

“I Believe”  
1 Corinthians 15:1-10 (NLT)  
Easter, April 1, 2018  
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Did you get the text? No not the text on your phone...but did you get the text---found in the Bible. The grave is empty. He is risen! He has risen from the dead just as He said He would. I believe. I believe the grave is empty. He is alive!

Ah, but I know what you are thinking or at least what the world may be thinking. You or the world may be thinking that this is some type of April Fools joke. After all today is April Fools'. Now, excuse me, but I couldn't resist sharing some April Fool's pranks.

**(Image, April Fools Calendar)**

Oh, the fooling we can have on this Easter on April Fools' Day.

<https://memegenerator.net/img/instances/36725198.jpg>

“Tell the kids to search for the eggs you didn't hide.” April Fools!

<https://i.pinimg.com/originals/be/32/12/be3212a625f49e42ec3e0ba66d966116.jpg>

“Wrap grapes like little Easter eggs.” April Fools!

<https://i.imgflip.com/21qqe9.jpg>

Scooped out Peeps filled with Cottage Cheese. April Fools!

<https://s3.amazonaws.com/gs-geo-images/bd79d270-46aa-412e-8e10-46f055644f13.png>

Weird Jelly bean flavors=celery, beet, radish flavors. April Fools'!

Ah yes, April Fools' Day! <https://jbrkids.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/april-fool.jpg>

Today is somewhat of an historic day. The last time Easter was on April 1<sup>st</sup> was 1956. The next time after 2018 is 2040---32 more years. So, I had to share some of those April Fools' pranks. Throughout this Holy Week we have remembered the passion and love of Christ. We especially recall how on Friday He died. A sad day.

I found this. <http://www.sabecorse.net/JESUS%20OBITUARY.jpg>

Obituaries from Jerusalem, Friday Evening Edition.

*Jesus Christ*

March 25, 2016

Born in Bethlehem, Judea

Resided in Nazareth, Israel,

Jesus Christ, 33, of Nazareth, died Friday on Mount Calvary, also known as Golgotha, the place of the skull. Betrayed by the apostle Judas, Jesus was crucified by the Romans, by order of the Ruler Pontius Pilate. The causes of death were crucifixion, extreme exhaustion, severe torture, and loss of blood.

Jesus Christ, a descendant of Abraham was a member of the house of David. He was the Son of the late Joseph, a carpenter of Nazareth, and Mary, his devoted Mother. Jesus was born in a stable in the city of Bethlehem, Judea. He is survived by his mother Mary, his faithful Apostles, numerous disciples, and many other followers.

Jesus was self-educated and spent most of his adult life working as a Teacher. Jesus also occasionally worked as a Medical Doctor and it is reported that he healed many patients. Up until the time of his death, Jesus was teaching and sharing the good news, healing the sick, touching the lonely, feeding the hungry, and helping the poor. Jesus was most noted for telling parables about His Father's Kingdom and performing miracles, such as feeding over 5000 people with only five loaves of bread and two fish and healing a man who was born blind.

On the day before His death, He held a Last Supper, celebrating the Passover Feast, at which He foretold His death. The body was quickly buried in a stone grave, which was donated by Joseph of Arimathea, a loyal friend of the family. By order of Pontius Pilate, a boulder was rolled in front of the Tomb. Roman Soldiers were put on guard. In lieu of flowers, the family has requested that everyone try to live as Jesus did and believe in Him. Donations may be sent to anyone in need.

Xxx But then 3 days later--- <https://encrypted-tbn0.gstatic.com/images?q=tbn:ANd9GcTOhZCBcu4rReTqiYGmU4SbHmeJ6wT7FMMDfj64kLzxYVUn8ID9>

A letter from the editor:

We apologize for the confusion when we ran the obituary of Jesus of Nazareth in last week's publication. The family wishes for the public to be aware that Jesus is not dead, but has risen, just as he said he would. To discourage speculation as to his resurrection, Jesus has been making many appearances to friends and strangers alike, who confirm the news that he is alive. We apologize for the grief that the false reports of Jesus' death may have caused. Please direct all questions to Thomas, who is acting on the family's behalf in clearing up the confusion of this matter.

April Fools!!! He's alive.

[https://pjcockrell.files.wordpress.com/2014/04/empty\\_tomb11.jpg](https://pjcockrell.files.wordpress.com/2014/04/empty_tomb11.jpg)

His death wasn't the end, but the beginning. The beginning of our life of hope, victory and joy, and being truly alive in Jesus. "He came to live and died, but that was the end of the beginning."

The Apostle Paul in 1 Corinthians 15 wrote and went on to remind the people of Corinth he was writing to of the Good News. And I want to do the same. To tell you of the Good News that saves you. In fact, in Paul's passage we find what I would consider The Most Important Things. I want to share the Good News with you.

### **The Most Important Things**

**(1 Corinthians 15:3-6)**

**1. Christ died for our sins.**

Christ died for our sins once and for all. Yesteryears sins, yesterdays sins, today's sin and tomorrow's sin. Christ died for our sin. Period. Our sin was nailed to the cross.

Johnny Hart have very Christian overtones in his comic strips. He was the writer of the comic strip B.C.

<https://abetvictoria.files.wordpress.com/2012/04/goodfriday3.jpg>

("I hate the term Good Friday." "Why?" "My Lord was hanged on a tree that day." "If you were going be hanged on that day and he volunteered to take your place how would you feel?" "Good." "Have a nice day.")

Yes, He took our place. He died for our sins.

### **The Most Important Things**

**(1 Corinthians 15:3-6)**

- 1. Christ died for our sins.**
- 2. He was buried.**

You do not bury people that are living and breathing. Jesus had not fainted, He wasn't just passed out, He wasn't merely unconscious...He was dead and buried in a tomb.

### **The Most Important Things**

**(1Corinthians 15:3-6)**

- 1. Christ died for our sins.**
- 2. He was buried.**
- 3. He was raised from the dead on the third day.**

Just as He said He would do. And there was a tomb guarded by soldiers. They did not want to let anyone steal His body. They didn't want to let anybody in----they were not prepared to make sure He didn't come out!!!!

April Fools'! Yes, He was dead, but now He is alive. He has risen from the dead.

### **The Most Important Things**

**(1 Corinthians 15:3-6)**

- 1. Christ died for our sins.**
- 2. He was buried.**
- 3. He was raised from the dead on the third day.**
- 4. Seen by His disciples.**

Oh, there was Mary Magdalene and the other Mary, Salome, Joanna and then Peter and John, and then seen by all the other disciples. He was alive!!!!

But then in verse 6 of 1 Corinthians 15 it says "He was seen by more than 500 followers at one time.

**The Most Important Things  
(1 Corinthians 15:3-6)**

- 1. Christ died for our sins.**
- 2. He was buried.**
- 3. He was raised from the dead on the third day.**
- 4. Seen by His disciples.**
- 5. Seen by more than 500 of his followers at one time.**

If just one person saw Him alive we could probably say that person made it up. Sure you saw him! All the disciples saw Him—and yet we could say they were keep to a script to fabricate His resurrection. But friends, He appeared to more than 500 at one time. You can make this up! Not just one witness or 2 witnesses or even 12 witnesses...but over 500 people saw Him at the same time. The grave is empty. He is risen!

Then Paul who wrote this letter to the people in Corinth say that Jesus appeared to Him. He did this on the road to Damascus. Paul says he is unwilling to be called an apostle. He calls himself the chief of sinners, and yet Paul says, He appeared to me.

Oh, yes, it's April Fool's day but in Psalm 53:7 it says, "The fool says in his heart there is no God."

I do not want to be an April's Fool. I believe.

I believe in God the Father. I believe in Jesus Christ. I believe He was crucified, dead and was buried and that on the third day He rose from the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit. I believe in the forgiveness of sins. I believe in the resurrection of the body and life everlasting.

Because of His resurrection I am alive. Don't be dead? Huh, don't be dead. Don't be this guy.

**(Image of Romanian gentleman)**

This is Constantin Reliu from Romania. Here is his story as reported in USA Today on March 16<sup>th</sup>. ([Jessica Durando](#), USA TODAY Published 10:45 a.m. ET March 16, 2018 | Updated 11:34 a.m. ET March 16, 2018)

A Romanian court has rejected a man's claim that he is still very much alive, after he was officially registered as deceased, the Associated Press reports. Constantin Reliu, 63, lost his case in Vasului because he appealed too late on the ruling, a court spokeswoman said Friday. The story goes that Reliu had traveled to Turkey in 1992 for work and lost contact with his family. Since his wife had not heard from her husband in years, she acquired a death certificate for him in 2016, the Associated Press reports. However, since Reliu was discovered by Turkish authorities this year with expired papers, he was deported back to Romania. That's when he discovered he had been declared dead.

By the way the title of the article is 'I am listed dead, I can't do anything'.

Oh beloved, but with us it is not so. We can do something. We can do everything!

**Ephesians 2:4 -6 (NLT)**

**<sup>4</sup>But God is so rich in mercy, and he loved us so much, <sup>5</sup>that even though we were dead because of our sins, he gave us life when he raised Christ from the dead. (It is only by God's grace that you have been saved!) <sup>6</sup>For he raised us from the dead along with Christ...."**

I believe!!!! **(image of empty tomb)**

[https://picockrell.files.wordpress.com/2014/04/empty\\_tomb11.jpg](https://picockrell.files.wordpress.com/2014/04/empty_tomb11.jpg)

I believe an empty grave is there to prove my savior lives.

I believe He lives.

I believe I can face tomorrow because He lives.

I believe life is worth the living because He lives.

I believe. I believe.