

Because He Lives!

1 Corinthians 15

Big Idea: Jesus conquered death to give you eternal life. The resurrection isn't just history—it's your living hope. Every witness, every piece of evidence points to this truth: He is risen. Today is your day to place your trust in Him.

Main Points

1. We need to be consistently reminded of the Gospel
2. There is overwhelming evidence for Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection
3. If Jesus has not been raised, there is no hope
4. Because Christ has been raised, we have living hope

Scriptures:

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| <input type="radio"/> John 11 | <input type="radio"/> Luke 18:13 |
| <input type="radio"/> Romans 3:23 | <input type="radio"/> John 3:3-7 |
| <input type="radio"/> Mark 8:31-32 | <input type="radio"/> Genesis 3 |
| <input type="radio"/> 1 Corinthians 13 | <input type="radio"/> Matthew 18:3 |
| <input type="radio"/> Matthew 16:13-16 | <input type="radio"/> Psalm 107:2 |

Opening Question:

What is one Easter tradition from your childhood that you remember most? What made it special?

Discussion Questions:

Pastor Tim mentioned that even believers experience "gospel amnesia" - forgetting what Jesus has done for us. When have you experienced this in your own life? What are some practical ways we can remind ourselves of the gospel daily?

Why is it important to understand we are "broken people" before we can truly appreciate the gospel?

Read 1 Corinthians 15:3-8. Paul lists multiple witnesses to the resurrection. Why do you think Paul emphasized so many eyewitnesses? How does this strengthen your faith?

The sermon mentioned that Jesus told His disciples "plainly" about His death and resurrection, but they didn't understand. Why do you think the disciples struggled to comprehend what Jesus was saying? What spiritual truths do you struggle to fully grasp even when they're stated plainly in Scripture?

Jesus intentionally waited until Lazarus was "good and dead" before raising him. What does this story teach us about Jesus' power and timing? How can this encourage us when God seems to delay answering our prayers?

The sermon pointed out that in first-century Jewish culture, women's testimony wasn't valued, yet God chose women to be the first witnesses of the resurrection. What does this tell us about God's character and values? How does this detail actually strengthen the case for the resurrection's truth?

Read 1 Corinthians 15:12-19. Paul lists what would be true if Christ had not been raised: Preaching would be senseless, Faith would be useless, We would still be in our sins, Christians would be the most pitiful people. Which of these consequences strikes you most powerfully? Why?

Pastor Tim quoted Chuck Colson's Watergate illustration - that 12 powerful men couldn't keep a lie alive for 3 weeks, but 12 apostles kept their testimony for 40 years despite persecution. How does this logic strengthen your confidence in the resurrection?

Jesus asked Martha, "Do you believe this?" (John 11:26) How would you answer that question today? Is there a difference between believing something in your head versus your heart? Explain.

Pastor Tim mentioned envying the childlike faith of the children who sang. What does "childlike faith" look like in practice? What obstacles prevent us from having this kind of simple trust?

Practical Applications:

1. Let the Redeemed Say So - Share your testimony with at least one person this week. It doesn't have to be elaborate - simply tell someone what Jesus has done for you
2. Investigate the Claims - If you're doubting or want to strengthen your faith, pick up a copy of "The Case for Easter" or another apologetics resource. Read one chapter and journal your thoughts. Discuss with a mature believer
3. Daily Gospel Reminders - Create a "gospel reminder" system for yourself. This could be: A sticky note with 1 Corinthians 15:3-4 on your mirror, A daily alarm with a gospel truth, Reading one chapter of a Gospel each day, Listening to a worship song about the resurrection each morning
4. Pray for Your "Journey" - Identify one person who doesn't know Jesus. Commit to praying for them daily this week. Ask God for an opportunity to share the gospel with them. What specific action will you take this week to strengthen it?

Closing Thought/Prayer:

Pray together for: Boldness to share the gospel, Friends and family who don't know Jesus, Hearts that would remain tender to the gospel and not experience "gospel amnesia".