

Outline: “Do You Believe in the Resurrection?” 1 Corinthians 15:12–28

Worship Service — February 1, 2026

Introduction: The Hope of Reunion and the Resurrection of the Body

In Christian funerals, there is a mysterious “peace” even amid grief. That is because we have the assurance that the departed believer is now in the Lord’s hands, and we also have the hope that on the Day of the Lord we will “be reunited.” The foundation of this hope is the “resurrection of the body” promised in Scripture.

However, in the church at Corinth there were people influenced by Greek values of the time (the idea that the body is a prison for the soul, and that liberation through death is salvation). They insisted, “We believe in Christ’s resurrection, but there is no resurrection of the dead (of the body).” In response, Paul explains how essential bodily resurrection is to the very foundation of faith.

1. If There Were No Resurrection of the Dead (vv. 12–19)

Paul warns that if there is no resurrection of the dead, then our faith collapses at its root.

1. Preaching and faith become futile

Christ’s resurrection is the firstfruits—the forerunner—of our resurrection. If people are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either. In that case, the apostles’ testimony is false, and the proclamation of the gospel becomes meaningless.

2. Sin has not been dealt with

Death is the consequence of sin. If Christ has not been raised, then the power of death remains, and we are still in our sins.

3. We become the most pitiable people

If the hope of resurrection is a lie and everything ends with this earthly life alone, then Christians who remain faithful amid persecution and suffering become the most pitiable people in the world.

4.

2. The Meaning of Christ's Resurrection (vv. 20–28)

But that is not the case. Christ has been raised from the dead as “the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.”

1. A guarantee as the firstfruits

The firstfruits (the first harvest) are a guarantee of the abundant harvest to come. Christ's resurrection is a historical fact that guarantees the resurrection that will follow for us. Just as death entered all humanity through Adam, so also through Christ all will be made alive.

2. The destruction of the last enemy, “death”

There is an order to the resurrection: first Christ, the firstfruits; then, at His coming, we who belong to Him will be raised. And Christ will destroy every opposing power, and finally destroy “death” itself.

3. God will be all in all

After destroying and nullifying death, Christ will hand over the kingdom to God the Father. When Christ hands the kingdom to the Father, the “kingdom of God,” in which God’s reign is fully realized, will be brought to completion. There we will receive glorified bodies and live with God forever.

Conclusion: An Unshakable Hope

Our faith is not mere wishful thinking or a kind of psychological comfort. The fact that Christ has been raised is the sure guarantee that we too will be raised with our bodies.

Because we have this “faith in the resurrection,” we are not swallowed up by the sorrow of death; we can live with the hope of reunion—“we will meet again.” Let us hold firmly to this hope and continue walking in the Lord.