



Message



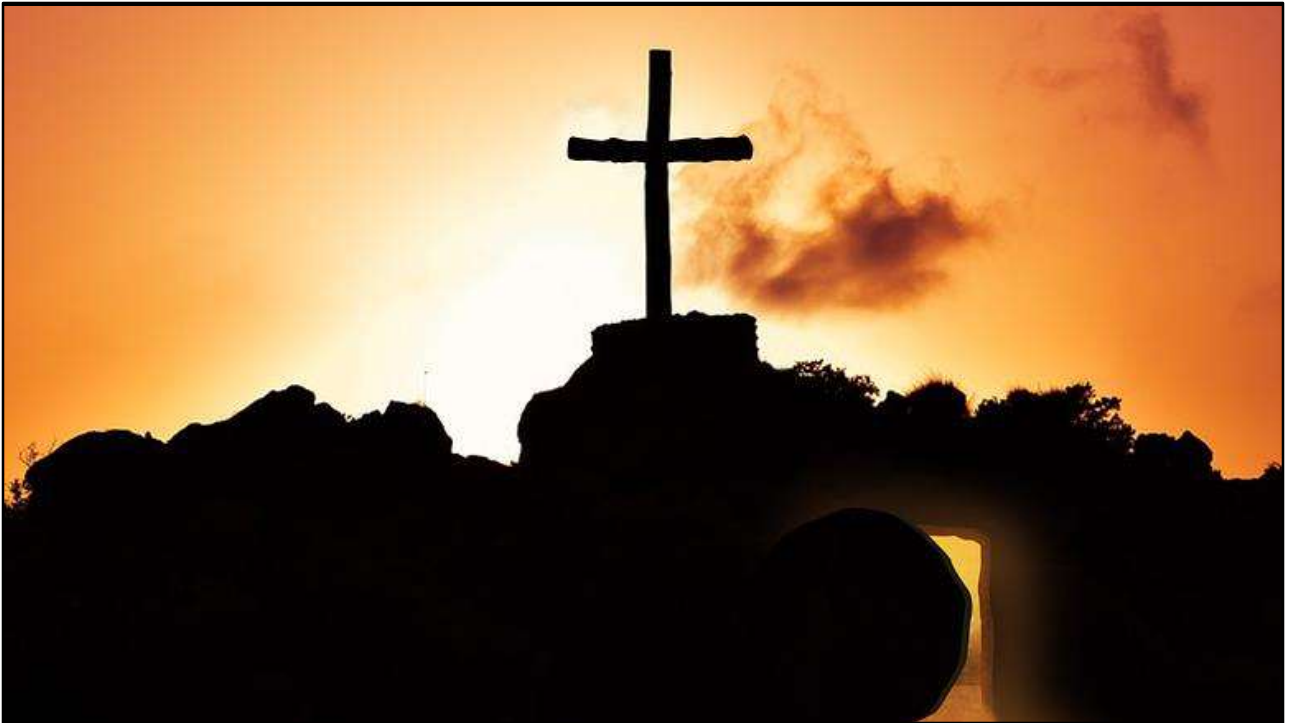


BOYS AND GIRLS, THERE ARE SOME THINGS THAT SEEM IMPOSSIBLE.

FOR EXAMPLE, THE IDEA THAT I CAN STICK THIS SKEWER THROUGH THIS BALLOON, WITHOUT POPPING IT, PROBABLY SEEMS IMPOSSIBLE.

WHAT DO YOU THINK? CAN I DO IT? LET'S TRY!

SO, YOU SEE – SOMETIMES, THINGS CAN HAPPEN, THINGS CAN BE DONE, WHICH SEEM IMPOSSIBLE.



AT EASTER WE REMEMBER THAT JESUS WAS RAISED FROM THE DEAD – AND THAT MIGHT SEEM IMPOSSIBLE TOO.

EVEN WHEN IT FIRST HAPPENED PEOPLE WERE REALLY UNSURE ABOUT THIS NEWS.

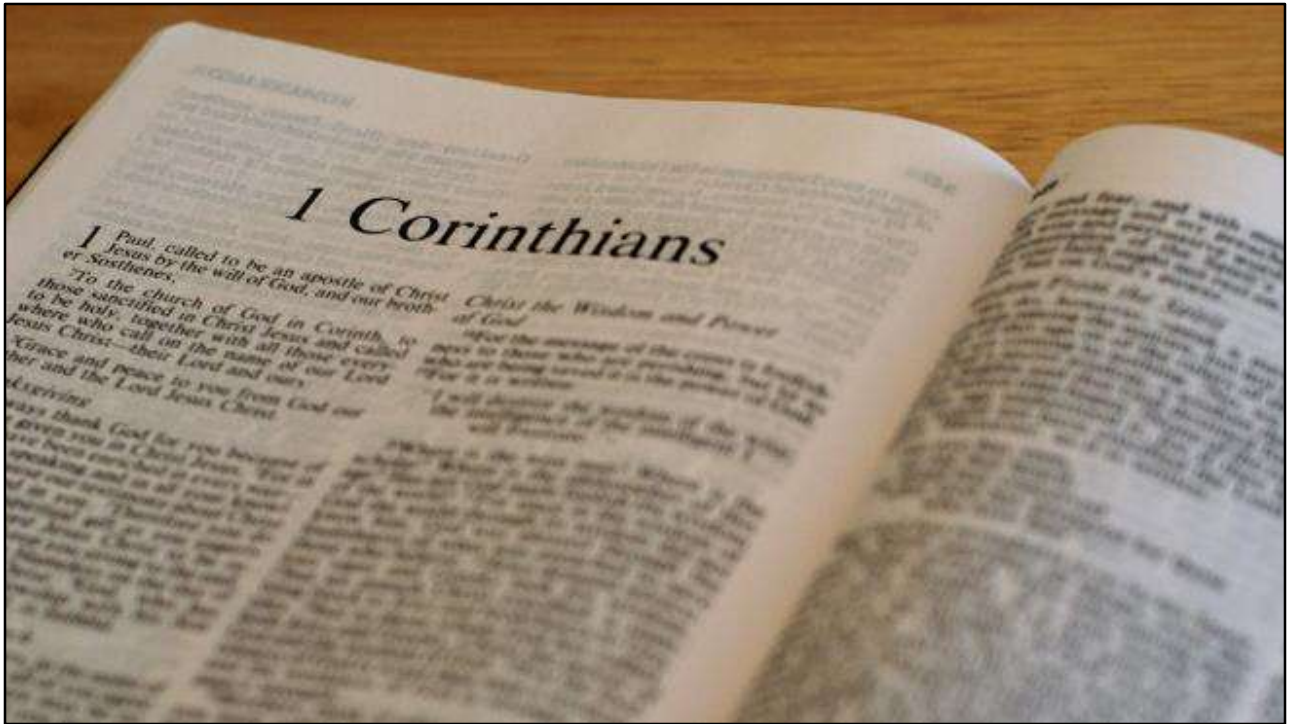
ONE TIME, THE APOSTLE PAUL WAS TALKING WITH A MAN CALLED FESTUS ABOUT HAVING FAITH IN A JESUS WHO IS TRULY ALIVE, AND FESTUS SAID...

Festus said, 'You are out of your mind, Paul! Too much learning is driving you insane!'

(Acts 26:24)

TO BE DISBELIEVED FOR BELIEF IN A RISEN JESUS IS NOTHING NEW – IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN THE EXPERIENCE OF THE CHURCH.

SOMETIMES, HOWEVER, CHRISTIANS HAVE BEEN AFFECTED BY THE REACTION OF THE PEOPLE AROUND THEM –



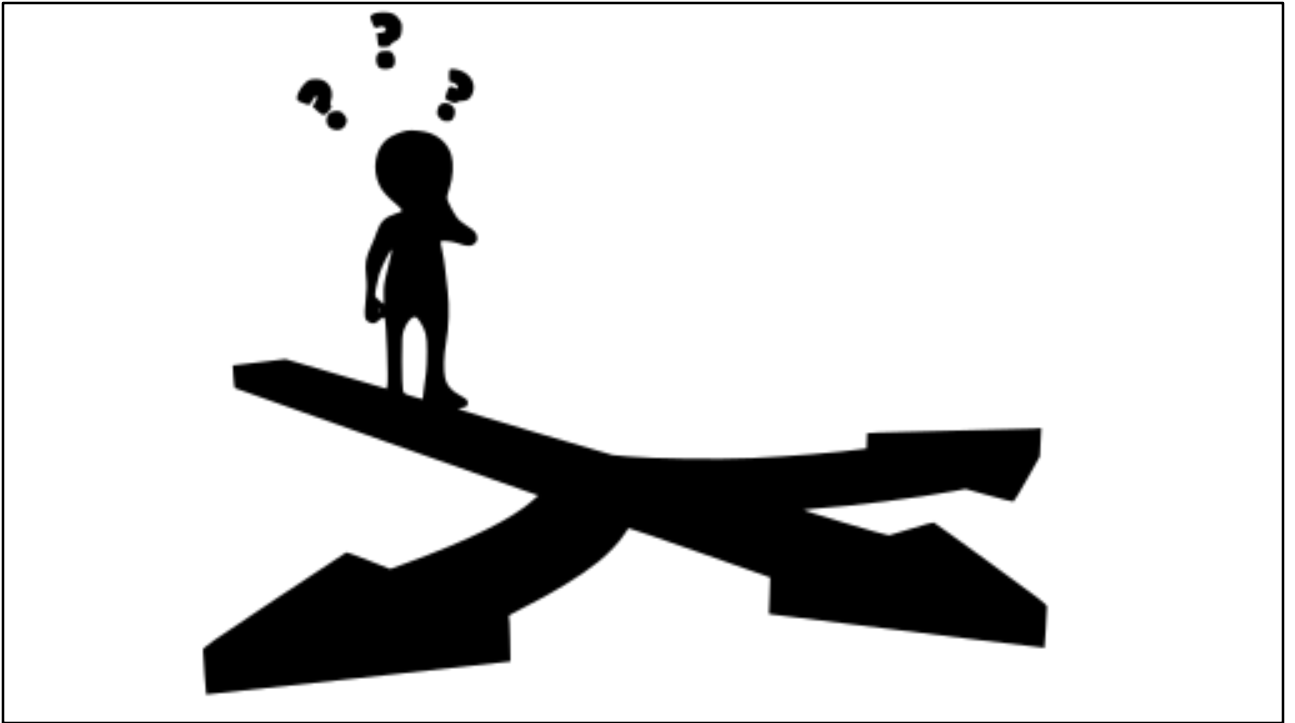
IN OUR SECOND READING, WE FIND THE CHURCH IN CORINTH TO BE LACKING CONFIDENCE THAT JESUS TRULY IS ALIVE.

BUT PAUL WANTS THEM TO KNOW, AND TO BE CONFIDENT ABOUT, THE TRUTH – THAT JESUS REALLY IS ALIVE – IT'S NOT A PRANK, ITS NOT AN APRIL FOOLS, IT'S NOT A MADE-UP STORY – IT REALLY DID HAPPEN, FOR THERE WERE LOTS OF WITNESSES WHO SAW JESUS ALIVE AFTER HE HAD DIED ON THE CROSS. JUST LIKE WE HEARD ABOUT IN OUR DRAMA



PAUL REMINDS US, THAT IF JESUS DIDN'T RISE FROM THE DEAD, THEN OUR FAITH IS MEANINGLESS, IT IS WORTH NOTHING. WE MIGHT AS WELL STOP CHURCH AND CLOSE THE DOORS.

BUT OVER HUNDREDS AND HUNDREDS OF YEARS, BILLIONS OF PEOPLE HAVE SAID THEY HAVE HAD A REAL RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS, BECAUSE HE TRULY IS ALIVE.



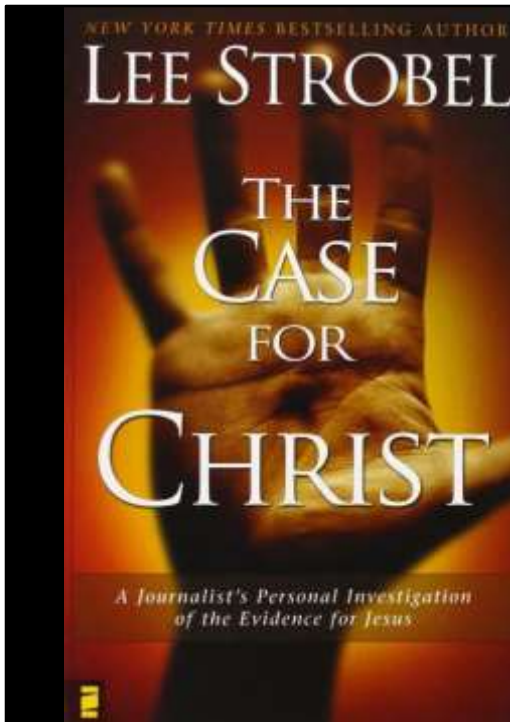
THIS EASTER, WE HAVE A CHOICE - WILL WE CHOOSE TO PUT YOUR TRUST IN A JESUS WHO IS TRULY ALIVE? WILL WE CHOOSE AGAIN, TODAY, TO BELIEVE THAT? AND IN BELIEVING IT, WILL WE ALLOW HIM TO SHAPE OUR LIVES?



SOME OF US MIGHT STILL BE A LITTLE UNSURE OF THIS IDEA...OF A JESUS WHO IS TRULY ALIVE

AND IF ANY OF THE ADULTS OR YOUNG PEOPLE FEEL THAT WAY, WELL, WHY NOT COME ALONG TO OUR OPEN DOOR COURSE IN MAY AND JUNE?

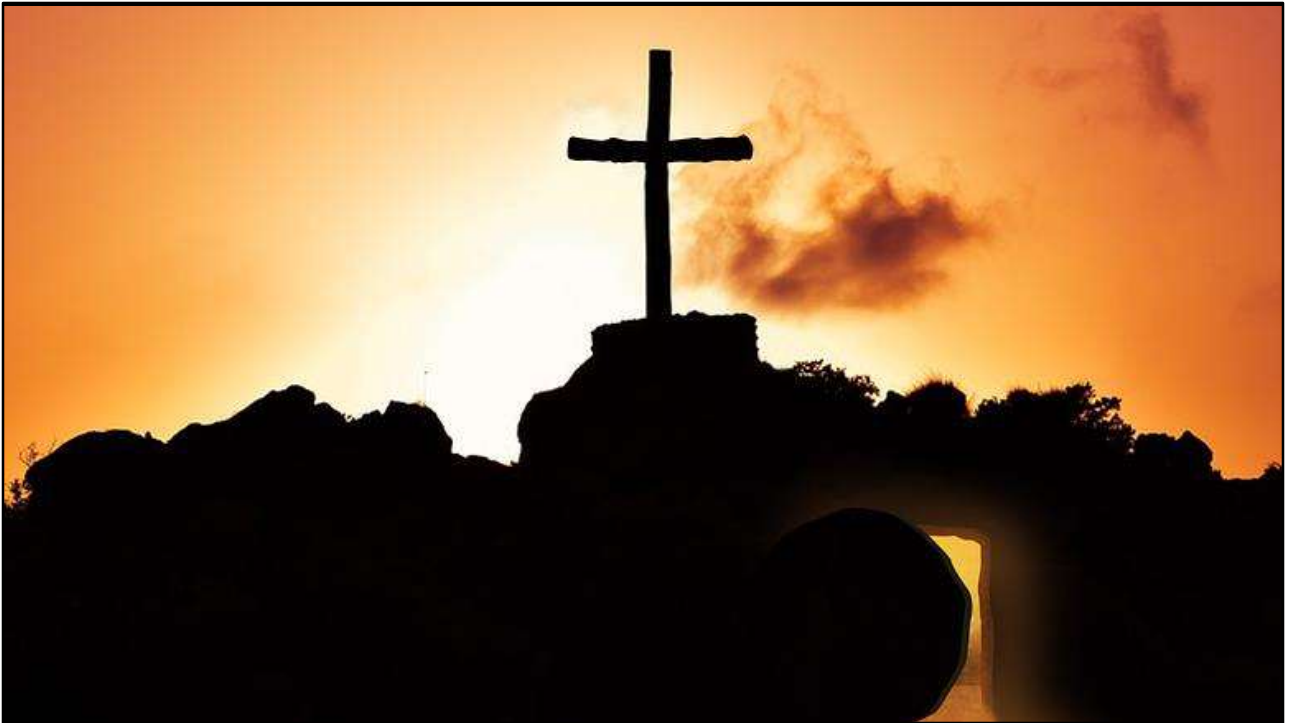
DETAILS ARE IN THE SERVICE SHEET – AND THAT COURSE, WILL EXPLORE SOME OF THE FUNDAMENTAL BELIEFS OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH AND WE CAN TALK ABOUT THE IDEA THAT JESUS TRULY IS ALIVE.



NOW SOME OF US MIGHT BE COMPLETELY AGAINST THE IDEA OF A RISEN JESUS.

AND IF THAT'S YOU, CAN I ENCOURAGE YOU TO DO TWO THINGS – FIRSTLY, ASK FOLKS AROUND HERE IN CHURCH WHY THEY BELIEVE IN A RISEN JESUS – YOU NEVER KNOW, YOU MIGHT HEAR SOME REALLY INTERESTING STORIES.

SECONDLY, CONSIDER READING “THE CASE FOR CHRIST”, I MENTIONED IT LAST NOVEMBER, FOR IT'S A GREAT BOOK ON WHY BELIEVING IN A RISEN JESUS ISN'T AS CRAZY AS YOU MIGHT THINK.



**SO, THIS EASTER, WILL YOU MAKE A CHOICE, TO TRUST, OR TO EXPLORE FURTHER,
THE CLAIM THAT JESUS TRULY IS ALIVE?**

**IF YOU'RE UP FOR THAT, THEN WHY NOT COME FORWARD AFTER THE SERVICE,
TAKE ONE OF THESE LEAVES, WRITE YOUR NAME ON IT, AND HANG IT ON OUR
COMMUNITY TREE, TO SHOW THAT YOU ARE CHOOSING TO TRUST IN A RISEN
JESUS OR YOU ARE WILLING TO EXPLORE THE CLAIM OF EASTER, THAT JESUS TRULY
IS ALIVE!**

**WE CLOSE OUR SERVICE AS WE SING TOGETHER...
MP-689 THINE BE THE GLORY**