

Outline “How Those Who Believe in the Resurrection Live” 1 Corinthians 15:29–34
Worship Service, February 8, 2026

Introduction

- The Bible speaks directly about death and shows the hope that lies beyond death.
- The key question of today’s passage: *“How does believing in the resurrection change the way you live now?”*
- The hope of the resurrection is not mere theory; it fundamentally transforms our daily choices, relationships, and life priorities.

1) Why Are People Baptized for the Dead?

— If There Is No Resurrection of the Dead, Even That Is Meaningless —

About “Baptism for the Dead”

- A ritual practiced in the Corinthian church (its exact nature is unknown).
- An attempt to maintain some kind of connection with the dead.
- Paul neither affirms nor recommends this practice.

Paul’s Point

- Claiming “there is no resurrection of the dead” while practicing “baptism for the dead” is a contradiction between belief and action.
- Without resurrection, the dead remain captive to death, and everything is meaningless.
- If one truly grieves for the dead, one should believe in “the resurrection of the dead,” which Christ demonstrated as the firstfruits.

2) Why Are Paul and His Companions Exposed to Death Every Day?

— Is It Not Because There Is a Resurrection? —

Paul’s Sufferings

- “Fighting with beasts at Ephesus” is a figurative expression for severe difficulties, persecution, and suffering.
- Riots incited by silversmiths, Jewish plots, and afflictions so severe that he lost hope of life itself.

Why He Continued to Proclaim the Gospel at the Risk of His Life

- Because he believed in “the resurrection of the dead” revealed through Christ.
- Because he valued the life given through resurrection more than life in this world.
- Faith in the resurrection frees us from bondage to this earthly life and empowers us to live wholeheartedly for Christ.

The Way of Life of Those Who Do Not Live by Resurrection Faith

- A worldview widely shared in the ancient Greek and Roman world.
- Even today, many say, “Since we will die anyway, it’s better to enjoy life now.”

- A mindset of those who have no hope beyond death: “Focus only on the present; only what matters now is enough.”

The Way of Life of Those Who Believe in the Resurrection

- A life lived with eternity in view, not bound by this earthly life.
- Dietrich Bonhoeffer: at his execution, “This is the end—for me, the beginning of life.”
- Corrie ten Boom: risked her life to hide Jews.
- Martin Luther King Jr.: “I have seen the Promised Land. I may not get there with you. But that’s all right.”

3) Do Not Be Deceived

- Do Not Be Influenced by Those Who Do Not Believe in the Resurrection; Live Righteously —

Examples of “Bad Company Corrupts Good Morals”

- King Solomon: marrying foreign women who did not fear the true God led his heart toward idols.
- Those recovering from addiction: to quit drugs or alcohol, the first thing they had to change was their relationships.

Walking in Faithfulness

- Relationships with those who deny what the Bible teaches or promote what it does not teach undermine a faithful Christian life.
- The problems in the Corinthian church (divisions, factions, sexual immorality) were partly caused by being misled by those who denied the resurrection.
- Do not accept the words of those who do not know God’s power and do not believe in the resurrection.
- The Lord, who created this world and raised Christ on the third day, will also raise us.
- Therefore, do not seek fleeting pleasures of this world, but store up treasures in God’s kingdom, turn away from sin, and walk in a way that pleases the Lord.

Conclusion

Three Questions and One Answer

The answers to the three questions—why be baptized for the dead, why Paul faces danger daily, and why we must not be deceived—are all summed up in one word: **the resurrection**.

What the Hope of the Resurrection Brings

- Power to transform life at its core.
- Power to guide our choices in each present moment.
- Power to live with an eternal perspective without being swept away by worldly values.

A Question for This Week

How will you choose, how will you use your time, with whom will you associate, and what will you prioritize—does the hope of the resurrection stand behind those choices?

Final Exhortation

God will raise us also by the same power with which He raised Christ. Let us wake up, not be deceived, and live this week as people of the resurrection hope, walking in a way that pleases the Lord.