

We begin our course with a study of the resurrection of Jesus. The fact that Jesus arose from the dead is the starting point in ~~the study of~~ apostolic history. This is a fundamental doctrine which lies at the foundation of the Christian Church. The fact of the resurrection of ~~Jesus~~ is basic for the study of apostolic Christianity. If there had been no such fact as the resurrection of Jesus Christ, there would not have been the institution known as the Christian Church. Since Christ has risen from the grave, we have the mighty testimony of His followers to that great event. The body of Christ was constituted of those who believed that Jesus ~~had~~ died and rose again. The resurrection of Jesus is extremely important both as a historical fact and a historical message. There is factual evidence to show that Jesus arose from the grave. This great event in history was heralded forth as a gospel by the early apostles who had seen the risen Christ.

~~At the time of~~ ^{after} Jesus' death His disciples were sad and discouraged. When ~~He~~ ^{He} died upon the cross ~~we see~~ the disciples ^{were} bereft of their ~~dearest~~ dearest Friend. Their leader had been crucified. The enemies of Christ had nailed Him to the tree. The One whom they had followed ^{about} for three years had gone. These same disciples ~~had~~ walked and talked with ~~their~~ their Master for ^{many months} ~~a few short years~~. They had hoped that it was He who would have redeemed Israel. The redemption of God's chosen people was expected to be accomplished by Jesus. They were fully expecting Him to overthrow the Romans and set them free from such a terrible yoke of ~~oppression~~ oppression. ~~The rule of Rome~~ ~~had~~ brought little comfort so ~~the~~ the disciples were hopeful that Christ would deliver them from the Roman scourge. Now that He ~~is~~ dead their hopes are gone. Their ~~and~~ expectations of a speedy restoration of the kingdom to Israel had ~~disappeared~~ since Jesus had died the death of a criminal upon the cross.

