



SERMON REFLECTION GUIDE

Christian Doctrine, Part 9: God Risen: The Doctrine of the Resurrection
1 Corinthians 15 - October 11, 2026

SERMON OUTLINE

Intro - The greatest 3-sport athlete ever and dreams that die. The inevitable decline of the human being, the spectre of death, and the hope of resurrection.

"The resurrection of Christ is the most important article of our faith, and without it the hope of eternal life is extinguished." - John Calvin

The Doctrine of the Resurrection from 1 Corinthian 15

A. The Historical Truth of Christ's Resurrection (1 Corinthians 15:1-11)

- Paul defines the gospel message in 4 bullet point statements: that... Christ died for our sins, was buried, was raised, and appeared to many witnesses.
- As discussed last Sunday, Christ's death was for atonement *from sin*, and the method of crucifixion was necessary — therefore, "we preach Christ *crucified*" (1 Cor. 1:23)
- Paul uses the perfect tense for "that he was raised" (v. 4), meaning that the resurrection is not strictly a past tense action, but an *ongoing state* of Jesus.
- The appearances of the risen Jesus to particular groups give extraordinary proof that Jesus was alive in his body after his crucifixion.

B. The Ongoing Implications of Christ's Resurrection (1 Corinthians 15:12-22)

- *If Christ did not rise*: preaching is in vain (v. 14), faith is in vain (v. 14), we lie about God (v. 15), we are still in sin (v. 17), the dead perish (v. 18), hope in this life only (v. 19)
- The key feature of the first sermons ever preached was "*that God raised Jesus from the dead.*"
- See: Acts 2:23-24, 3:26, 4:10, 5:30
- Jesus validates both his *claim to divinity* and his *ability to forgive sin* by rising from the dead.
- 1 Corinthians 15:12-19 — "*If* there is no resurrection..." (7x)
- 1 Corinthians 15:20 — But *in fact* Christ has been raised from the dead...
- The resurrection of Jesus Christ makes possible our resurrection from the dead, provided that we are united to him in faith.
- Baptism as the *vessel* and *marker* of this union in death and resurrection — Romans 6:3-5

C. A Resurrection of Your Own (1 Corinthians 15:42-57)

- Language of falling asleep in a certain state and arising in the complete opposite state.
- Perishable to imperishable, dishonor to glory, etc.
- The resurrection of the Christian will be indestructible and wonderful, as we become like Jesus as we see him face to face. (1 Jn 3:2)
- The sting of death (1 Cor. 15:56) will be eliminated since death itself will be no more. (Rev. 21:4)
- Our *ascent* out of decay and dishonor is made possible by Jesus's *descent* into decay and dishonor. The resurrection and the crucifixion remain hand in hand.



SERMON REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. Do you agree with John Calvin that the doctrine of the resurrection is the most important doctrine within our salvation?
2. Why does Paul start 1 Cor. 15 with a clarification of what the gospel is? How does Paul understand the components of the gospel message?
3. Why does he list those to whom the risen Jesus appeared? How is that list a helpful proof for the veracity of the resurrection?
4. Some among progressive Christianity deny the historical, bodily resurrection miracle. What do we lose if the resurrection didn't happen?
5. According to this chapter, what do we gain if the resurrection is true?
6. How does understanding 1 Corinthians 15 help explain your own baptism to you?
7. How does Paul describe the resurrection body and the future of Christians on the last day?