

Summit Woods Baptist Church
First Corinthians Sermon Study Equipping Class

1 Corinthians 15:12-19

❖ Day 1

For these lessons, the sermon text is provided in a format that visually helps display the structure of the paragraph or section of text. The main verbs are underlined. Commands are double-underlined. Generally, the main indicative clauses remain to the left, and the other clauses are either directly underneath when they have equal priority to what comes before, or are tabbed to the right when the clause supports, develops, or draws a conclusion from a neighboring clause.

*****Note:** In this section, Paul is arguing exclusively from conditional statements which are reflected in the diagram. These are statements that begin with “if” that state a condition which is assumed to be true for the sake of the argument. This conditional statement is followed by a conclusion that would be the result of the conditional statement if it were true. The conclusions begin with “then”. Sometimes our translators don’t supply the “then” so those are in parenthesis.

- 12 Now
 if Christ is proclaimed
 as raised from the dead,
 (then) how can some of you say
 that there is no resurrection of the dead?
- 13 But
 if there is no resurrection of the dead,
 then **not even Christ has been raised.**
- 14 And
 if Christ has not been raised,
 then our preaching is in vain
 and
 (then) your faith is in vain.
- 15 (And)
 (then) We are even found to be misrepresenting God,
 because we testified about God
 that he raised Christ,
 whom he did not raise
 if it is true that the dead are not raised.
- 16 For if the dead are not raised,
 (then) **not even Christ has been raised.**
- 17 And
 if Christ has not been raised,
 (then) your faith is futile
 and
 (then) you are still in your sins.
- 18 Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished.
- 19 If in Christ we have hope in this life only,
 (then) we are of all people most to be pitied.

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1. Explain what Paul was doing in 15:1-11? How does that relate to what Paul is apparently doing in this section, particularly in light of v. 12?
2. What is the first conditional statement, and conclusion in v. 12? What is Paul assuming is true? What's the conclusion he raises? What is Paul saying by this statement as a whole?
3. What does the connection between the proclamation of Christ as raised from the dead and Paul's confrontation of their response reveal concerning what Paul thought about the authority of the apostolic word?
4. What was it they were denying? Who was it that was rejecting the resurrection of the dead? Was this a church-wide rebellion? Where were these people? How is this a warning to us?

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5. What have we previously studied in 1 Corinthians that fills us in on the way the Corinthians may have viewed the physical body which led them to reject the resurrection?

❖ Day 2

Read 1 Corinthians 15:12-19 again.

6. What are the steps of Paul's argument in v. 13-15? What does this progression fundamentally highlight?
7. What is the first, most important, and most obvious conclusion of rejecting the resurrection of the dead that Paul highlights in v. 13? Why is this important? How does this highlight what Paul said about the resurrection in v. 3-11?
8. What would be true if it were true that Christ were not raised from the dead according to v. 14-15?

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9. Why does Paul highlight the fact that the apostolic preaching would be in vain if Christ weren't raised? What does this tell us about the apostolic preaching? How should this inform our evangelism?

10. What does Paul stress would be the impact on the lives of the Corinthians if Christ were not raised? What does this phrase mean, and what are its implications if true?

11. How would Paul and the other apostles be found to be misrepresenting God if the resurrection weren't true? Why is this something Paul brings up here?

❖ Day 3

Read 1 Corinthians 15:12-19 again.

12. What is the connection between v. 15 and 16? Where did Paul make the same statement as he does in v. 16? What does this tell you?

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13. What is Paul's line of argument in vv. 16-18? Note the similarities and the differences between this argument and the argument in vv. 13-15.
14. In v. 14 Paul says their "faith is in vain" if Christ has not been raised, and here he says that if Christ has not been raised "your faith is futile". Is there a difference we should stress here?
15. What would be the practical outcome in one's life to hold to a vain or futile faith?
16. What is the exhortation that Paul gives at the conclusion of this chapter (15:58)? How does this demonstrate the necessity of a meaningful faith?
17. Why would it be true that the Corinthians would still be in their sins if Christ were not raised? What other passages link together sin's hold on the believer and Jesus' resurrection?

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18. How does v. 18 link with v. 17? Why is this important? What is our future hope based on?

19. Why would it be discouraging for the Corinthian believers if those “who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished”?

20. How does v. 19 summarize Paul’s argument?

21. How does v. 19 speak to the many prosperity gospel preachers of our day?

22. In these verses, Paul has assumed things aren’t true to show the foolishness of those who are rejecting the resurrection. But these things are true! Write out these conditionals as true statements. How are these encouraging to you?

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23. What is Paul's argument in this section as a whole? What is the main point?

24. In what ways should this passage shift our thinking concerning the resurrection? Is the resurrection a minor piece of the gospel – a tag line of sorts at the end – or is the resurrection central to the gospel and the Christian faith?

25. What should we say about those who deny the resurrection according to this passage? Should we still consider them Christians?

26. How does this passage direct the hope that we have as believers? What are you hoping in?

In preparation for Sunday, pray that Summit Woods would rightly see the implications and importance of the resurrection. That we would fix our hope on our future resurrection.