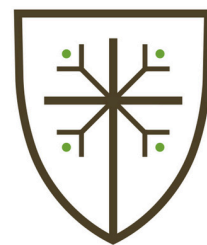


Lacking Nothing

A Sermon Series on 1 Corinthians

SERMON NOTES



August 10, 2025

SERMON INFO

TITLE

"Even When it Feels Like Losing"

PREACHER

Rev. Josh Keller

TEXTS

Isaiah 25:1, 6-9

1 Corinthians 15:1-20, 50-58

Luke 24:36-49

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. In what ways do we have a tendency to elevate the soul over the body or vice versa? Why is this problematic?
2. What labor do you find yourself doing that feels unseen and not like winning? How does the hope of the resurrection transform how we view that kind of work?

SERMON IN SUMMARY

This week, Josh wrapped up our summer series on 1 Corinthians with a look at the vital importance of the bodily resurrection.

Error

This is the first time in his letter that Paul really addresses a theological error existing in the Corinthian church. They had adopted the belief, common in the Greek world around them, that who we really are is our spirit and it is trapped in the cage of our body. The afterlife was simply the spirit's escape into eternity. Of all the topics covered in his letter, Paul spends the most time on the resurrection. The church's error on this point is the root of all the other problems – moral, ethical, relational – that plague them.

As we saw in the last two sermons in this series, the Corinthians prized spiritual gifts over everything else. And now we see why. Spiritual gifts were signs that they were breaking out of the cage of their bodies into the spiritual realm and, maybe more importantly, these types of gifts made them look like winners. But Paul says, no. God created both our bodies and our souls. He redeems both our bodies and our souls and, in Christ, we belong to him body and soul. Just as Christ died in his body and was raised in his body, we too will die and be raised to new life.

Linchpin

The resurrection is not simply an idea of the afterlife, it is the linchpin of our salvation. If there is no bodily resurrection, then Christ himself hasn't been raised and our faith is empty of the power of the promise. Without the resurrection, you are still in your sins, separated from God. Death wins if there is no resurrection. But in Christ, we see bodily proof of our own future victory. We see the promise of our own victory over sin and death a future life in which our bodies and souls are fully united and stand in the presence of God himself.

Continuity and Discontinuity

So if we are indeed raised from the dead, what does this body look like? There is both continuity with our earthly body and discontinuity. We see these both in Jesus' resurrected body. When he shows up to his disciples post-resurrection, he is recognizable. He eats. He can be touched. But he is also different. He can suddenly appear in the midst of them. He can walk through walls in a body unbounded by space and time. Our glorified body is not the same as the body we have now. It must be fitted for heaven and the presence of God.

Both are fundamentally important. Continuity tells us that those who have died in Christ, we will see again, recognize them, and hold them. Discontinuity says we will be changed, no longer sick, no longer broken. There is a transformation on the way where your body will be suited for eternal life.

Labor

What does this life look like for us now? Life in light of the hope of the resurrection has a goal towards which we labor. Labor, as opposed to toil, is a work that brings life into the world. We have physical labor but also spiritual labor – forgiving others, enduring suffering, living within the boundaries of our bodies, caring for the sick. Often this kind of work can look like we aren't "winning" in the world. But because of the resurrection, our labor is never in vain. There is a transformation that will take place that will make it some more victorious and more grand than you could have ever imagined while going through it. God places us in locations and roles that we have not chosen and that are often hidden from the watching world. But he knows and he sees.

In Jesus, our future is set. Our victory is certain. So, as Josh exhorted us at the end of his sermon, do the labor God has given you to do to bring his glory and his kingdom into this world. You are, in Christ, lacking nothing.