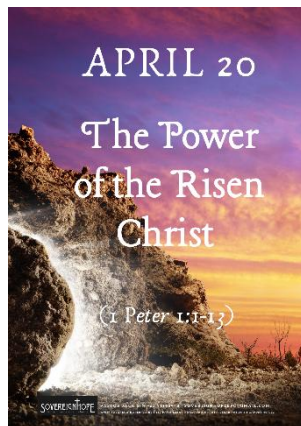


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Website: [www.sovereignhopebpc.org](http://www.sovereignhopebpc.org)  
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## Why An Empty Tomb Spells Eternal Hope

Today we remember an important event in history, the Resurrection of Christ. It has been said that Christianity rise or fall with the truth of this Resurrection. **Every living man faces these 5 Ds In our lifetime as we grow old – Depravity, Decay, Disability, Disease, and Death.** However, as Christians, we see a glorious hope in the victorious resurrection of Christ. **Job knew the fact of resurrection some 2500 years ago when he spoke of his own resurrected body where he died and he will see God In the flesh (Job 19:25-26).** We shall consider the significance behind the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.



## Different Worldviews of Life After Death

There are various world views of life after death. Let us consider the following:

**Purgatory.** The Roman Catholics believes that the dead enters into a place called purgatory, a half-way house between heaven and hell. This view is not found nor taught in the inspired canonical Scriptures but in the Apocrypha which is used by the RC Church.

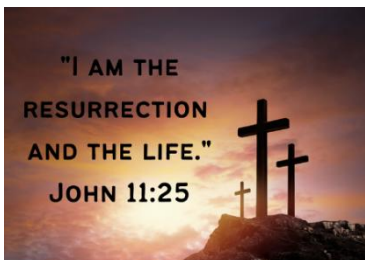
**Soul Sleep.** The 7th Day Adventist believes when a person dies, his or her soul sleeps in the ground of the earth until Christ comes. This view has no biblical basis or theological foundation.

**Reincarnation.** This is a very popular theory, especially with followers of the New Age movement and eastern religions and those who are pantheists. There are many others in the world who believe in reincarnation of the dead. It is the belief that when we die, we will return to this life in a different form one day. This view is not shared by those who believe in the Bible.

**Annihilation.** The Jehovah Witnesses, liberals and atheists believe in this, that the human body and soul would be totally destroyed after death. Heb 9:27 refutes this.

Judgment will follow death and the soul lives forever after judgement will end up in either heaven or hell forever.

**Resurrection.** This is an important theological view of the intermediate state that is taught concerning Christ after his death in both the Old and New Testament of the Bible.



Dan 12:2 *"And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt."*

Daniel wrote the above about 540 BC concerning life after death. When Jesus resurrected Lazarus, He said to Lazarus' sisters: *"I am the resurrection, and the life."* (Jn 11:26) Believers in Christ do not need the old body, but the new body when Christ descends on His second coming and when we meet Him in glory.

In the 1970-90s, there were famous sceptics like, Frank Morrison and Josh McDowell and Lee Strobel, who doubted the doctrine of resurrection and embarked on studies to *"expose the myth"*. After long extensive research and coming to the truth of verified evidence and facts concerning the resurrection of Christ all of them are now devout Christians sharing their newfound faith without apology in their books and public teaching and preaching. It is a total transformation of lives that only God can do.

1 Cor 15:1-4 – The gospel speaks clearly on the resurrection of Jesus Christ, which is the bedrock of the Christian faith. No other religions preach resurrection.

## Theories to Discredit the Resurrection of Jesus Christ

Over the years there are theories concocted to undermine or discredit the life and the resurrection of Christ and here are some of them

**Fraud theory.** The Jewish chief priests and elders cooked up the story that Jesus' body was stolen away by his disciples – Matt 28:12-15. Could a few frightened disciples overcome an equipped and trained centurion and his armed soldiers and fight them off to take the body and the Romans did nothing about it after that? You be the judge

**Swoon theory.** An early 20th century theory that said that Jesus did not actually die. In fact, Jesus suffered flogging, dehydration and hunger and hung on the cross for 6 hours and in the coolness of the tomb He awoke. He was supposed to be dead when He was buried in the tomb, but he was not. It would have been incredible for this emaciated man who had lost much blood and was half dead to be able to push away

## ARGUMENTS AGAINST THE RESURRECTION

1. Can't Harmonize Resurrection Accounts with the Gospels.
2. Disciples Went to the Wrong Tomb
3. Disciples Stole the Body
4. Jews or Romans Stole the Body
5. The Swoon Theory
6. The Hallucination Theory
7. Jesus Resurrected Spiritually
8. The Resurrection was a Myth
9. Post-death appearances were not Jesus.

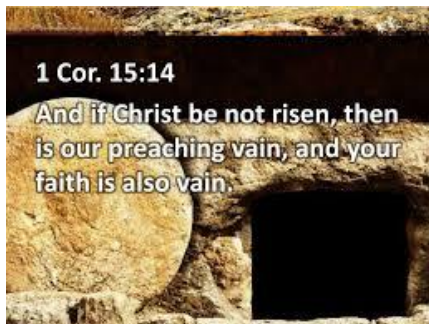
the huge boulder and proclaimed Himself to have risen to His disciples, and that He was God and all and they were supposed to believe Him.

**Wrong Tomb theory.** There is a strange theory that says that the disciples were so distraught and confused emotionally that they went to the wrong tomb. To solve this so-called confusion, it is very easy as **all they need to do is to show the world the right tomb with the body of Christ and the disciples would have been discredited, but it never happened because this theory is unfounded and has no basis.**

**Hallucination theory.** Some claimed that people can be so mentally distressed that they see things that are not there. But it is also proven that it is highly improbable for two people to have the same hallucination at the same, place and time, leave alone a few hundred people. **In that case, five hundred or so people (1 Cor 15:6) who witnessed Christ's ascension were accused of hallucinating the same thing is possibly a greater miracle than the resurrection itself. There is no medical basis for this outlandish allegation.**

### The Resurrection Factor

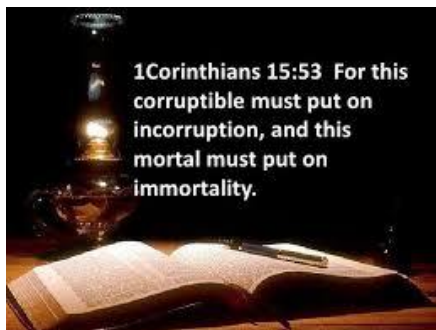
**The authenticated historical truth of the Resurrection of Christ gives to finite man who will die one day an eternal hope of their victory over death and sin.** Paul says correctly in 1 Cor 15:12-19 that *"If Christ is not risen, our faith and work would be in vain, and we would be most miserable"* and he firmly taught this truth to the churches in the first century as a central doctrine of Christology.



### Attributes of the Old vs the New Body

Paul in 1 Cor 15:40-44 describes the attributes of the present human and the new resurrected body:

- Old body – Sown in corruption, and dishonour. Sown a natural body, subject to the laws of chemistry and physics.
- New body – Raised in incorruption, and in all glory. Raised a spiritual body. A perfect body that will last for eternity and is to last forever.





Many people use facilities like the gym to strengthen their bodies, but this physical body can last only a certain number of years (80-86 years normally.) Why not strengthen ourselves spiritually for the everlasting body? To be absent from the body and present with the Lord (2 Cor 5:8).

## The Day of Judgment

**Note that the Bible teaches that Every Christian will appear before the judgment seat of Christ (2 Cor 5:10) one day for divine assessment of our service. Unbelievers will face the Great White Throne in judgment for condemnation. (Rev 20: 11)**

Believers are already saved; however, they will face judgment for rewards for their service to God not for salvation. This thus is a clear reminder of God's final assessment of all that we have done in or with our present body that we need to be mindful of.

What are the similarities and differences between these two days of judgment? You be the judge with this comparison chart.		
 The Judgment Seat of Christ	Questions for Comparison	 The Great White Throne Judgment
Romans 14:10-12 1 Corinthians 3:10-4:5 2 Corinthians 5:1-10	Which Bible verses describe the event?	Revelation 20:11-15 Hebrews 9:27
Believers	Who will be judged?	Unbelievers
Jesus Christ	Who will be the judge?	Jesus Christ
To reward the faithful service of God's children.	What is the purpose?	To settle accounts of those who rebel against God's righteousness.
After the Rapture, during the Tribulation, before the Millennium.	When will it occur?	After the Millennium, before the lake of fire.

## Conclusion

**Paul provided authenticated theological truths to silence the critics as we affirm the resurrection of Christ and wait for His second coming.** We cannot but give thanks to God for our salvation through the victory of our risen Lord Jesus Christ. 1 Cor 15:57-58 encourages us to "be steadfast, unmovable, and always abound in the Lord's work." 'Steadfast' refers to a clear and unwavering mind towards faith. 'Unmovable' refers to tenacity in the face of temptations and wiles of evil. Labour for the Lord will not be in vain. **Rev 14:13 says that the works of those who laboured for the Lord will follow them even after they die.**

**What have you been doing with your life today for the risen Christ for eternity's sake? Something to prayerfully think and work in our lives before He comes again in his glory.**

*Jack Sin*

# He is Risen!

He is risen—  
After darkness had its say,  
on the third day the tomb's stone door rolled away.  
Again Jesus walked, talked, touched, and ate.  
In awe, witnesses testified, "Death is not his fate!"

He is risen—  
The once scared, fleeing disciple crew  
turned around realizing the prophecies were true.  
With a faith immensely greater than fear,  
they sacrificed it all to make the Good News clear.

He is risen—  
Jesus bore the world's sin upon the cross,  
sacrificing himself so no one would be lost.  
His work was sufficient, but a response is required;  
by grace we are saved when our belief transpires.

He is risen—  
Faith sends an invite to start anew.  
Give Christ your burdens and notions untrue.  
Accept his forgiveness and salvation at the end.  
Love the transformation the Holy Spirit extends.

He is risen indeed!  
When Jesus rose, a new creation began  
for all who believe and trust in God's plans.  
Through his power, our darkness is rolled away—  
"Jesus is the light," his resurrection proclaims!

*by Jamie Trunnel ©2020*



# Approaching God with the Right Disposition

LORD'S DAY PROGRAMME FOR APRIL TO JUNE 2025

## APRIL

- 6** Approaching God with Reverence and Fear (JHeb 12:20-28)  
**13\*** Approaching God as Students of JHis Word (Luk 24:24-33)  
**18\*** GOOD FRIDAY  
The Darkest Day for the Son of God (Luk 23:37-56)  
**20** RESURRECTION SUNDAY  
The Power of the Risen Christ (1 Pet 1:1-13)  
**27** Approaching God with Pervency in Spirit (Rom 12:1-12)

## MAY

- 4** Approaching God with JHumble Penitence (Act 20:1-21)  
**11\*** Approaching God with Praise (Psa 103:1-15)  
**18** Approaching God with Faith (JHeb 11:1-6)  
**25** Approaching God with a Burden for JHis Kingdom (1 Cor 9:1-16)

## JUNE

- 1** Approaching God as Faithful Stewards (1 Cor 4:1-10)  
**8\*** Approaching God with JHoliness (Isa 6:1-8)  
**15** Approaching God with Maturity (JHeb 5:12-14)  
**22** Approaching God with Patience (Psa 27:1-14)  
**29** Approaching God as Pilgrims (1 Pet 2:1-12)

SOVEREIGNHOPE

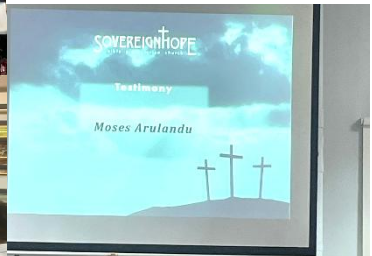
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## Good Friday Worship Service 18 Apr 2025



Thank God for many (including unbelievers) who came to hear the Gospel and remember the significance of Christ's Death on the Cross.

Praise God for the salvation testimony of Moses from The Helping Hand Ministry.



## Memory Verse

*1Pet 1:3* Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

## Announcements

1. Welcome to our Resurrection Sunday Worship Service! If you are here for the first time, do leave us your contact numbers in our guest book before you leave. Those who share the church vision to acquire a place of worship in due time, may designate your offerings to the SHBPC Church Building Fund.
2. Pastor brings us God's Word this morning on "***The Power of the Risen Christ (1Pet 1:1-13)***".
3. Next Sunday, Rev Tan Eng Boo will bring us on God's Word on "***Approaching God with Fervency in Spirit (Rom 12:1-12)***", continuing the quarterly series on "***Approaching God with the Right Disposition***".
4. There are no Sunday School classes today. Classes will resume next Sunday.:
  - The Apostle Paul's Solution to Church Problems – Lessons from 1 Corinthians (Joseph)
  - Studies in Job (Dr Kwong Leen)
5. Chinese Fellowship meets on every Sunday night at 7pm via Zoom with both local and overseas brethren. We have systematic studies on New Testament Foundations and the Psalms. [**Zoom ID:883 9662 4157 Passcode: 218178**].
6. Pastor & Angie will be on sabbatical leave from Apr 23 to Jun 5. Rev Nathan and Bro Joseph will be available to provide pastoral support during this period. Do contact the session members for assistance when needed.
7. Do send your prayer items to Pastor and join us for Church Prayer Meeting on Wed at 8pm via Zoom. The prayer list is available in church. [**Zoom ID:863 7527 5431 Passcode: 625551**].
8. Pray for:
  - **2025 Annual Church Camp**, Jun 10-13 at Forest City Marina Hotel, Johor, Malaysia on the theme "*Wise or Foolish Living in a Smartphone Era*" by Rev Tan Eng Boo.
  - **Travels: John W** (10-21/4 China), **Albert & Janet** (14-19/4 Indonesia), **Pastor & Angie** (23/4-5/6 Sabbatical)
  - **Medical: Mrs Philip Heng** [brain aneurysm], **Poh Suan** [fractured right ankle], **John W's sister Angeline** [lung Cancer], **John W's daughter** [dialysis treatment].
  - **Myanmar Earthquake Victims & Relief Ministry Teams.**
9. Love gifts, Offering and Tithes to the Lord can be given in the following ways:
  - **Cheque** payable to **Sovereign Hope Bible Presbyterian Church** and mail to church address. (Kindly write the full name of the church as indicated.)
  - **Fund transfer** to Church **UOB Account 392-308-825-1**
  - **PayNow** to Church UEN: **T19SS0116FSOV**Kindly indicate "**Church Building Fund**" if you would like to designate towards this cause.