



### Week 3

**Sermon Series: Death is Defeated**

**Sermon Title:** "If Christ has Not Been Raised..."

**Sermon Text: 1 Corinthians 15:12-18**

**Study Handout Week of: February 13, 2022**

**Group Week of: February 20, 2022**

**Sermon Date: February 27, 2022**

<b>Scriptures for Additional Daily Studies</b>	
<b>Day 1</b>	The Resurrection of Jesus – Matt 28:1-15
<b>Day 2</b>	Doubt in the Resurrection – Acts 23:1-11
<b>Day 3</b>	If Christ Isn't Raised – 1 Cor 15:29-34
<b>Day 4</b>	Christian Difficulties – John 16:16-33
<b>Day 5</b>	Hope – Romans 5:1-11

### **The Text: 1 Corinthians 15:12-18**

- 1) **Read** the text slowly and carefully.
- 2) **Pray** for understanding, insight, and transformation.
- 3) **Observe Everything.** Use pens and highlighters to mark the text. Come up with your own system of symbols, underlines, arrows, highlights, and notes, that will *help you understand and apply*. Only do what is helpful.
- 4) **Answer** the interpretive questions at the bottom.

<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.

### **Textual Questions**

- 1) What is the message God and Paul are speaking to the Corinthians (and to you) through this passage?
- 2) Did the Corinthians doubt the resurrection of Jesus, of people, or both?
- 3) Why is the resurrection necessary for Christians to be forgiven of their sins?

## Discussion Guide Questions

- 1) There was a great number of Corinthians who did not believe that Christians would be resurrected after their death. The reason for this can be found in 1 Corinthians 6:12-14. Examine the passage and answer this question: "What motivated some Corinthians not to believe in the bodily resurrection of Christians?"
  
- 2) When some of the Corinthians attacked the doctrine of the resurrection, they also, knowingly or unknowingly, attacked the resurrection of Jesus. Had they thought critically about what they are saying, they would have realized this and repented of this false teaching. How can we be critical with our own thoughts about God and guard ourselves against false beliefs that would dishonor Him? Use an example in your answer if you can think of one.
  
- 3) If Christ has not been raised, then the apostles' preaching, and the Corinthians' faith would be useless. Why is this true according to Paul's arguments? Secondly, in your own words, why is the resurrection critical to your faith?
  
- 4) Consider for a moment that you are not a Christian. That you lived your whole life and never became a Christian. What would be different than today? Consider your home, job, family, time, trials, etc.
  - i. Reflect on the answer above. Have you sacrificed anything to follow Jesus? If Christ had not been raised, would anything really change in your life?
  
  - ii. Reflect on the answer above. How do you feel about your answer? Does this strengthen your faith or bring about worry? Why?
  
- 5) Paul says that if Christ has not been raised, we are most of all to be pitied. This is only true if we've genuinely given our lives to Jesus. Are there any areas of your life that are not submitted and surrendered to Jesus? Your finances, marriage, children, job, hobbies, etc.? What is holding you back from surrendering those things to Christ?
  
- 6) If you have something to surrender to Jesus. Do so now and write out your commitment below. Ask your Life Group for help in staying accountable with surrendering that thing to Jesus.