

Discussion Questions

Date: April 5, 2026

Preacher: Josh Ratliff

Sermon Outline

Talking Points

If Christ Is Not Raised | 1 Corinthians 15:12-19

If Christ Is Not Raised:

- Hope is gone, and faith is useless.
- Sin still reigns.
- Death has the final word.
- **Question:** If you have not yet believed in Jesus, how does the finality of death affect you? For the believer, how do we live like Christ has not been raised?

"But in Fact Christ Has Been Raised," and That Means:

- We have hope, and faith makes us alive in Christ.
- The Holy Spirit reigns in us.
- We will rise again with Christ!
- **Question:** For the believer, how do you live today in the triumph of the resurrection? If you have not yet believed in Jesus, you are invited to join Jesus in His victory over death! How will you respond?

Bottom Line: If Christ is not raised, we are without hope. But because He lives, we have victory over sin and death!

* Why does the resurrection matter so much to the Christian faith?

* According to Paul, what would be true about preaching and faith if the resurrection did not happen? (verses 14-15)

* Why does Paul say in verse 17 that if Christ is not raised, we are still in our sins? What does this mean?

* What does it mean to be set free from the power of sin? To be sinless and perfect? To struggle with sin until you're made perfect in Heaven? How do we navigate this with grace and sanctification in mind?

* What would it mean if death had the final word? How does the thought of death affect you? Does it bring fear, anxieties, peace?

* On practical level, how should the resurrection of Jesus change the way you live?

* Are there areas of your life where sin, hopelessness, or fear have too much power or influence? How can looking to the Jesus and His resurrection heal these areas?

* How is knowing or remembering the resurrection going to change the way you live your life this week? What ways will your walk with Christ change knowing He is alive and working today? Who can you encourage with this reality this week?

Understanding Scripture

1. Read the passage aloud.

- Question: How would the original audience have understood this passage?
- Question: What was God's desire for them?

2. Reread key verse(s) aloud.

- Question: What does this teach us about the human soul, desires, or behavior?
- Question: What does this teach us about the nature, desires, or behavior of God?

3. Ask if anything is difficult to understand in the passage, or simply point it out yourself.

- Back up from the confusing verse and reread the whole section slowly—highlight the author's flow of thought.
- Ask everyone, "What are some possible interpretations?" Encourage curiosity!
- If needed, provide clarification, but admit if you don't have a satisfactory explanation, and volunteer to research answers. Share your findings over text or at the next meeting.

4. Summarize the passage in 1-3 sentences to refocus the group ("Okay, so far we've seen in Amos...")

- Question: What does this say about our relationship with God and/or each other?
- Question: How do the teachings, actions, or person of Jesus shed light on this passage?

Prayer Requests

