

WEEKLY WORSHIP GUIDE

1 Corinthians 15--April 20th, 2025



Sermon Recap:

What if Sunday Never Came?

What if there was death, but no resurrection? What if Easter never came?

I. Consequences of No Resurrection

- Preaching is meaningless-V.14a- We preach the gospel (good news), the message of Christ crucified and resurrected. If he did not rise, we have no good news to give.
- Faith is useless- V.14b-Faith in a corpse in a tomb will save no one. And if the death of Jesus couldn't save us, no other death will.
- We are still captive to sin-V.17- If Jesus did not rise, he is just a man and his death was meaningless. If his death was meaningless, a debt is still owed, we are still trapped by the chains of our sins.
- Everyone who has and will die is in hell-V.18- If Jesus did not rise, there is nothing and no one to save them. They died without hope.
- Christians are foolish-V.19- If every part of the gospel is not true, then we will have spent our days pursuing a God who will not benefit us beyond the grave.

Therefore, Paul says in v.32, "Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die." He is saying, "If Jesus didn't rise, then fine; eat, drink, and be merry; for this is all there is. This is our heaven. Live it up."

II. Assurance of the Resurrection

- V.1-11
 - V.3-4- THE GOSPEL- Christ died, was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with Scriptures. This is of first importance.
 - V.5-7- The resurrected Christ was seen by Peter, the other disciples, his brother James, and 500 other witnesses.
 - V.8-9- Finally, the resurrected Christ appeared to Paul on the road to Damascus.

There is undeniable, verifiable evidence of the resurrection. If there was any doubt of the objective/absolute truth of the resurrection, witnesses (who were still alive when Paul was writing this) were available.

III. Power of the Resurrection

- Three case studies from V.1-11:
 - Peter: a brash disciple who denied Christ, overcome with guilt and shame became the bold gospel preacher of Acts 2 who would eventually die in defense of the gospel.
 - James: the skeptical brother of Jesus who rejected his messianic claims, served to lead the Jerusalem church until his martyrdom.
 - Paul: an enemy of Christianity who sought to persecute the Church, but became an evangelist, missionary, and pastor for the resurrected Lord.

Why would these men and the other disciples willingly devote their lives to service and death in the name of Christ. It is because they had faith in the resurrection. This faith transformed them and provided them with hope for this life and the next.

Discussion Questions:

- According to V.1-11, what is the gospel?
- Why is this a matter of first importance?
- How is the resurrection verified?
- According to V.12-19, what are the consequences if the dead are not raised?
- Why would preaching be useless?
- Why would faith be worthless?
- Why would Christians need to be pitied?
- What evidence in V.1-11 support the power of the resurrection?
- What hope does the Christian have today?

Application:

- Do you ponder the “What if’s” of your life? How have you seen the providence of God bring you to this season of life?
- How is the objective truth of the gospel evident to you?
- How does the resurrection provide hope for today?
- How does the resurrection provide hope for death?
- Do you believe (have faith) in the gospel? Is that evident in your life?

Family Worship Hymns:

- The Power of the Cross
- Christ Arose!

