

# **Reedy Fork Baptist Church**

***Wednesday, March 18, 2026***

## **BIBLE STUDY**

**Theme: "Hope In The Resurrection"**

### ***SCRIPTURE IN RESPONSE: 1 Corinthians 15:12-25***

<sup>12</sup> But if it is preached that Christ has been raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead?

<sup>13</sup> If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised.

<sup>14</sup> And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith.

<sup>15</sup> More than that, we are then found to be false witnesses about God, for we have testified about God that he raised Christ from the dead. But he did not raise him if in fact the dead are not raised.

<sup>16</sup> For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either.

<sup>17</sup> And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins.

<sup>18</sup> Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost.

<sup>19</sup> If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

<sup>20</sup> But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

<sup>21</sup> For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man.

<sup>22</sup> For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive.

<sup>23</sup> But each in turn: Christ, the firstfruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him.

<sup>24</sup> Then the end will come, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father after he has destroyed all dominion, authority and power.

<sup>25</sup> For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet.

## I. Key Words:

- Hope
- Resurrection
- Futile
- First fruits

## II. People, Places, & Times:

- Apostle Paul
- Corinth
- Corinthian Church

## III. Background:

Written around AD 53–57, 1 Corinthians 15 addresses a crisis of belief in the Corinthian church, where some members were denying the future bodily resurrection. Paul reaffirms the resurrection as central to the gospel, utilizing a very early creed (1 Cor 15:3–8) highlighting apostolic witnesses.

- The Problem: Corinthian Christians, influenced by Greek philosophy (which despised the body) or over-realized eschatology (believing they were already living in the resurrected state), were rejecting the resurrection of the dead.
- The Early Creed: Verses 3–8 are widely considered an extremely early oral tradition (creed) received by Paul, dating to within 2–5 years of Jesus' death (c. AD 30–33). This suggests that the resurrection was preached from the very beginning.
- Context of the City: Corinth was a cosmopolitan Roman city known for immorality, commerce, and diverse philosophical schools, including skeptics.
- Purpose: Paul argues that denying the resurrection renders Christian faith futile and contradicts eyewitness testimony. He affirms a "spiritual body" (1 Cor 15:44) which is a transformed, immortal body, not a ghostly existence.
- Significance: This is the earliest written account of the resurrection of Jesus.
- The chapter serves as a theological defense, reinforcing the "physical-spiritual" continuity of resurrection life, placing it as the cornerstone of the Christian.

## IV. In Depth:

### 1. Lesson Emphasis #1: A Faith with a Future.

The resurrection of Christ means that we have a faith that is not futile, but rather a faith with a future.

- A. We have a faith with a future because life has overcome death.
- B. We have a faith with a future because the Light shines in the darkness.
- C. We have a faith with a future because love has overthrown hate.
- D. We have a faith with a future because the Truth has conquered the lie.
- E. We have a faith with a future because goodness has vanquished evil.

### 2. Lesson Emphasis #2: We have a future.

- A. The resurrection of Christ means, it guarantees that we have a future.
- B. Christ's resurrection is the firstfruits of the believer's resurrection.
  - 1. Here Paul provides the Christian with a sense of hope in his or her salvation.
- C. The firstfruits from a harvest are a promise of more harvest yet to come, and the resurrection of Christ is the assurance that we too shall rise at the sound of the trumpet.
- D. Christ inaugurates a new covenant in which the cycle of sin and death, begun in the old Adam, is broken.
  - 1. In the old Adam all seemed desolate and hopeless, but in the new Adam there is redemption and hope.
  - 2. Jesus defeated sin and death, thereby liberating those who believe in him.
  - 3. Our hope is not just that Jesus has overcome our ultimate foes.
  - 4. Our hope is the assurance that in Jesus we too shall overcome our foes and that we will participate in the harvest of the resurrection.

## V. Make It Happen

- What does resurrection mean?
- Why is the resurrection important to the Christian's faith?
- What does our faith provide us?

