

for our sins according to the scriptures." Before Paul mentions the resurrection of Jesus, he speaks of the death of Jesus. There is the fact stated - Christ died. There is the interpretation of this tremendous fact that it was for our sins according to the scriptures.

After the death of Jesus is stated, we note the mention of the burial in verse 4. Why does Paul mention the burial of Jesus? Later on we will find a good reason for this mention. The statement of the burial is followed by these words, "He rose again the third day according to the scriptures." Paul presents the fact of the resurrection of Jesus which is in accord with the scriptures of the Old Testament. The expression "according to the scriptures" means the Old Testament. In II Timothy 3:15 Paul writes, "And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus." According to Paul Jesus has been raised on the third day, as the Scripture said He would be. Since the third day in reference to the resurrection of Jesus is not explicitly stated in the Old Testament, it is best to take the phrase "according to the scriptures" in relation to the statement "He rose again." The scriptures of the Old Covenant predicted the resurrection of the Messiah. For example, Psalm 16, cited by Peter in his sermon on the day of Pentecost, is undoubtedly in Paul's mind as he thinks of the fact that Christ was raised according to the scriptures. We recall that Paul has stated the fact of Christ's death for our sins according to the scriptures.

What are the tenses of the verbs in verse 4? The mention of the burial is expressed by the aorist, denoting an act completed. The expression "He rose again" is in the perfect not only in this verse but in many other verses. The perfect tense is used to denote an action completed in past time the result of which still remains. Here