

## **1 Corinthians 15:1-8, 12-22, 50-58**

### **I. Context**

- a. Paul writing to church in Corinth (in Greece) calling them into new life of faithful living and grounding them in understanding of the gospel of Christ
- b. 1 Corinthians 15 is longest *reflection* of resurrection in New Testament

### **II. Jesus' Resurrection is Foundational to Our Faith (vv.108)**

- a. Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures.
- b. He was buried, proving His death was real.
- c. He rose again on the third day, just as the Scriptures foretold.
- d. He appeared to Peter, the twelve, and over five hundred others.
- e. Conclusion: The resurrection is not expressed as myth or a symbolic story; it is conveyed a historical event attested by eyewitnesses.

### **III. Jesus' Resurrection Guarantees Our Future Hope (vv. 12-22)**

- a. Some questioned the resurrection of the dead, but Paul makes clear—if Christ has not been raised, then:
  - i. Our preaching is in vain – We have no message of hope.
  - ii. Our faith is worthless – We are still in our sins.
  - iii. Believers who have died are lost – There is no hope beyond the grave.
  - iv. We are the most miserable of all people – If our faith is only for this life, we have nothing
- b. v. 20: "*But* Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the *firstfruits* of those who have fallen asleep." His resurrection guarantees that we, too, will rise with Him.

### **IV. Jesus' Resurrection Offers Us Victory (vv. 50-58)**

- a. Paul closes chapter with a triumphant declaration of victory:
  - i. Our mortal bodies will be changed into imperishable, glorified bodies.
  - ii. Death will be swallowed up in victory.
  - iii. The sting of death is sin, but Jesus has overcome both sin and death.
- b. "Thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." (v, 57)
- c. Because of the resurrection:
  - i. We do not need to fear death.
  - ii. We can stand firm in faith. (v.58)
  - iii. We should give ourselves fully to the Lord's work, knowing our *labor is not in vain*; our faithfulness has meaning because there is something still to come

### **V. So what?**

- a. Easter is not just a day of remembrance; it is a call to live in the power of the risen Christ; v. 58—*Therefore, stand firm...*
- b. Because Christ lives, we have hope, purpose, and the assurance of eternal life.