

# 1 CORINTHIANS

gospel formed future



## OVERVIEW FOR PART 4:

The bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ is central to Christianity. It is also central to all of human history and actually at the heart of the longing of every human soul.

We all will die. And every human heart wants to be assured, if we are honest, that death doesn't get the final say. We want life after death. And we don't just want this for ourselves, we want it for those we love. We want to be together again forever.

We were all made for eternity. We all long for resurrection.

The church Paul is writing this letter to struggled to believe in a literal bodily resurrection of the dead. They, like the culture around them, couldn't imagine dead bodies being raised up from the dead and given new life (all they could imagine was a Zombie Apocalypse – think Walking Dead). Besides, many of the philosophers of the day viewed the body as bad – like a dirty outfit that one should throw away.

But Paul points out, “if there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain.” He states it again emphatically, “And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile, and you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied.”

The gospel is the good news that God, in and through Jesus Christ, has come to rescue creation and humanity from sin, destruction and death. Paul clarifies that the good news was accomplished through Jesus' life, death, burial and resurrection.

Over the next couple of weeks we will examine how the resurrection of Jesus brings about the good news of God's rescue and renewal of all things.

#### **PART 4: WEEK THREE Resurrection Victory**

Text: 1 Corinthians 15:35-58

The hope of the resurrection is that dying is not the end, sin does not win, and death does not get the victory in the end.

As we've observed in the past couple of weeks, the Corinthians were struggling to believe in a bodily resurrection. This week we see that their struggle was not just in the concept but also in the how and the what. How is a body raised up to live again? And what will that body be like?

Paul likens the resurrection of our bodies to a grain of wheat that is sown as one body only to be raised as another. The world around us demonstrates how the resurrection will come about. Every year we see the fruit of seeds sown into the ground growing up into a new body. Creation speaks to us regularly about our future resurrection. All who belong to Jesus will be transformed at his return. Those who are dead will be raised with new resurrection bodies and those who are alive will be transformed in the twinkling of an eye.

Our new resurrection bodies will be the kind that can live and thrive in the new creation reality of a heavenly earth. The earth will be transformed and God will make his dwelling with us here. Our bodies will be imperishable, glorious and raised with power. They will no longer resemble Adam. Instead, they will look like Jesus' resurrection body. They will be Spirit-

constituted bodies where every single part of them will be infused with and directed by God's very Spirit. In our new bodies we will be more alive and aware than ever. Everyone of our senses will be fully engaged. We will know as we are fully known. We will fully recognize one another since we will see the true essence of who we all are.

And in that day death will be swallowed up in victory. God will give us the final victory over sin, Satan and death that Jesus won for us. In light of that, we should let our future hope shape our present faith. We should live our lives in the present with our hearts captured by the hope of the future...steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord knowing that our labor for the Lord is not in vain.

### **Read: 1 Corinthians 15:35-58**

1. What does the resurrection of our body imply God is like?
2. What do you most anticipate about the future resurrection of our bodies?
3. Where do you presently live with little faith or love in the present because your heart is not full of hope in the future?
4. How can the future hope of a bodily resurrection enable you to be steadfast and immovable?
5. What kind of work is God calling you to engage in (abound in) in light of our future hope?