

A close-up, low-angle shot of a wheat field during the golden hour of sunset. The wheat stalks are in sharp focus in the foreground, with their heads pointing upwards. The background is a soft, out-of-focus expanse of the field, bathed in the warm, golden light of the setting sun. The overall mood is peaceful and hopeful.

RESURRECTION

PART FOUR: THE HOPE

A close-up photograph of a wheat field during the golden hour of sunset. The wheat stalks are in sharp focus in the foreground, with their heads of grain clearly visible. The background is a soft, out-of-focus expanse of the same field, bathed in the warm, golden light of the setting sun. The overall mood is peaceful and contemplative.

1 CORINTHIANS 15:1-11



IT IS OF FIRST IMPORTANCE

- The gospel starts with the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus. The message of salvation, therefore, contains more than just Jesus' goodness, wisdom, or charity – there is an essential supernatural component.
- The hundreds of witnesses, as well as the testimony of scripture, give great validity to the claims of Jesus. Even though He was a "nobody" from Galilee, He changed the world and paved the way for victory over death.

A close-up photograph of a wheat field during the golden hour of sunset. The wheat stalks are in sharp focus in the foreground, with their heads and awns clearly visible. The background is a soft, out-of-focus expanse of the field, with the warm, golden light of the setting sun creating a hazy, atmospheric glow. The overall color palette is dominated by warm yellows, oranges, and soft greens.

1 CORINTHIANS 15:12-19



IT EITHER BRINGS PURPOSE OR FUTILITY

- You cannot have it both ways: either everybody can be raised or nobody can be raised. If Jesus was not raised from the dead, then we are in a hopeless condition. His resurrection guarantees that victory is available to all.
- What is the point of Christianity without the resurrection? Did we at least “live a good life”? Was it better than the alternative? Absolutely not! We are the most pathetic people ever if we have hoped for eternal life. We are ultimately meaningless creatures.

A close-up photograph of a wheat field during the golden hour of sunset. The wheat stalks are in sharp focus in the foreground, with their heads and awns clearly visible. The background is a soft, out-of-focus expanse of the field, bathed in the warm, golden light of the setting sun. The overall mood is peaceful and contemplative.

1 CORINTHIANS 15:20-28



HE DEFEATED THE LAST ENEMY

- The "first fruits" represents the entire harvest to be enjoyed (Leviticus 23:9-11). As Christ was risen, so shall we in due time.
- Remember that death is an enemy, and it needs to be abolished. It is the main feature of a fallen, broken world; the first and foremost result of sin.
- By conquering death, Jesus paved the way for the rest of us to join Him.

A close-up photograph of a wheat field during the golden hour of sunset. The wheat stalks are in sharp focus in the foreground, with their heads and awns clearly visible. The background is a soft, out-of-focus expanse of the field, with the warm light of the setting sun creating a hazy, golden glow. The overall mood is peaceful and contemplative.

1 CORINTHIANS 15:35-58



I DON'T HAVE TO KNOW EVERYTHING

- Questions are normal, but be prepared to not get them all answered. Someone who has never eaten a certain kind of food can only understand it in so many ways without personal experience. So, too, the resurrection is enigmatic to us. Let mysteries be mysterious (v. 51, 1 Cor. 13:12, Deut. 29:29).
- The resurrected body is characterized by a few important, distinguishing features: it is glorious, imperishable, and specifically adapted for an eternal, heavenly existence.