Sungai Way-Subang Methodist Church

Easter Sunday Sermon

"What If ?"

1 Cor 15:13-19

Rev Dr Ng Swee Ming | 17 April 2022

Sungai Way-Subang Methodist Church

What if .....?

What have this 5 places in common ?

1

Medina, Saudi Arabia

What have this 5 places in common ?

2

Shandong, China.

What have this 5 places in common ?

3

Uttar Pradesh, India

What have this 5 places in common ?

4

Punjab, Pakistan

What have this 5 places in common ?

5

Hebron, Israel

What is the link ? Commonality ?

Prophet Mohd
Islam
1.9 billion

Medina, Saudi Arabia

Confucius
Confucianism
394 million

Shandong, China.

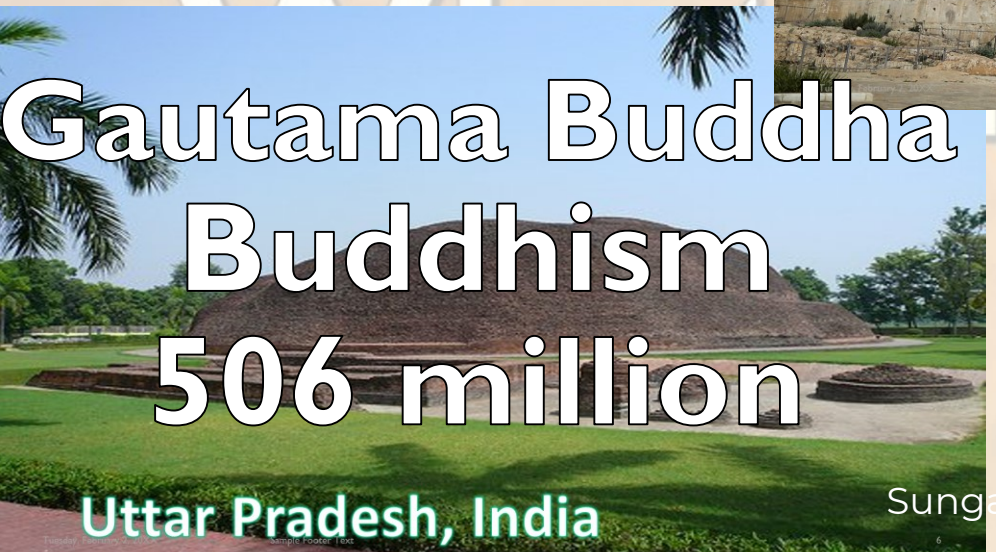
Abraham
Judaism
14.7 million

Hebron, Israel

BURIAL

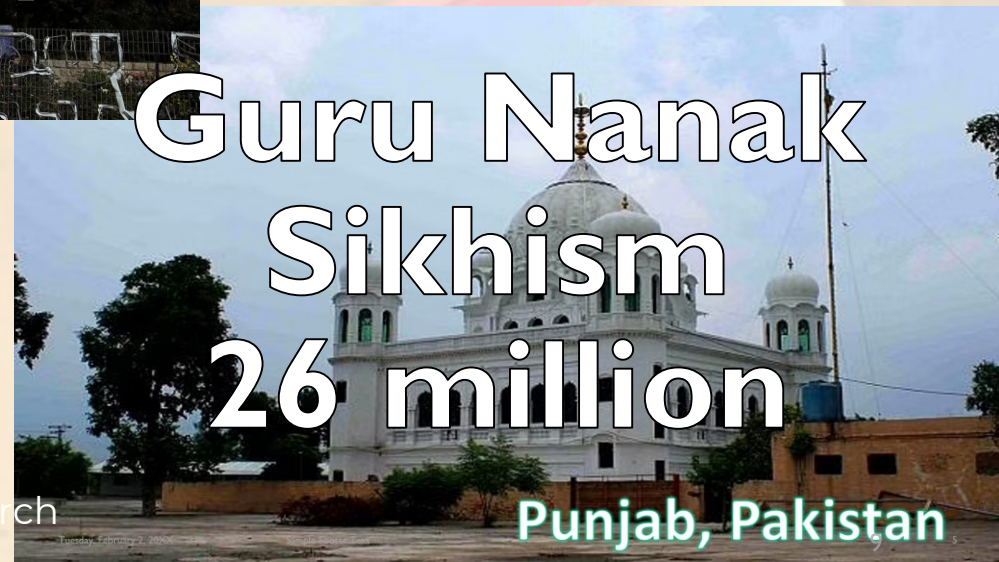
PLACES

Gautama Buddha
Buddhism
506 million



Uttar Pradesh, India

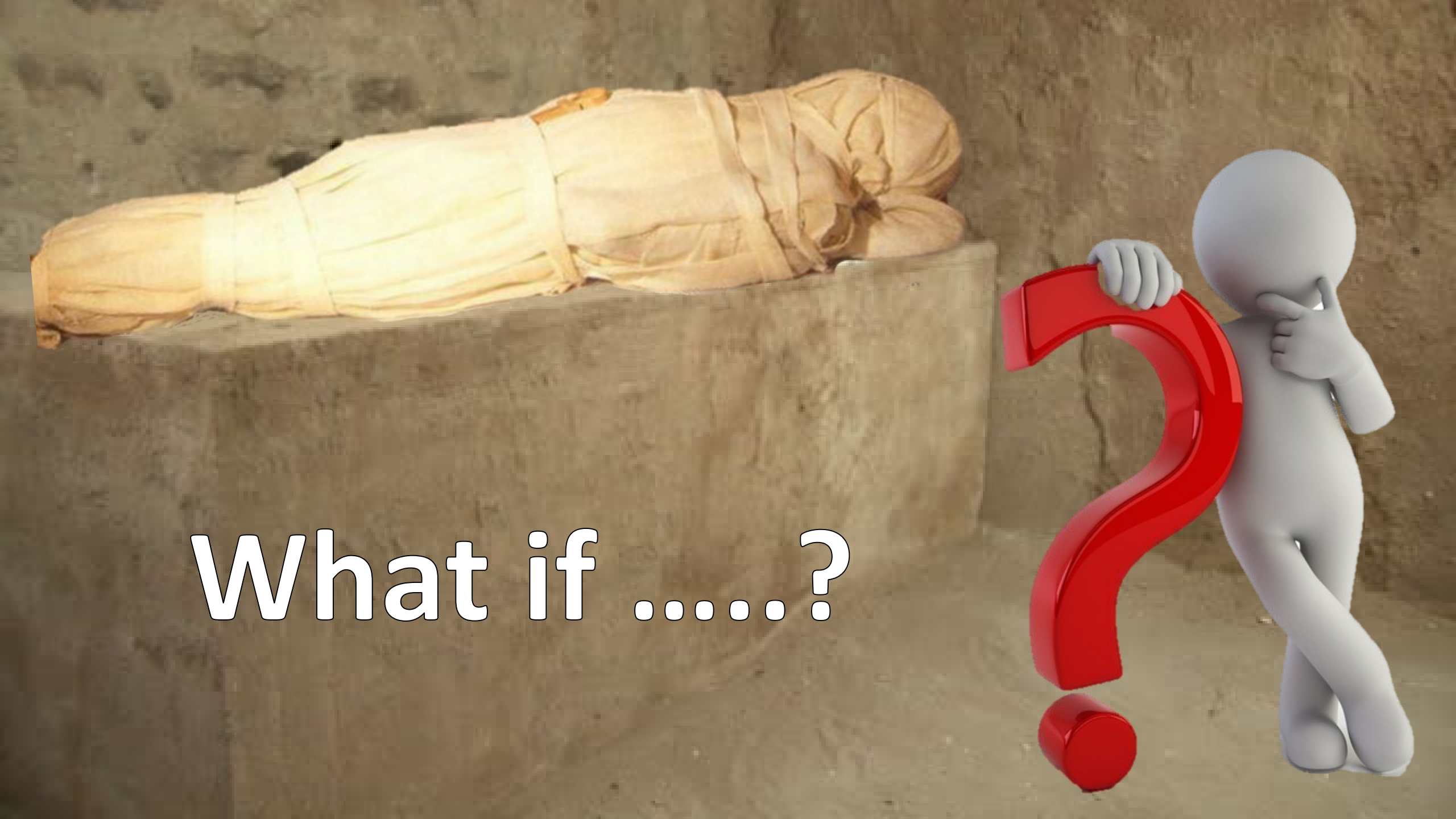
Guru Nanak
Sikhism
26 million



Punjab, Pakistan

- **All these ‘religions’ do not seem to have been affected even though their ‘*founders*’ are dead, buried/cremated & no longer alive……**
- **If anything, all are also thriving in numbers ….**

Q: Why then for the Christian faith do we still insist on an ‘EMPTY TOMB’ and a ‘LIVING SAVIOUR’ ?

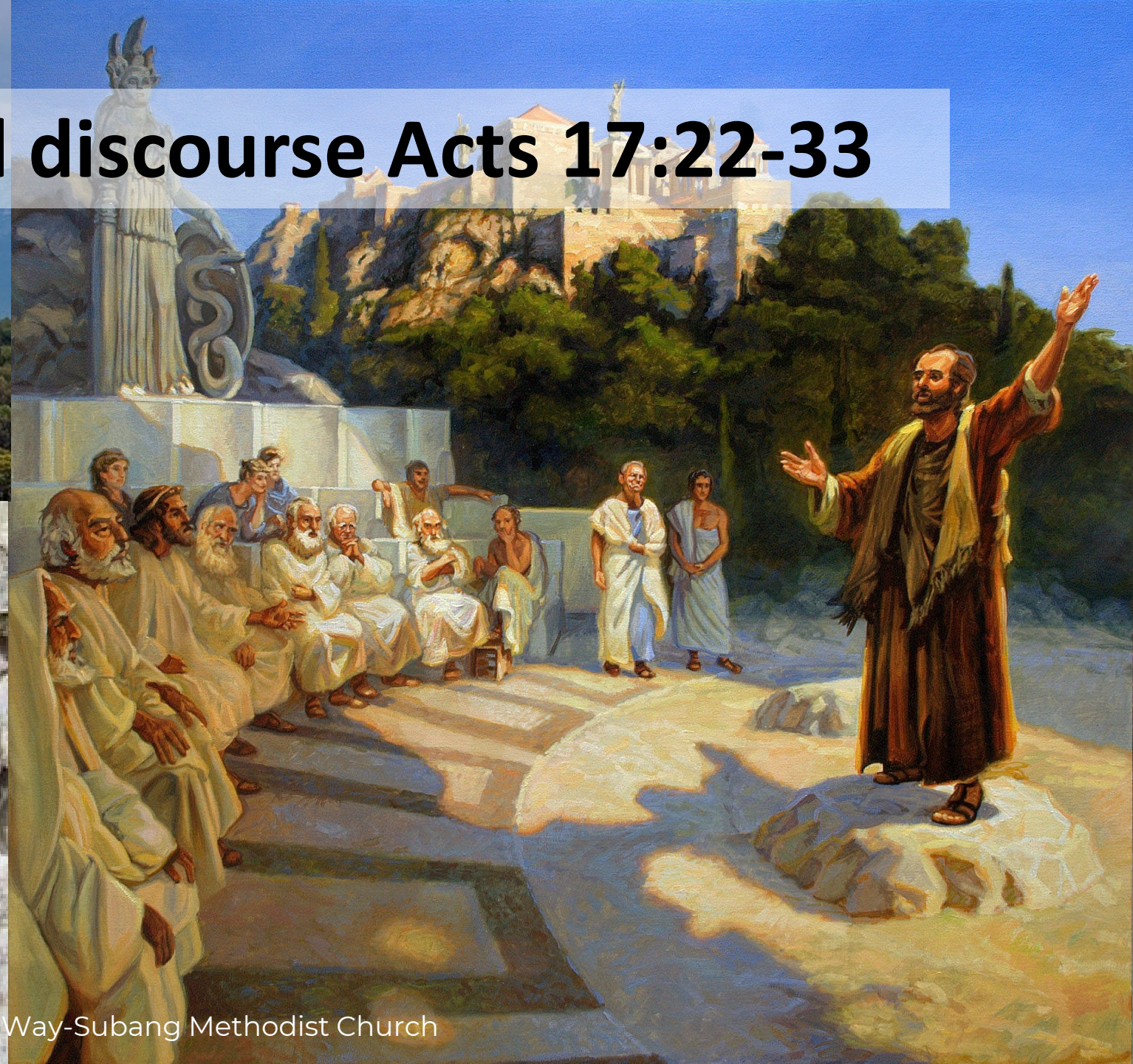

What if …..?

The Corinthian Church ….

- Founded by Paul ≙ 50AD …
  - Discipled over ≙ 2 years period …
- Apparently were confused about RESURRECTION –
  - → Physical Bodily Resurrection…
- Most probably influenced by *Greek thinking & philosophy* ….
  - 'Physical Body' - 'evil'
  - 'Spirit' - 'good'
  - therefore how can there be a physical resurrection!

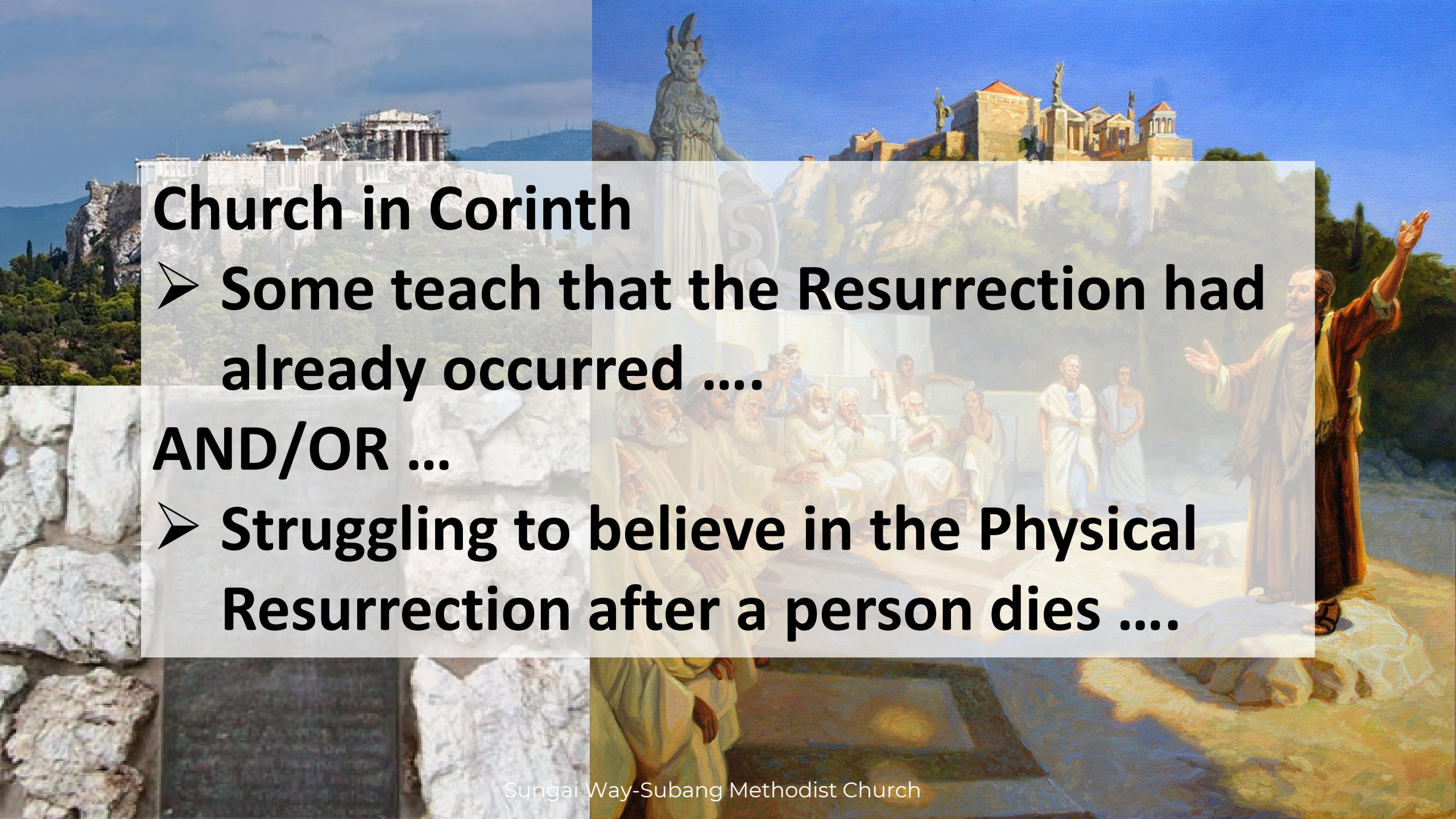
Eg Paul's Mar's Hill discourse Acts 17:22-33

Paul’s Mar’s Hill discourse Acts 17:22-33



Paul's Mar's Hill discourse Acts 17:22-33

***30** In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent.*
***31** For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to all men by RAISING HIM FROM THE DEAD."*
***32** When they heard about the resurrection of the dead, some of them sneered, but others said, "We want to hear you again on this subject."*



Church in Corinth

- Some teach that the Resurrection had already occurred ….

AND/OR …

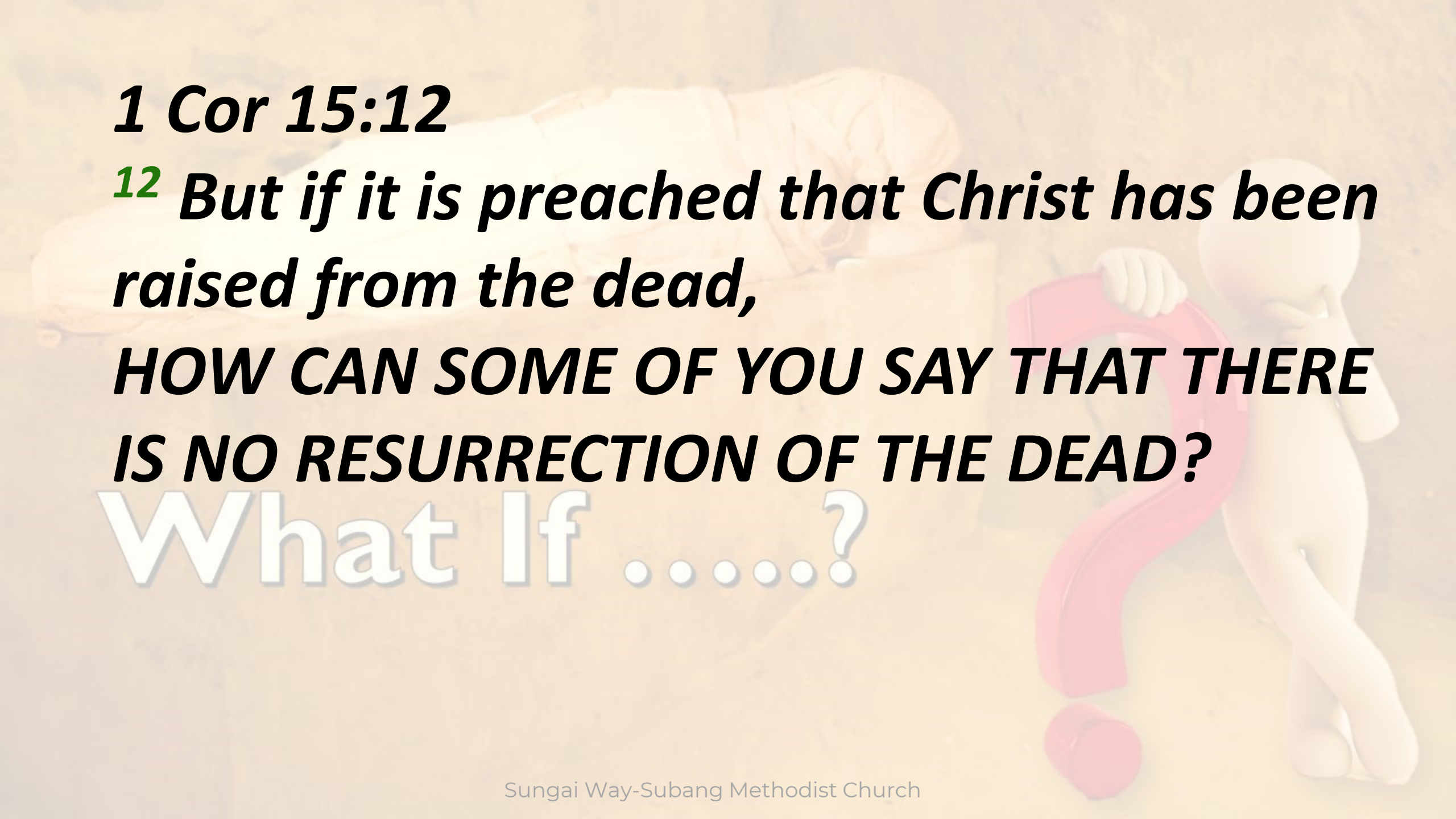
- Struggling to believe in the Physical Resurrection after a person dies ….

1 Cor 15:3-8

3 For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 that He was buried, that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, 5 and that He appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve. 6 After that, He appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. 7 Then He appeared to James, then to all the apostles, 8 and last of all He appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born.

1 Cor 15:12

12 But if it is preached that Christ has been raised from the dead,
HOW CAN SOME OF YOU SAY THAT THERE IS NO RESURRECTION OF THE DEAD?



1 Cor 15:13-19

13 If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised.
14 And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith.
15 More than that, we are then found to be false witnesses about God, for we have testified about God that He raised Christ from the dead. But He did not raise Him if in fact the dead are not raised.
16 For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either.
17 And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins.
18 Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost.
19 If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are to be pitied more than all men.

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1 Cor 15:13-14,17

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14 And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith.

17 And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile;…

IF THERE IS NO RESURRECTION

1. FAITH GONE

- Useless, vain, empty, unfounded…
- Futile, worthless, delusion ….
- ‘Smoke & Mirror’

FAITH !!

QUESTION:

Is FAITH ...

- a Noun

Or

- a Verb

Grammatically speaking ...
FAITH is a Noun....
BUT...
'pistis' is a verb in Greek ....
Quote : In Hebrew -"there isn't even a noun form of the word "faith"... Faith is only expressed as a verb, because faith never exists apart from action"
FAITH is more than Intellectual Knowledge or Assent
FAITH MUST RESULT IN ACTION

BWJ 2020
Reading Thru The Bible **Topically**

Aim:

- To KNOW Our FAITH...
- To WALK Our FAITH...
- To SHARE Our FAITH...
- To PROTECT Our FAITH...

KWSP
EPF

Sungai Way-Subang Methodist Church

BWJ 2020

Reading Thru The Bible **Topically**

Aim: **IF FAITH GONE …**

- To **There is NOTHING**
- To **⇩ to Know…**
- To **⇩ to Walk…**
- To **⇩ to Share…**
- To **⇩ to Protect…**

KWSP EPF

Sungai Way-Subang Methodist Church

1 Cor 15:18-19

18 Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost.

19 If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are to be pitied more than all men.

2. HOPE GONE

If our Christian HOPE only for this earthly life…

- **Pitiable…**
  - **Miserable…**
    - **Pretty sorry lot…**
- **Those who have died in Christ, believing they will rise again …. LOST Forever ….**

2. HOPE GONE

Hope :

- One of the main Christian characteristics (1 Cor 13:13) …
- Confident expectancy …
  - Based on God & His Word …
    - Living (1 Pet 1:3), Blessed (Titus 2:13), Glorious (Col 1:27)…
- Distinguishes Christians & Non-Christians (Eph 2:12, 1 Thess 4:13) ….

'Eat, drink and be Merry for tomorrow we die' 1 Cor 15:32

Epicurean Philosophy

2. HOPE GONE

Hope :

- One of the main Christian characteristics (1 Cor 13:13) …
- Confident Expectation
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IF HOPE GONE …

Are We Any Different from a Non-Christian ???

'Eat, drink and be Merry for tomorrow we die' 1 Cor 15:32

Epicurean Philosophy

1 Cor 15:17b

17 And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile;

YOU ARE STILL IN YOUR SINS….

3. SIN REMAINS

- Still in our sins …
  - No Forgiveness …
    - No Salvation …
      - Still LOST …

Question: Didn't Jesus Die For Our SINS ?

3. SIN REMAINS

Ref Rom 4:23-25

23 *The words "it was credited to him (Abraham)" were written not for him alone,*

24 *but also for us, to whom God will credit righteousness — for us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead.*

25 *He was delivered over to death for our sins and WAS RAISED TO LIFE FOR OUR JUSTIFICATION.*

3. SIN REMAINS

Ref Rom 5:10

For if, when we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his (RESURRECTION) life!

3. SIN REMAINS

And we have lost our …

- **Heavenly Intercessor** **Ref : Rom 8:33-34**
- **Heavenly Advocate** **Ref : 1 John 2:1-2**

If There Is No Resurrection …

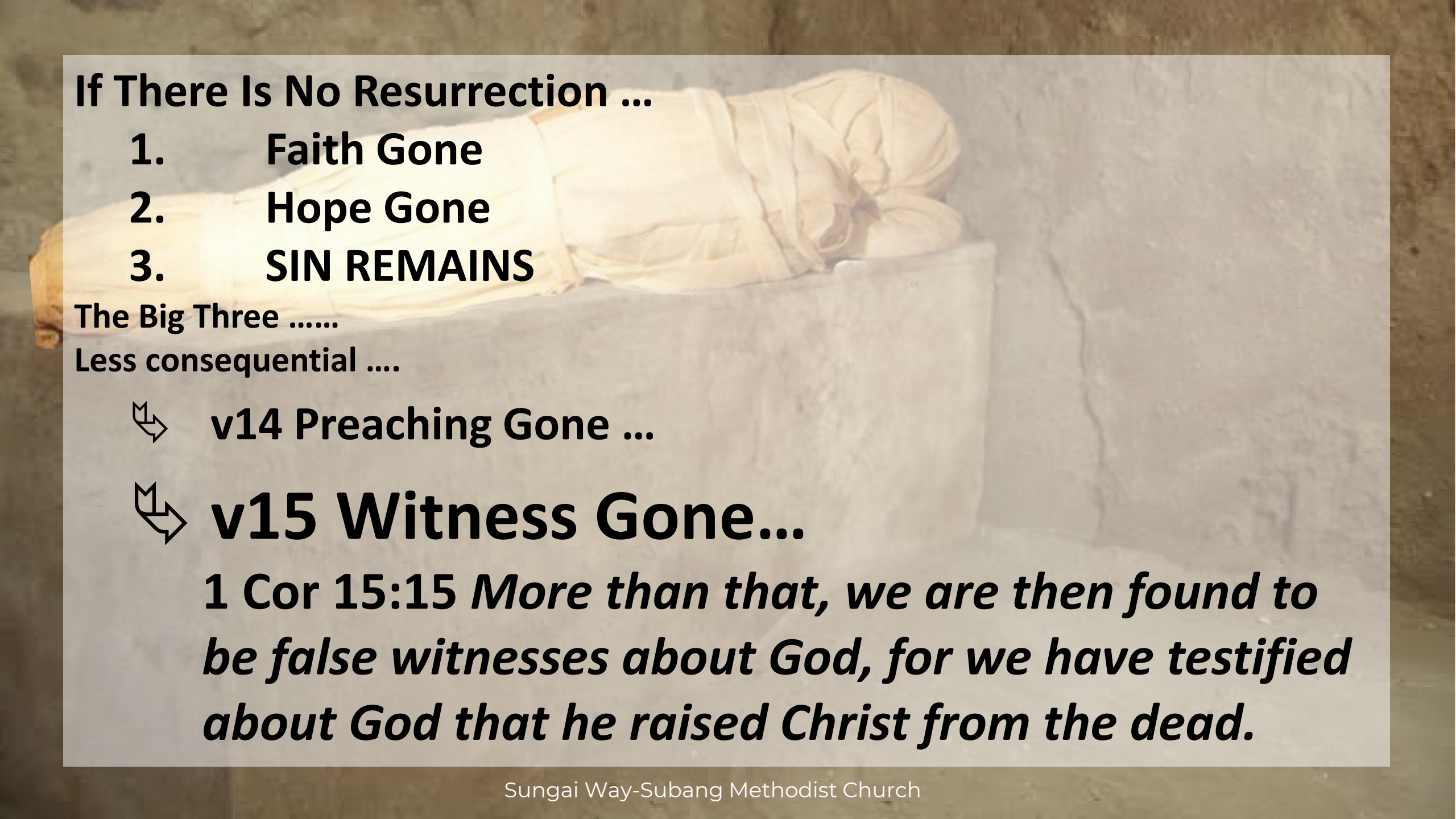
1. Faith Gone
2. Hope Gone
3. SIN REMAINS

The Big Three ……

Less consequential ….

- **v14 Preaching Gone …**

  1 Cor 15:14 ***And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless ….***



If There Is No Resurrection …

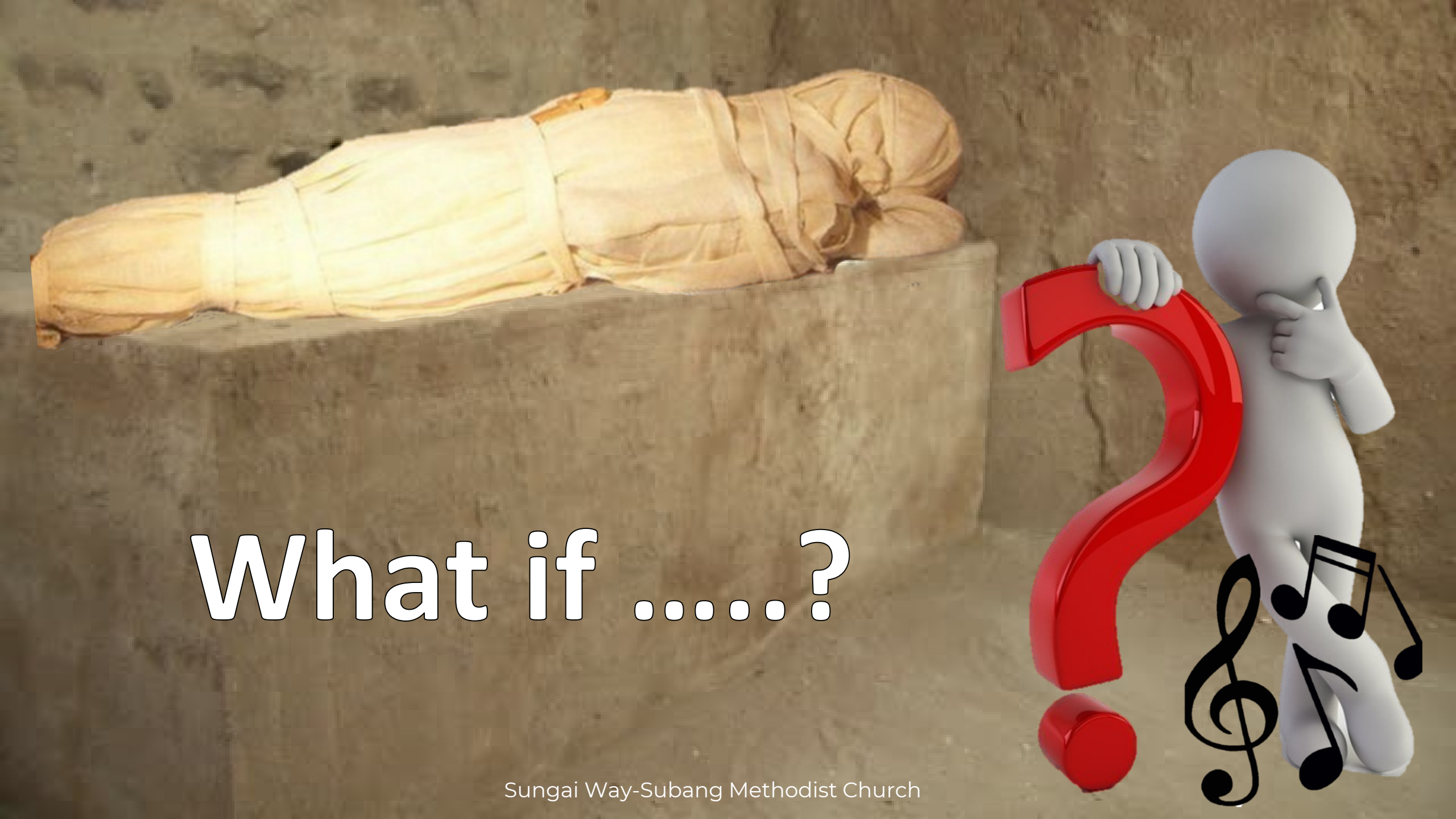
1. Faith Gone
2. Hope Gone
3. SIN REMAINS

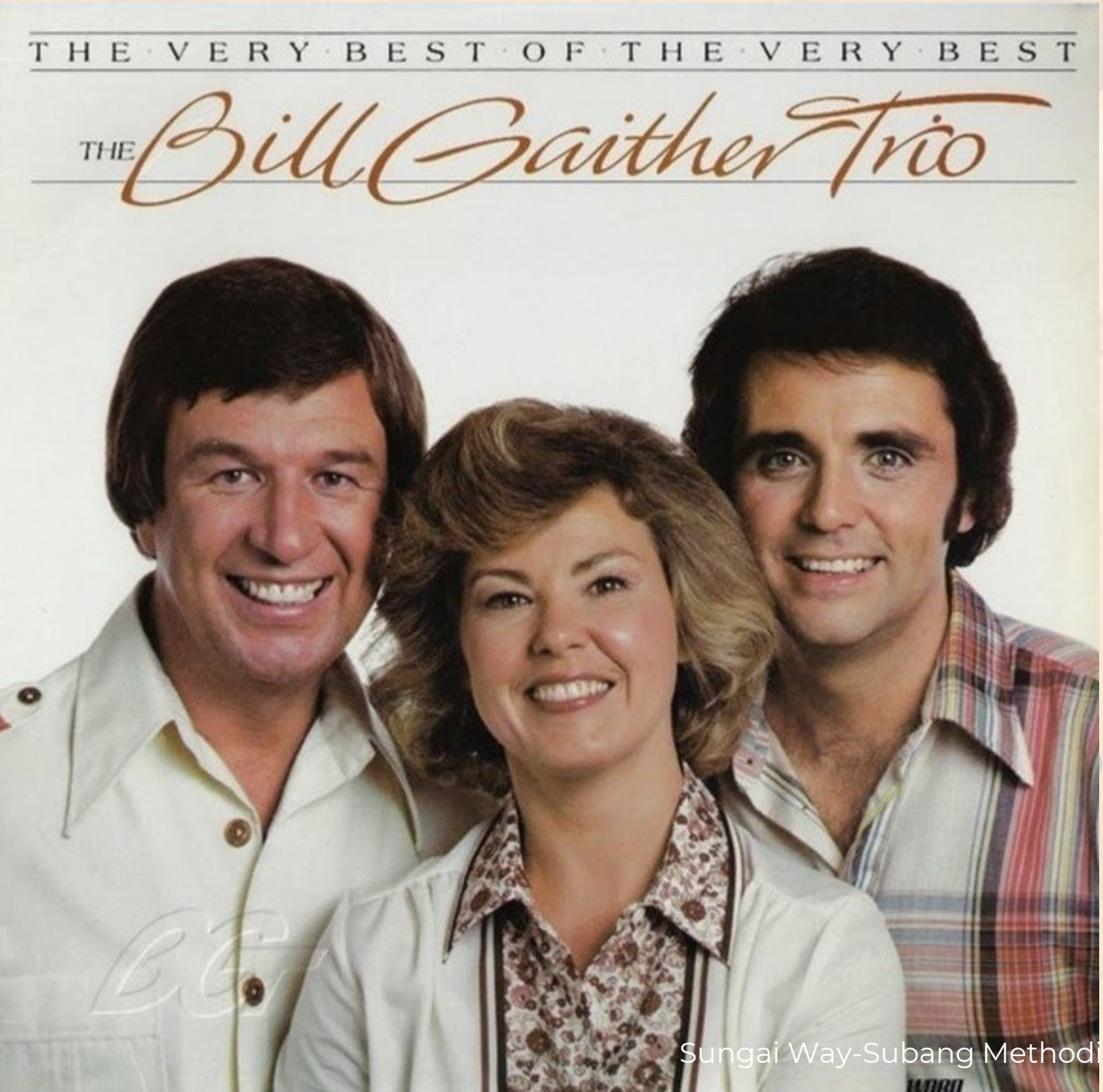
The Big Three ……

Less consequential ….

- **v14 Preaching Gone …**
- **v15 Witness Gone…**

1 Cor 15:15 ***More than that, we are then found to be false witnesses about God, for we have testified about God that he raised Christ from the dead.***


What if .....?

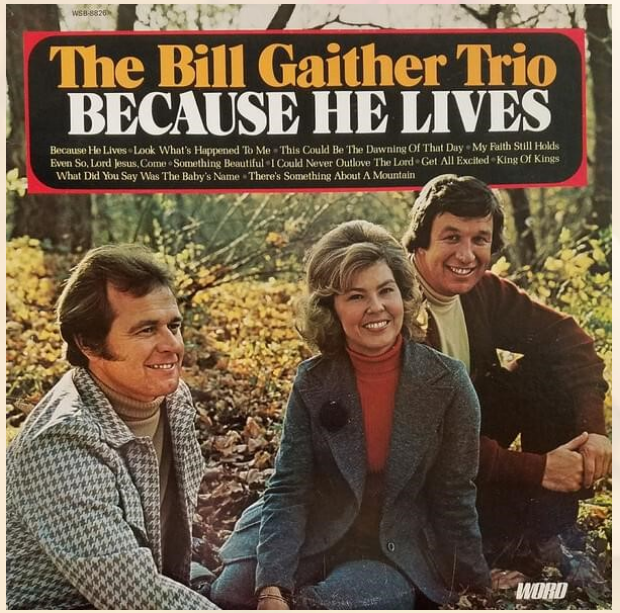


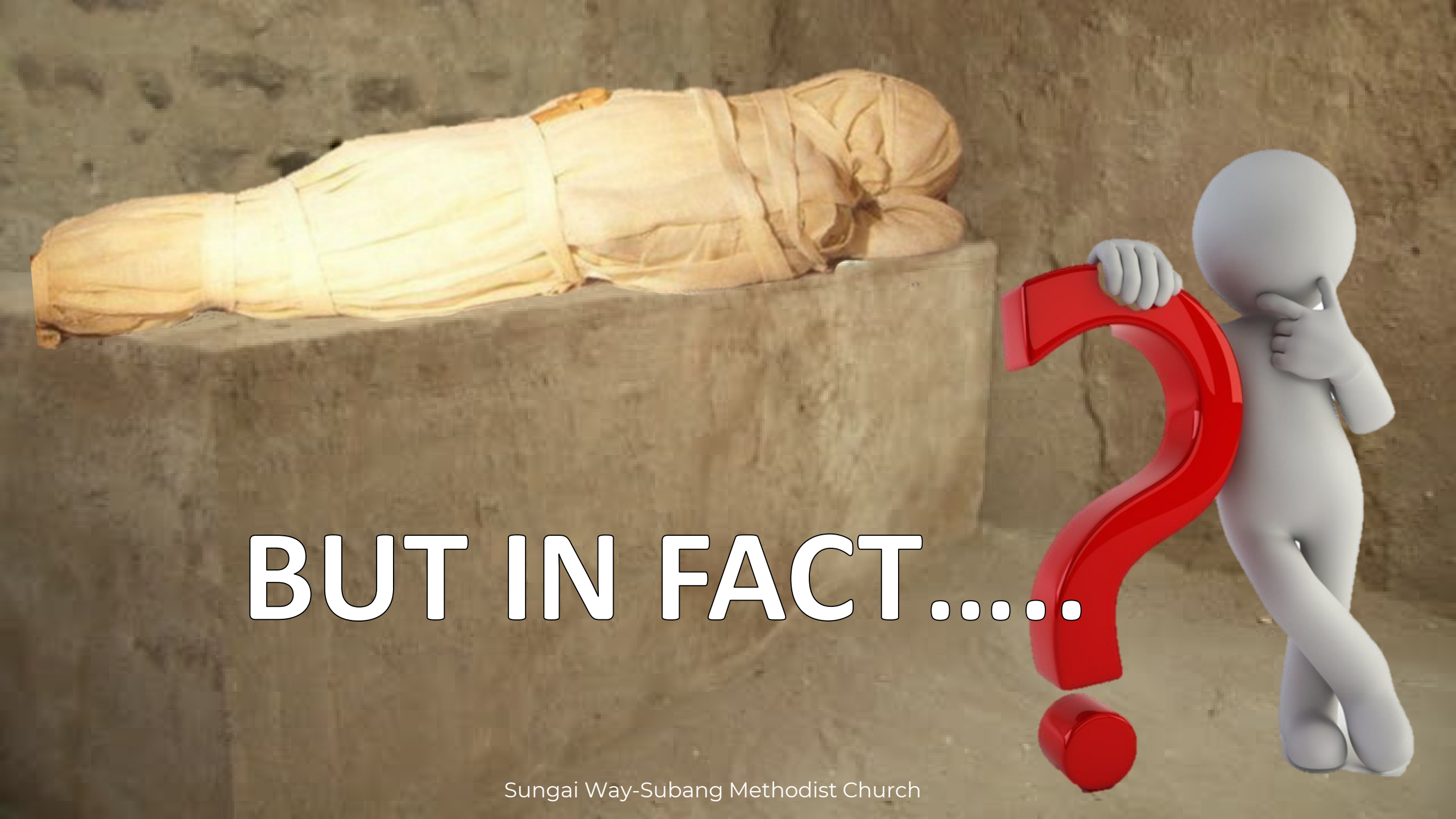
Bill & Gloria Gaither

BECAUSE HE LIVES

1. God sent His son, they called Him, Jesus
   He came to love, heal and forgive
   He lived and died to buy my pardon
   An empty grave is there to prove my
   Savior lives.
2. How sweet to hold a newborn baby
   And feel the pride and the joy he gives
   But greater still the calm assurance
   This child can face uncertain days
   because He Lives.
3. And then one day, I'll cross that river
   I'll fight life's final war with pain
   And then, as death gives way to vict'ry
   I'll see the lights of glory and I'll know
   He reigns.

Chorus:
Because He lives,
I can face tomorrow
Because He lives,
all fear is gone
Because I know He holds
the future
And life is worth the living
Just because He lives




BUT IN FACT.....

The Truth Affirmed…

1 Cor 15:3-4

3 … that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures,

4 that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,

& Re-Affirmed…

1 Cor 15:20

20 But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. …

THE APOSTLES CREED

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.
And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord;
Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit; Born of the Virgin Mary;
Suffered under Pontius Pilate; Was crucified, dead and buried;
The third day He rose again from the dead;
He ascended into heaven; And sitteth on the right hand of God
the Father Almighty; From thence He shall come to judge
the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit; The Holy Christian Church,
the Communion of Saints; The Forgiveness of sins;
The Resurrection of the body; And the life everlasting. Amen.

The Christian Faith is the ONLY FAITH with a RESURRECTED LIVING SAVIOUR and because HE LIVES, SO SHALL ALL WHO BELIEVE & TRUST IN HIM AS THEIR SAVIOUR, LORD AND MASTER

“If Christ is risen, nothing else matters.

And if Christ is not—nothing else matters.”

Jaroslav Pelikan
1923-2006

Winston Churchill
1874 - 1965

His place in history, pages 10 & 11

CROMBIE OF ABERDEEN
The finest cloth in The World

THE GUARDIAN

Manchester Monday January 25 1965

Sunrie

State funeral for Sir Winston

Last journey along the Thames after lying-in-state

There is to be a State funeral in St Paul's Cathedral on Saturday for Sir Winston Churchill, who died early yesterday, aged 90. From Wednesday to Friday his body will lie in state in Westminster Hall. Afterwards it will be borne, partly by river, to Blenheim, his ancestral home, and then buried in the village churchyard of Bladon.

The news of Sir Winston's death, "so serene and without pain" came after a restful Sunday, was given to the Queen at Sandringham, who is a daughter of personality to Lady Churchill spoke of brief conversations with him after his noble giant. She added: "The whole world is the poorer for the loss of his many-sided genius."

From Harold Wilson, Mr Harold Wilson said: "The task he mastered all over the world by all who saw or knew him." Later, on television, he described him as "The greatest man out of all we have known." He said that Britain would be commemorated some of its international records, of which Churchill College, Cambridge, will be one of the most handsome.

President Johnson, in hospital with a bronchial cold, was reported from his bed at Washington that he would attend the funeral if he is discharged on time. President de Gaulle has already left for Britain that he intends to attend.

Lords and Commons to adjourn

By FRANCIS BOYD, our Political Correspondent

THE Houses of Parliament will meet today to pay tribute to Sir Winston, and both will adjourn for the rest of the day as a mark of respect when the time comes.

The Prime Minister will address tributes to the House after prayers, a message from the Queen announcing the time of the funeral will be read, and the Speaker will make his tribute. He intends to preside for a short time.

Request for no flowers

Sir Winston's death was announced in a bulletin from Hyde Park Gate, signed by Lady Soames. It said:

"Shortly after 8 a.m. this morning, Sunday, January 24th, Sir Winston Churchill died in his sleep."

Later, Lady Churchill requested that no flowers should be sent. The Conservative and Labour Party Whips have announced that a joint address is to be presented to the Queen following the end of the Commons debate on the Address on Tuesday. It is understood that Sir Winston by private arrangement had left instructions that he was to be buried in the churchyard at Bladon.

World statesmen will be coming to London

By VERNON BARTLETT, our Diplomatic Correspondent

President Johnson of the United States will attend Sir Winston Churchill's funeral if his doctors give permission to come to London. The President was admitted to hospital on Saturday, suffering from a bronchial cold.

If the President cannot come he will be represented at the funeral by the Vice-President, Mr Hubert Humphrey.

Mr Humphrey has asked to pay a private visit to Chartwell, Sir Winston's home at Westerham, Kent, on Tuesday, before flying from London.

President de Gaulle has left Paris for Colombey-les-Deux-Eglises, where he will spend the week-end. He intends to be present at the funeral if he can leave his country home.

Bevan saw him as a poet

From VERNON BARTLETT

Paris, January 24

"Lloyd George was a great man, Mr Churchill was a great man, but Aneurin Bevan was a poet." This was one of Churchill's greatest compliments to Bevan when he was Minister of Labour in the wartime Coalition Government.

The two men were opposites in almost every way. Churchill was a child of the aristocracy, Bevan of the working class. Churchill was a Conservative, Bevan a Socialist. Churchill was a man of action, Bevan a man of words. Churchill was a man of the world, Bevan a man of the people.

Bevan saw him as a poet because he was a man of words, a man of the people, a man of the working class, a man of the Conservative, a man of action, a man of the world.

Sungai Way-Subang Methodist Church

Because the Tomb is Empty…

- Faith is Alive
- Hope is Alive
- Sin is Gone
- Why we Preach
- Why we Witness

SIMON PETER
CRUCIFIED
JOHN
EXILED
PHILIP
STONED
ANDREW
CRUCIFIED
HIERAPOLIS
ROME
EPHESUS
PATRAS
ALBANOPOLIS
SYRIA
JERUSALEM
JUDAS SON OF JAMES
BEATEN
BARTHOLOMEW
BEHEADED
JAMES
BEHEADED
CALAMINA
THOMAS
TORTURED
ETHIOPIA
JAMES SON OF ALPHAEUS
STONED & BEATEN
SIMON THE ZEALOT
CRUCIFIED
MATTHEW
BEHEADED
THE
MARTYRDOM
OF THE
APOSTLES

Application:

Every one of them had move from

- **DOUBT to DETERMINATION**
- **CONFUSION to CONVICTION**
- **FEAR to FAITH**

SO MUST YOU & ME…

To borrow and paraphrase from Joshua 24:24

"Choose for yourself this day if you believe Jesus resurrected from his grave …

OR he did not ….

BUT as for me and my house we choose to declare that Jesus has indeed Risen and is Alive with His Father in Heaven."