

THE SHADOW OF DEATH & THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

Pastor Tim

“A person has to get fed up
with the ways of the world
before he, before she,
acquires an appetite for the
world of grace.”

I. THE IMMINENCE OF DEATH MAKES EVERYTHING MEANINGLESS.

- A. “All is vanity.” (Ecc. 1:12-14)
- B. The author of Ecclesiastes,
Solomon, obtained everything
the world had to offer— and
found it wasn’t enough.



14 The wise person has his eyes in his head, but the fool walks in darkness. And yet I perceived that the same event happens to all of them. 15 Then I said in my heart, "What happens to the fool will happen to me also. Why then have I been so very wise?" And I said in my heart that this also is vanity.

16 For of the wise as of the fool there is no enduring remembrance, seeing that in the days to come all will have been long forgotten. How the wise dies just like the fool! 17 So I hated life, because what is done under the sun was grievous to me, for all is vanity and a striving after wind.

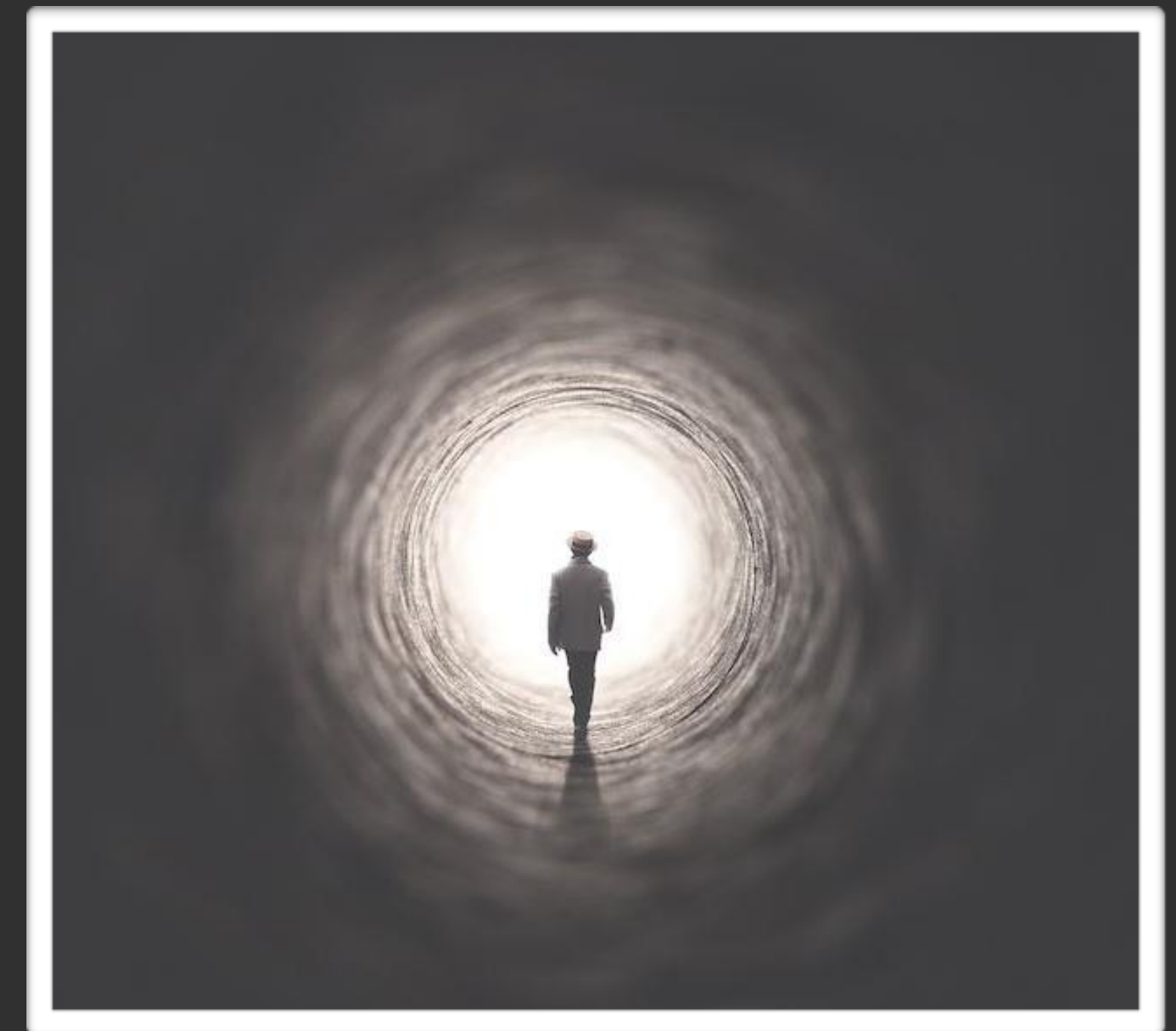
18 I said in my heart with regard to the children of man that God is testing them that they may see that they themselves are but beasts. 19 For what happens to the children of man and what happens to the beasts is the same; as one dies, so dies the other. They all have the same breath, and man has no advantage over the beasts, for all is vanity.

20 All go to one place. All are from the dust, and to dust all return. 21 Who knows whether the spirit of man goes upward and the spirit of the beast goes down into the earth?

All the toil of man is for his mouth, yet his
appetite is not satisfied.

II. ONCE WE'VE LEARNED TO SEE THE SHADOW OF DEATH,
WE'LL BE ABLE TO SEE THE LIGHT OF CHRIST.

A. When the reality of death is far
from our minds, the promises of
Jesus often seem detached from
our lives. (Psalm 90:12)

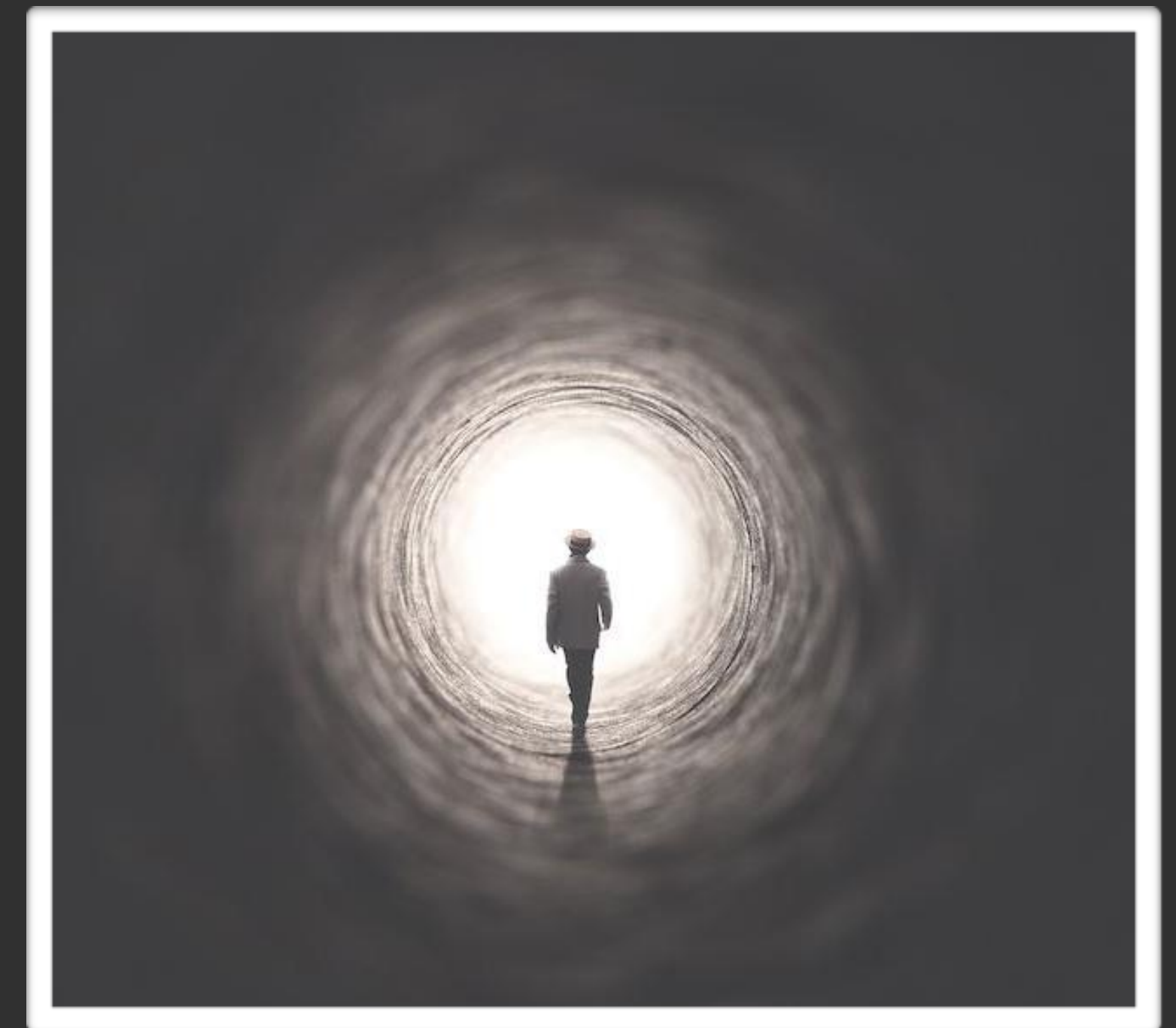


So teach us to number our days that we may
get a heart of wisdom.

II. ONCE WE'VE LEARNED TO SEE THE SHADOW OF DEATH, WE'LL BE ABLE TO SEE THE LIGHT OF CHRIST.

A. When the reality of death is far from our minds, the promises of Jesus often seem detached from our lives.

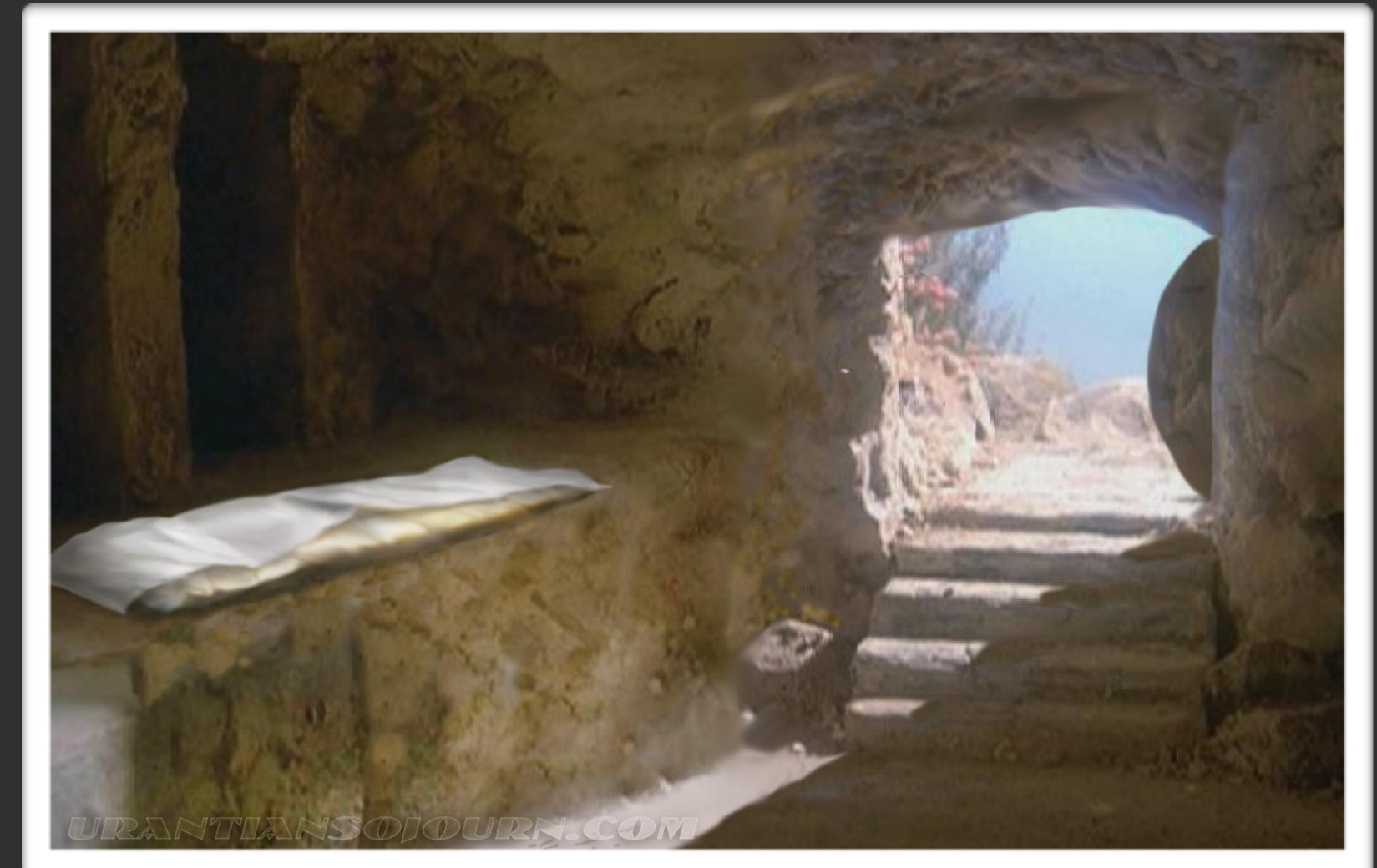
B. Jesus defeated death, and all those who believe in Him will only face it once. (Gen. 3:4; Rom. 5:18-21; 2 Tim. 1:10)



But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die."

...and which now has been manifested through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

III. JESUS GIVES MEANING AND PURPOSE TO EVERYTHING IN OUR LIVES.



Vanity of vanities, says the Preacher: all is
vanity.

III. JESUS GIVES MEANING AND PURPOSE TO EVERYTHING IN OUR LIVES.

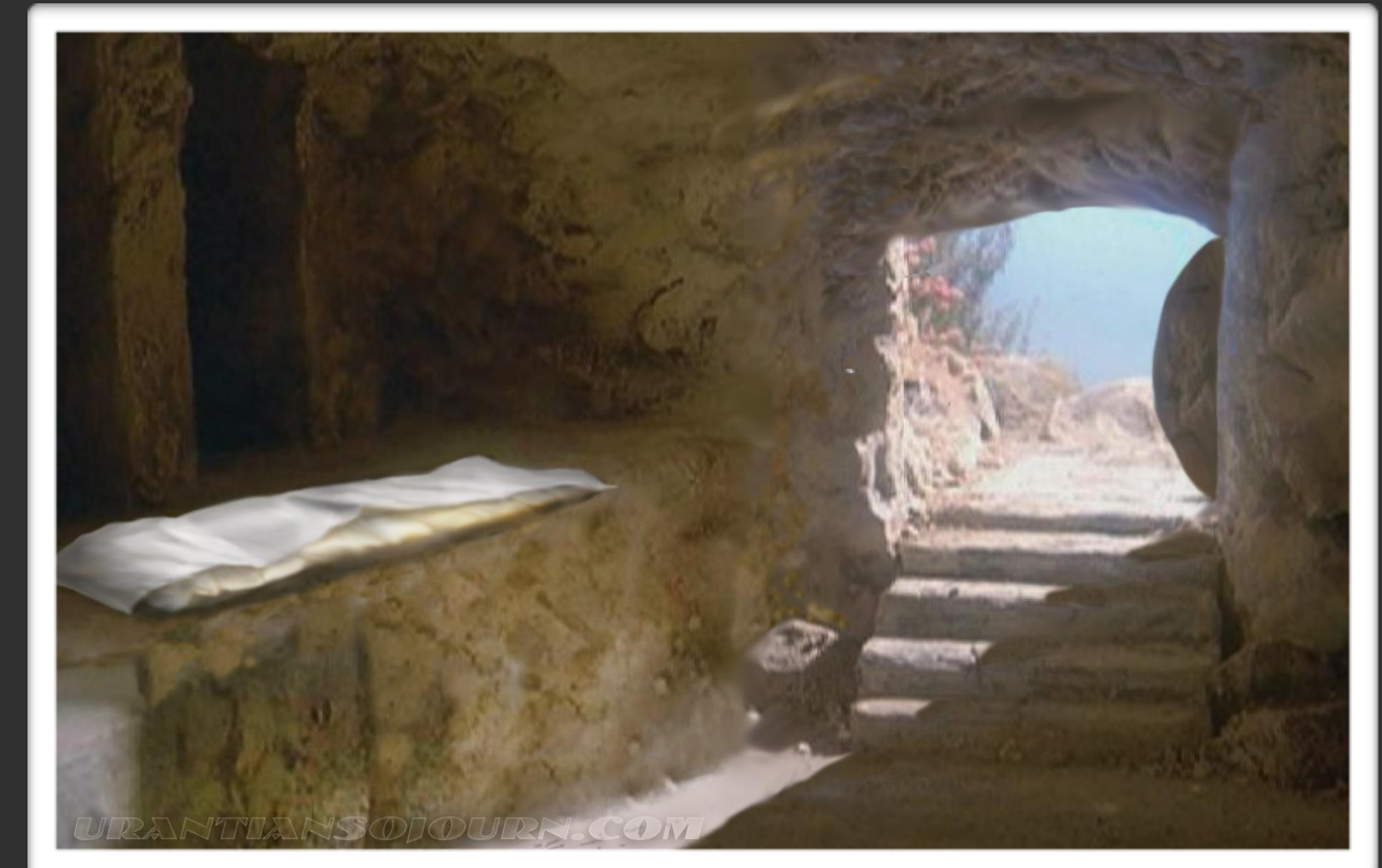
A. If Jesus did not rise from the grave,
Christianity is as meaningless as everything
else.

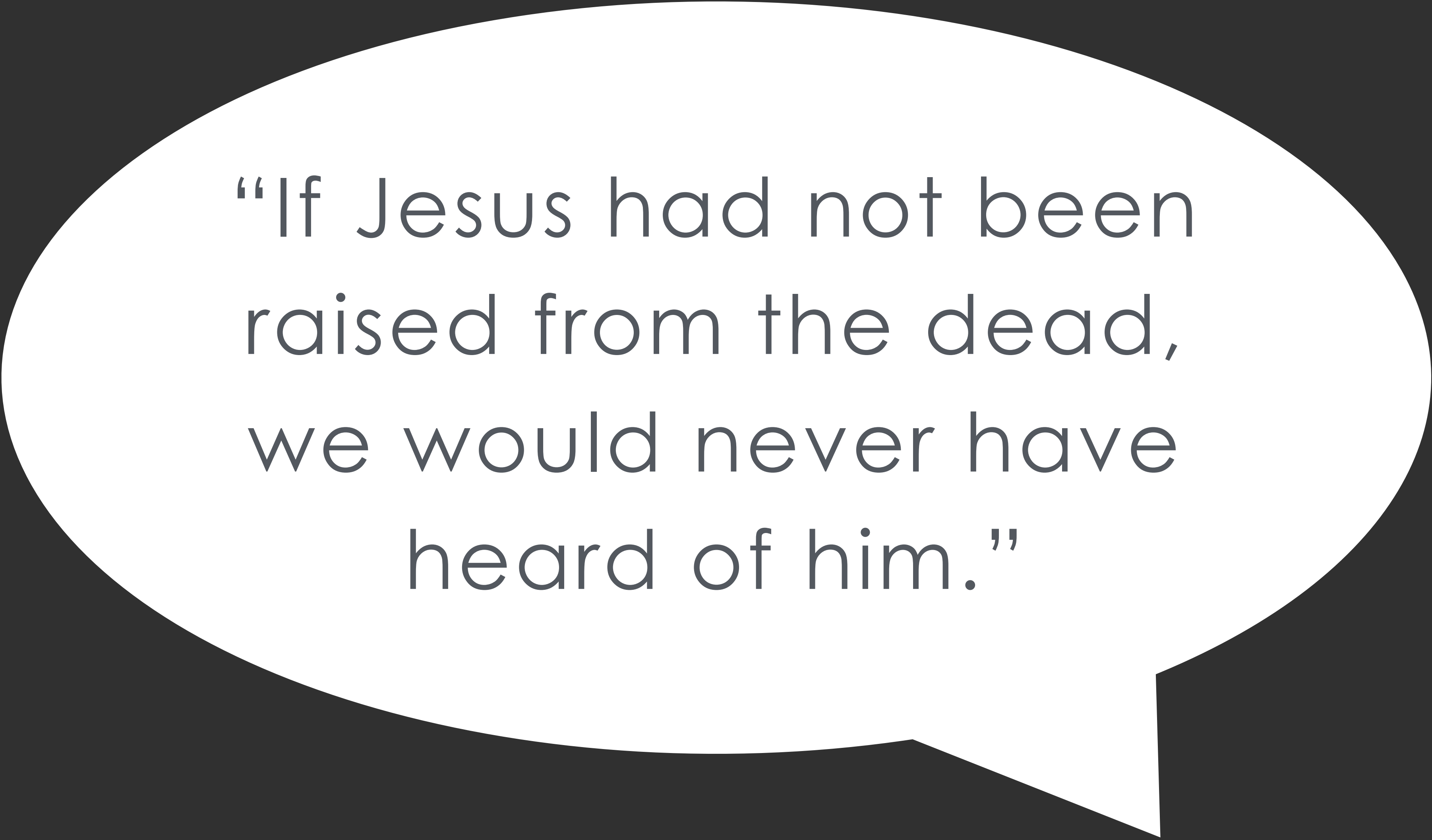
B. Since Jesus has been raised, He gives meaning
and purpose to everything in our lives.



III. JESUS GIVES MEANING AND PURPOSE TO EVERYTHING IN OUR LIVES. (1 COR. 15:14-26)

- A. If Jesus did not rise from the grave, Christianity is as meaningless as everything else.
- B. Since Jesus has been raised, He gives meaning and purpose to everything in our lives.





“If Jesus had not been
raised from the dead,
we would never have
heard of him.”

