

Made Alive In Christ

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This morning we come to what many have brightly called one of the greatest chapters in all of scripture. One commentary puts it, if you would select 10 of the greatest chapters of the Bible, you will find that 1 Corinthians 15 will be on that list. It is that important. Why? Because this chapter confronts the first heresy, the first deviation from established biblical truth which ultimately distorts the gospel and particularly regarding the Lord Jesus' nature and authority. The early church faced this heresy denying the bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Paul has already addressed the Corinthians' carnalities, namely worldliness. He did that in five chapters of First Corinthians, spending plenteous time showing where they were and where they're supposed to be, worldly versus their new nature in Christ. And it was all due to immaturity in the Lord. And this is God's grace. This is God's mercy that as believers when we have new birth, just like a newborn baby, God allows room for grace. He allows room for grace. This is our God. He doesn't just give up on us. He doesn't just leave us alone. No, he is with us in our trials. He is wanting us to be more mature in the Lord Jesus Christ. So Paul, apostle Paul spends five chapters there and then in three chapters he spends on spiritual gifts. God gives every believer in Christ, a new creature in Christ, a specific gift to be used in the community of believers, namely in the local church. So here at Calvary Road, every believer here has a unique gift that helps the whole body and namely to strengthen the body to bring unity to the body in the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. So again, he spends three chapters on spiritual gifts that builds up the local church and not only strengthens but encourages and comforts within the body God's word, the instrument that God uses God's word in comforting, strengthening, and encouraging. And then also the supremacy of love, bringing us to First Corinthians and chapter 13, the love chapter, spending a whole chapter on what real love looks like, namely God's love in the lives of believers.

And now we're in 1 Corinthians 15 this morning. And so go ahead and turn with me to this chapter and we're going to go through this up to verse 22 beginning in verse one. And we're going to go through the facts of the resurrection of Jesus Christ and here it is and our own resurrection that we will be also physically bodily resurrected one day. And we're going to go through the gifts of knowing God, knowing God that we're not left to our own devices. Again, like I mentioned at the beginning, he is going to walk with us as

believers through our whole life. He won't leave us to our own selves. He won't. That's not what a good father does, does he, with his children. And he decrees to every believer that this gift of the Holy Spirit would be used functionally not only in the local church setting but also into the outside community that we are gospel witnesses. We have witnessed the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ individually and we just share that gospel message to the lost world. And we do not work up these virtues by the way of the Holy Spirit. By no means. It is all by grace and through faith in Christ. Not of works any man should boast. Right?

In Ephesians, God gives the fruit of the spirit. And we see these laid out in Galatians 5:22 to 23. Namely, love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faithfulness, meekness, temperance. These nine attributes represents the character produced by the Holy Spirit in every believer's life. All by the way to help in all kinds of circumstances of life. Namely, we're dealing with sin. We're dealing with death. We're dealing with sicknesses, financial hardships, brokenness, and all sorts of things related to the work of sin. Destructive, isn't it? And yet these characteristics are opposite of destruction. It's lifegiving. Lifegiving. And is a God who looks beyond death itself, the sunset of death. And he looks to the sunrise of eternity. That's what Easter represents. We look to the east for the sunrise. And that God looks namely at the Lord Jesus Christ. And what he does for God is for us. We're in that story of that sunrise of eternity. God eternal son resurrected from the grave. We're going to go there offering true hope that gives meaning and purpose to our existence. That this life is not temporal. That what we are here in this world is all temporal.

There is only one thing our soul and where it rests. Either an eternal hell or eternal life in heaven. It is God that tests us with non-negotiable truths. Every believer, if you're here, we have non-negotiable truths that we rest on. We don't negotiate this with God. What God says in his word, we trust it by faith, of course, which he even gives as a gift. Amen. And the essential and primary truths that we're going to read this morning are those non-negotiables that we accept it without being questioned or doubted. Namely, the person and the work of the Lord Jesus Christ. Any teaching that diminishes the resurrection is an attack by the enemy on the person of Christ. God's word is the rock upon which we are placed. He places us on the rock, the firm foundation which is the Lord Jesus Christ. And it's God who ensures our foundation is not shifting sand which is unstable unreliable and that's representing life of an unbeliever which is temporary security. What is that to you? Is it your home? Is it your wealth? Is it any possessions that you have that you are just holding on with a tight grip because you can only grip onto one or the other? And God doesn't want you to grip on the temporal world. He doesn't want you to be on the foundation of sand. He wants you to be on the foundation which is built on the rock, the Lord Jesus Christ. So don't disobey God's word because that is how you become unstable. That is how you become insecure by disobeying God's word. You see, he wants God

wants you to be on the unchangeable foundation, namely Christ. His unchangeable nature. Building one's life on him builds your faith and secures your soul forever and ever. And this life and the life to come. And this chapter is not merely about theological truths, which they are. We're not going to go too deeply this morning, but I want to lay the foundation for all of us that as believers. It's a reminder for us. And I hope it's just a reassurance that is a confidence that you have built your life on the foundation of the Lord Jesus Christ. Without the resurrection, there is no gospel. There is no salvation. There is no hope. And there is no future. No real future hope. So with that said, please stand. I'm going to go ahead and read these 22 verses and then we're going to go in depth or rather touch on them this morning.

Beginning in verse one. Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand, by which also ye are saved, if you keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins, according to the scriptures, and that he was buried, and that he arose again the third day, according to the scriptures, and he was seen of Cephas and of the 12. After that he was seen of above 500 brethren at once, of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep. After that he was seen of James and of all the apostles. And last of all he was seen of me also as of one born out of due time. For I am the least of the apostles that I'm not meet to be called an apostle because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am. And his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain. But I labored more abundantly than they all. Yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me. Therefore, whether it were I or they, so we preach, and so ye believed. Now, if Christ be preached that he rose from the dead, how say some among you that there is no resurrection of the dead? But if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen? And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain. Yea. And we are found false witnesses of God because we have testified of God that he raised up Christ whom he raised not up. If so be that the dead rise not. For if the dead rise not, then is not Christ raised. And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain. Ye are yet in your sins. Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished. If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable, but now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the first fruits of them that slept. For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. May God bless the reading of his word. You may be seated.

I want us to first look at the first four verses of chapter 15. The gospel that Paul preached is a gospel God revealed to him ultimately didn't come from himself. God revealed it from the outside into his mind into his heart and he starts off with moreover meaning there's more than what I have preached to you brethren. He says this is for believers.

Brethren is believers in Christ. He says, I declare unto you the gospel. This gospel is not a theory again made up by man. Not an idea that man created, not even a philosophical construct. Albeit there were many of those during that day. Many philosophers came to being during the time of the Corinthian church. One commentator puts it that these are objective facts, non-negotiables. Christ died, was buried, and rose again. These are historical facts based upon scripture. The gospel of God causes us to receive. You see the words there, received this gospel in verse one, meaning again as believers. They we have received this gospel, the good news of Jesus Christ. Our foundation is secure. Therefore, as John 1:12 explains what that means, as many as received him, to them gave him power to become the sons of God. You see, to receive Christ means to believe on his name, namely the Lord Jesus Christ. Receiving Christ is not something we work up. Again, it's receiving, not giving. It's receiving. Nothing that's worked up in us. God gives the new birth to us. And so the gospel in which God causes us to stand is namely what God gives to us. And we receive it and we stand based on these truths laid upon our hearts. Paul says they stand. We stand. In verse one, their standing is not self-maintained. God is the one that allows them to stand. You see, that's his strength in us. And then we see that the gospel which God gave and saves us is in verse two. By also ye are saved. Again past tense. And the salvation is not the result of our efforts. Spurgeon said this. He says it is not thy joy meaning our joy. Is not our hope. It is Christ. It is Christ. It is Christ's blood and merits that saves us. Amen.

See, just resting in Christ is enough. Brethren, the gospel according to the scriptures, we see this in verse three and four. Paul tells us about the root of the gospel, the message that it's written in God's word. Our foundation is the word of God. Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures, was buried, and rose again the third day according to the scriptures. And we see that the Lord Jesus and even the apostles namely Peter and Paul point to the old texts of scripture namely Psalm 16 and Psalm 22 and Isaiah 53. All of this by the way is for witnesses. If you know anything about facts, what do we need? We need witnesses. And not just one, but we need at least a minimum of two and three according to the writings of Deuteronomy in scripture. And this is by the way in court cases, right? people come to speak and testify and share the facts that they witnessed and it's consistent with what prophecy laid out. Some of them Isaiah 700 years prophesied and so the gospel is a promise that you can stand on because it is him that ultimately accomplished it, not us. We fail in this. God is the one that revealed this truth long ago. So the meaning of the resurrection God specifies is the resurrection is not merely spiritual. Get this. It's not merely spiritual. It's physical.

This is the heresy that Christ rose spiritually. No, he rose physically. Flesh and bone body. Amen. He rose flesh and bone. That's the meaning of the resurrection. Rather, if you look at the original term of this word resurrection, it refers to standing up of a corpse. So once dead rising up that's what it literally means. It is God who causes the body to stand. And

many philosophers by the way came again during this time of the writings of the Corinthians namely I'm going to name three of them to you that these are the heresies and false narratives stoicism and epicureanism and platonism. These are the three they sought to destroy the deity of Christ to deny the bodily resurrection of Christ in one of them. God's word insists that the body is raised. And that's why this chapter we're going to go over the resurrection of Christ again and again and again. And the two pillars that we're going to see here that we stand on the two pillars is this justification. Justification that God is the one that justifies us, not us. Christ died for our sins. This is divine necessity because of our offenses. We offended God and they must be punished and Christ received the punishment on our behalf. That's the first pillar. He died on our behalf. He was buried and raised. God raised the Lord Jesus for our justification. And this is by the way a legal term. The legal act where God declares a sinner righteous, made right before God and guiltless based on the faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. And what is that?

Christ accomplished on the cross the payment, the full payment of our sins. That's why we're justified. That's why we're made right. God was pleased with that payment on the cross. No human works could have outdone what Christ did on the cross. Let me just name some of them. Is anyone amongst us sinless? Is anyone perfectly obeying God every single thing that he commands? Can you be blameless? Is anyone amongst us that can say, Well, it was that person that caused me to sin or this person caused me to sin. No. Jesus at the cross was like a lamb and he was quiet. He didn't blame anyone. You see, Adam blamed Eve. Eve blamed Satan.

When it came to Christ, he stopped the blame. He took the blame for us. Amen. The blameless Lord Jesus Christ. And in this immediate once-for-all declaration where Christ's righteousness imputed, transferred to us as believers, his righteousness restoring us in God's sight. We have now a connection with God through Jesus Christ. He is pleased with us. As he looks at Jesus, being pleased with Christ, what he done on the cross, he looks at us as if he's looking at his son. He's well pleased in us. That should just blow our mind. We should constantly repeat the gospel. This is good news, not good advice, not what you have to do for him, but rather what God has done for you in Christ Jesus. News means past tense advice says you got to do something now. This is glorious. It is written in Romans 4:25, He was delivered for our offenses and was raised again for our justification. There it is, another text to confirm what Christ has done for us. In his death, God subtracted not one of our sins, not two of our sins, not a dozen of our sins, no, all of our sins. Cancelled immediately, once and for all.

All the red gone by his crimson blood. The pure blood canceling all of that out. And that's how we're declared righteous. He subtracts all of our sins. And then in his resurrection, God provides a sure entrance into heaven because that's where God, the Lord Jesus Christ is. Where is he? The right hand of God the Father. So if he's there, we're going to be there

with him. Not at the right hand, but there in heaven. Amen. We're going to be with him in heaven. Let's just think about this. We know a little picture of this as home. If some of us have homes, God has graced us with, you have to work for that mortgage, don't you? You have to work. Unless you're inheriting a great possession. Normal people, average person pays for their home. And yet this is grace. God says your home is already ready for you. Your home is already for you don't have to work for that home. Once you're a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ, he has secured a home for you in heaven that has your name written on it because he wants you to stay with him forever and ever and ever. Where is a place that we like to stay? It's our home. But you see as believers, our home is not here on earth. We have a temporal dwelling.

Back in the days, they call it tents. We have now mansions, some of us, compared to tents. And that can be a deception, can it? It can make us feel somewhat secure. But God doesn't want us to secure ourselves again on the temporal things, even your home that you spend most of your time in. He wants you to think, No, your eternal home is in heaven. And there is no rust, no moth, nothing that can deteriorate that home. So every time you notice your home deteriorating, yeah, that's temporal. Amen. That car that starts rusting, my car is rusting. It's just temporal. But nothing ever dies in heaven. Amen. So it's not a faith of man that saves us, but rather the blood, the merit, what he did, his merit, his work of what he did on the cross that applies to our soul by justification.

Now let's look at verses 5 and 11. Verses 5-11, this is where we're going to see that the resurrection of Christ is verified. So we go from facts to now verification of these facts. Verification of these facts. So that dispels all doubt, all doubt and all kind of questions that may still linger with the facts. God provides objective historical facts rather than subjective truths rather theories. God orchestrates appearances of the risen Christ to specific witnesses to verify the truth. We need again witnesses here and we're going to see them beginning in verse 5. We see the witnesses of these facts. We see in verse 5, we see first with Cephas which is Peter. So what you see here first person that he comes to is to Peter and I think he goes to him privately and this is just my opinion is that he needed to strengthen some things out with him because after all he denied him three times. Remember that. And so he wants to speak to him privately on those situations. He wants to ultimately restore any sinner. That's amazing, isn't it? We can do all sorts of things and yet he ultimately restores every sinner that trusts in the Lord Jesus Christ. And then we're going to see here that he visits the 12. This is just namely a meaning of a collective term.

Obviously we know that Jesus Judas fell. So he was one of the 12 but Matthias replaced him. So he is considered of the 12 after all. This is after the resurrection of Jesus Christ. And God ensures that the apostolic witness was complete the 12. And then we see here God revealed Christ to 500 other brothers. You see that word brethren there. So he comes to believers. He comes to every single one that believed on his name. And this mass

appearance, we go from the one to the 12 to the 500 is undeniable. They all say the same thing because they saw the resurrected Christ. That was it. They saw him. They saw him. That's undeniable. And so they were traveling all across to this place of Galilee where he will be spending 40 days and 40 nights. And he meets them all there. Then we see in verse going to verse 5 to 6 to now seven, he goes to James. James, by the way, is the half brother of the Lord Jesus Christ. And he goes and visits him. And he was once an unbelieving half brother. I won't go into the full story, but he was a believer in Christ. He's the one that wrote the book of James. And by the way, another book of another half brother is a book of Jude. So you can go to those sources of truth of Christ revealing himself to both these brethren. Now then we go into all the apostles and continuing in verse 7. And then we go and sit at verse 8. Last of all he was seen of me. That's the apostle Paul also as one born out of due time.

This word due time essentially means that he didn't get to see him his physical resurrected body but he did witness him on the road to Damascus and he spoke to him specifically why persecutest me he said those words Jesus Christ to the miraculous appearance of Christ's ascension remember this is after his resurrection he speaks to apostle Paul and then we look at this wonderful statement in verse 10 But by the grace of God, I am what I am. And his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain, but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.

I love this text and I was meditating on this verse and it reminded me in the culture that we live in, it's very much a performance-based culture, right? Just turn on your television or your screen nowadays on your phone, mobile devices, tablets. And what you see there is many of the shows that you see is performance-based, right? I remember back in the day, American Idol, America's Got Talent, and so on and so on and so on. Our culture is this performance-based. If you do everything right, great. If you don't, we're going to just call you out. You did this thing wrong, did this thing wrong, this thing wrong. Everything is evaluation between us comparing each other. And I thought about it and it's that that's not what Christianity is. God is not saying, Hey, you have to perform for me exactly this way and this way and this way and this way. If you do something wrong, I give up on you. You're done. Your performance is done. No, it's flipped. We don't perform for him at all. But rather what God performs in us.

Because the end result is that if you perform for yourself, you ultimately at the end is you're glorifying yourself, aren't you? But the end result of when God performs in you, you glorify God. You glorify God. That's why in 1 Corinthians 10:31, do all things to what? To the glory of God. And we can rest in his performance in us from the beginning of our salvation all the way to our sanctification to our ultimate glorification and a new resurrected body that kind of rests a lot of such bad so-called Christians whenever you see a performance on the stage or something like that the goal is not to put our attention

on ourselves the great John the Baptist He was the last of the Old Testament prophets. And Jesus said that there will be no greater prophet than him. And he was the one that said, He must increase and I must decrease. He must increase. I must decrease. See, as Christians, that's how our lives are. We want to decrease ourselves. And we want to make Christ exalted in our lives. We want to glorify God in our lives. So, I love this passage. It's not, he says, yet not I, but by the grace of God which was with me. He performed based on his grace, not the other way around. Because the other way around, let me go to verse 9. Let me show you what performance looks like with man. For I am the least of the apostles. I am not meet to be called apostle because I persecuted the church of God in his flesh. Oh, he went all in. Oh. Oh, yeah. He was performance-based, but his end result was to glorify himself. And you know what? His actions are to persecute the church. And look at the way God works. Amen. He flips that completely around. Now he is in the church speaking amongst brothers. He calls brothers and sisters in Christ. And he dies for Christ, not killing believers anymore. What a complete transformation that only grace can do. Amen. So we see it in this man. And then we see in verse 11, I love this humility of Paul. He says, Therefore, whether it were I or they, so we preach and so ye believed. As long as this word is preached, whether I preach it or the other apostles or other Christians down the line, pastors, as long as what?

You believe the good news of Jesus Christ. And that rests very right at home with me because I just want you to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ. Just believe in him. He will save you. He will save you. Now, now let's go to verse 12. And we're going to look at 12 and 19. Okay? And we're just going to scan through these verses, but verse 12. Some in Corinth deny the resurrection. Not Christ's resurrection specifically at verse 12, but just resurrection in general. Their thinking was shaped by stoicism. Again, these are the leading philosophers during the time of Corinth.

So what is stoicism? Relying on self-reliance. Self-reliance rather than grace. The second was Epicureanism. They were notable for denying the afterlife. No afterlife after this. The soul's immortality was non-existent and divine intervention was an impossibility. Focusing instead on just pleasure and avoiding pain in this life. Just living for the temporal just pleasing yourself. Next, Platonism. This is undervaluing the physical creation, resurrection, and the promises of a new earth, which Jesus said that there will be a new earth and a new heaven. That's God's word. And so, those are the three things that they were wrestling with. And Paul is saying all that is wrong. And he's going to verify this verses 12-19. He's going to show them that they're wrong. So the consequence of denying God therefore because he doesn't want them to deny God in which they won't is apostle Paul forces to face the logical ifs because in philosophies you have if then. If then. So you'll notice all these ifs from verses 12 to 19. This is what happens. This is what the consequences.

This is what happens. is the consequences. So we see many ifs here and in verse 16 and 17, that's where we're going to go. For if the dead rise not, if the dead rise not, then is not Christ raised. And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain. You are yet in your sins. So if you follow the philosophers, he's saying, look, you are still in your sins. You are still in your sins. This is this is important facts and truths. And so he starts in verse 13 or rather in verse 12. Now if Christ be preached that he rose from the dead, how say some among you that there is no resurrection of the dead? Some of them are questioning. Remember non-negotiables. They're questioning. And so in verse 13, he goes on and says, But if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen? Is not Christ risen? You see, you either stand on the condition if then your consequence is what that it's you stand on those promises on those truths. So the if statement is very important. It's where you stand will ultimately result in your consequence. So he's making him think look if you are standing on this truth this is what your consequence is going to be.

No resurrection. And then he continues on in verse 14. If Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain. Everything I'm saying is just empty to you. And your faith is also empty. Vain. That's verse 14. Faith has no power unless God raised Christ. Your faith is useless. He's saying if Christ is not risen. And then verse 15 he says, Yea, and we are found false witnesses of God because we have testified of God that he raised up Christ whom he raised not up if so be that the dead rise not. Here in verse 15, we see he's talking about false witnesses then. So he goes from false assumptions to false witnesses. And so one commentator says that men do not die for what they know is a lie. It's true. Like we died because of truth. That's what the apostles died based on this resurrection truth. And then we go on in verse 16 and then 17. For if the dead rise not, then is not Christ raised? And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain. You are yet in your sins. That's it. Do you want to still be in your sins? I don't think any of us want to. That's a rhetorical question. And he states it that way. And so in Romans 4:25 again, he was raised again for our justification. It's been settled. The court's been closed. This case is closed. Don't question it. Don't doubt it. What you believed in in those truths will stand. Will stand. Without resurrection, there is no justification. Therefore, and then we go on in verse 18. Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished. Here we see that the dead in Christ have perished and they will stay dead if this is the case that they will not rise again from the dead. And then verse 19, this is Paul just hitting the heart right here. He's just, you know, using these words just to get us like, whoa. Okay. Okay. Okay, Paul. Okay, Paul. And so he says this in verse 19. If in this life only we have hope in Christ, what does he say? We are of all men most miserable. If you believe in these if statements, you are most miserable. We are most miserable. If that's the case, if Christ be not raised, we are about the most miserable people. But we're not. Amen.

We're not and we're rejoicing because we know he did rise from the dead. He did rise. And so he assures them in this last kind of nail in the coffin truth in verses 20 to 22. He

rests the case here. Let's look at it. Verse 20 to 22. But now, but now that's an important word. But now transition in Christ is Christ risen from the dead and become the first fruits of them that slept. For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. Those are such good guarantees. These are guaranteed statements. No more ifs. We're past that. This is the one that rests in Christ. The settled case, the chair of victory. But God, that transition but now does not leave us in hopelessness. We were in that hopeless statements, but we're no longer in that hopeless place here. Now Paul turns from the hypothetical to the glorious reality. Hear the declaration there. Verse 20. But now is Christ risen from the dead and become the first fruits of them that slept. First fruits is the idea is the first batch of a harvest. And so Jesus was that first batch that would continue on in the harvest. And that is namely all of us as believers just as he was a first batch that rose. We will one day rise just like him. Using farming language and that's a beautiful thing that we're all going to be raised one day. There's more to come. That's what he's saying. There's more to come. The fulfillment will take its place because as soon as Christ raised from the dead, all will rise from the dead that believe in the resurrection of Christ. This speaks of just guarantee of all the saints. Resurrection also for us. Amen. The Old Testament, God appointed the festival first fruits to indicate that a greater harvest was coming. Can read that in the Old Testament. Christ is the only one. God has currently raised in a glorified body. You see, none of us have a glorified body yet, which serves as God's absolute guarantee that all who belong to him will be resurrected at his second coming. Amen. And then verses 21 to 22 more just guarantee of his resurrection. We see here two men, two men. The first man, Adam, the second, the Lord Jesus Christ, the last Adam, as it were. See, the two Adams, God's plan involves two representatives. Ultimately, this is the way God sees it. Two representatives, Adam and the Lord Jesus Christ. There is no other man. There's no other man that God looks at. We are either of Adam's race or in Christ. This is God's plan. Two representatives. God records it here in 1 Corinthians 15:21-22. For since that word, by man came death. That's Adam. By man came also the resurrection of the dead. This is a glorious truth. Adam brought death, namely through sin. What does Romans 6:23 says? The wages of sin is death. He brought it in to the race. That's why there's deaths. Nobody here has ever resurrected yet. But God through the man Christ Jesus has brought life and resurrection life. He was dead and he rose again.

You said there will be a day and ultimate fulfillment when the Lord Jesus comes to take his church out of this world. Every known and named believer. So I conclude here with this question because this message is for believers. He started it out with that and he ends with that. So the question is where do you this morning stand? Where do you stand? Paul began this chapter by saying the Corinthians received the gospel, stood in the gospel, were saved by the gospel. But he also warned unless ye have believed in vain. Verse two.

So he does speak to this group, those that believe in vain that think that this is empty. The gospel is not good news somehow to you. The question is not whether the resurrection is true. It is true. God has declared it. He verified it. He defended it and he guaranteed it. The question is where do you stand today? Do you stand in Christ? God-given faith. Has he given you that faith? Has God given you life, eternal life? Has God given you eternal hope? Those are good questions to think about. God-given hope. Do you stand in that in yourself this morning? Because there's only one gospel. There's only one good news. Because there's only one savior. There's only one resurrection.

There's only one hope and that is in the Lord Jesus Christ. We do not at all hold fast by our own strength as I mentioned. Rather, it's by God's grace. By God's grace, he gives us life and more abundantly. And he bestows upon us to prevent our faith from being in vain. We're not living empty lives here, brothers and sisters in Christ. And if you are looking at from the outside and you look at Christians, man, they must live empty lives. Why do they do what they do? I remember one preacher said this says, you know, why do you come to so many of these services? Why do you serve without receiving any money? Why do you do all this stuff? And even will die for this truth. And the only thing that you can say of this person is because he's a Christian. There's no other reasoning. You can't say he's oh, you know, a great philosopher or he's a great philanthropist. No, all the reasoning is because we're simply Christians. We believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and we will die for this truth if it comes to that. James 1:17 says, Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above and cometh down from the father of lights with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.

Meaning there's no lie in him. Everything in him is perfectly true. And the perfect truth came down one day in human form in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. He is the word become flesh in John. This is the one you can believe in. Some of you have lived a life of lie up to this point and you don't know how to get yourself out of it. The only way is you have to believe in the one truth who said, I am the way. I am the truth. I am the life. No man cometh unto the father but by me. John 14:6. That's the only thing you need to do is just rest in him. Just rest in him. If God is calling you to that rest this morning, know that this anchor that you place your trust in is in a living person. And you will live a life of truth. Not perfectly. There is room for forgiveness, but you will live ultimately in truth. Know this. Christ is risen. God guarantees that all who are in him shall rise one day. And so with that, Christ is risen. And Christ is risen indeed. Amen. If you want to come and speak to me, please come to me. I am available. You may be going and wanting to eat or you got something else.

I will make myself available all the way to the end. Just know that you can speak to me. I would love to speak with you. With that said, let's close in prayer for God to bless our time here this morning. Thank you, Father, for just the evidence after evidence of your

truth. Thank you for all the witnesses, Father, not only through the written word, but also the witnesses in this room of the risen Christ. Thank you that you provided all of this by your grace and ultimately by what Christ has come here to do was to pay for the full penalty of our sin. Absorbed the wrath that we deserved of the guilt. He removed the guilt and he paid it in full saying it is finished on the cross. And then on the third day once he was buried, he rose from the grave and is now seated at your right hand, God the Father. And it is his prayer, Father, that I recognize that he's interceding for each one in this room right now to come to him if they're not in him. I pray father that you would by your mercy and your grace that you would bring about salvation to someone here this afternoon and we will thank you and we will glorify you in all this. I pray father that you will bless the meal that we're about to have. Thank you for all the hands that prepared it and may use to strengthen us to glorify you for the rest of this day in Jesus name. Amen.