. 14 For since we believe that **Jesus died and rose again**, even so, through Jesus, God will bring **WITH HIM** those who have fallen asleep. 15 For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. 16 For the Lord himself will **descend from heaven** with a cry of **command**, with the voice of an **archangel**, and with the sound of the **trumpet** of God. And the **dead in Christ** will rise first. 17 Then **we who are alive**, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will **always be with the Lord**. 18 Therefore **encourage** one another with these words.

Ezekiel 37:1–14

- Can these bones live?
- I will cause breath to enter you, and you will live.
- Then you will know that I am the Lord.
- Breath, come from the four winds and breathe into these slain so that they may live!
- The breath entered them, and they came to life and stood on their feet, a vast army.

Ezekiel 37:1–14

1 The hand of the LORD was on me, and he brought me out by his Spirit and set me down in the middle of the valley; it was full of **bones**. 2 He led me all around them. There were a great many of them on the surface of the valley, and they were very **dry**. 3 Then he said to me, **“Son of man, can these bones live?”**

I replied, “Lord GOD, only you know.”

4 He said to me, **“Prophecy** concerning these bones and say to them: Dry bones, hear the word of the LORD! 5 This is what the Lord GOD says to these bones: **I will cause breath to enter you, and you will live.** 6 I will put tendons on you, make flesh grow on you, and cover you with skin. I will put breath in you so that you come to life. **Then** you will know that I am the LORD.”

7 So I prophesied as I had been commanded. While I was prophesying, there was a noise, a rattling sound, and the bones came together, bone to bone. 8 As I looked, tendons appeared on them, flesh grew, and skin covered them, but there was no breath in them. 9 He said to me, **“Prophecy to the breath**, prophesy, son of man. Say to it: This is what the Lord GOD says: Breath, come from the four winds and breathe into these slain so that they may live!”

10 So I prophesied as he commanded me; the **breath** entered them, and they **came to life and stood on their feet**, a vast army.

11 Then he said to me, “Son of man, these bones are the whole house of **Israel**. Look how they say, ‘Our bones are dried up, and our hope has perished; we are cut off.’ 12 Therefore,

prophecy and say to them, 'This is what the Lord GOD says: I am going to **open your graves** and bring you up from them, my people, and lead you into the land of Israel. 13 You will know that I am the LORD, my people, when I open your graves and bring you up from them. 14 **I will put my Spirit in you, and you will live**, and I will settle you in your own land. **Then** you will know that I am the LORD. I have spoken, and I will do it. This is the declaration of the LORD.' "

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