

**“Hope in Christ”
1 Corinthians 15:19**

Big Idea – The risen Christ gives us hope in this life and beyond.

1 Corinthians 15:19 “If our hope in Christ is for this life only, we should be pitied more than anyone else in the world.”

Corinth was a Greek city, and the Greeks did not believe in the resurrection of the dead. When Paul had preached at Athens and declared the fact of Christ's resurrection, some of his listeners actually laughed at him (Acts 17:32). Most Greek philosophers considered the human body a prison, and they welcomed death as deliverance from bondage.

This skeptical attitude had somehow invaded the church and Paul had to face it head-on. The truth of the resurrection had doctrinal and practical implications for life that were too important to ignore.

1. Hope in this life

The risen Christ validates our preaching – vs. 14

1 Corinthians 15:12 “Now since we preached that Christ was raised from the dead, why do some of you say that people will not be raised from the dead?
13 If no one is ever raised from the dead, then Christ has not been raised.
14 And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is worth nothing, and your faith is worth nothing.

The problem with these Greek believers was that they believed in Jesus' resurrection but nobody else's. Paul says that if this were true then all of our preaching to people is a waste of time.

Might as well “eat, drink and be merry” if tomorrow we die and that's all there is.

The risen Christ certifies our faith – vs. 14b – 19

Because Christ lives our faith is not in vain!

Paul put it this way, “And if Christ has not been raised, then your faith is useless and you are still guilty of your sins” (1 Corinthians 15:17). To state it positively, because Christ has been raised, then your faith is useful!

“For by grace we are saved through ? - faith

Faith works like an electronic transfer of funds, creating *immediate* access to God’s spiritual blessings in Christ. It’s by faith that we receive the freeing assurance of forgiveness of sins and enjoy the *immediate* comfort and strength of Christ’s never-failing presence.

The risen Christ cures the terminal disease of sin – vs. 20 – 22

1 Corinthians 15:22 “Just as everyone dies because we all belong to Adam, everyone who belongs to Christ will be given new life.”

Romans 5:12 “Therefore, just as through one man (Adam), sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned—”

Romans 5:18 “So as one sin of Adam brought the punishment of death to all people, one good act that Christ did makes all people right with God. And that brings true life for all.”

Romans 6:4 “For we died and were buried with Christ by baptism. And just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious power of the Father, now we also may live new lives.”

“Because Christ is resurrected, He’s with you right now! You’re spiritually enriched, right now. You’re forgiven, right now. You can overcome sin’s power, right now. He makes your joy overflow, right now. He distributes peace unspeakable even through trials and sorrows, right now.” (Swindoll)

2 Cor. 5:17 “If anyone is **in Christ** he is a new creation, old things are passed away, behold all things have become new.”

2. Hope beyond the grave

The risen Christ guarantees victory over death – vs. 23 – 26

1 Corinthians 15:26 “The last enemy *that* will be destroyed *is* death.”

1 Corinthians 15:54 “Then, when our dying bodies have been transformed into bodies that will never die, this Scripture will be fulfilled: “Death is swallowed up in victory.

55 O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?”

56 For sin is the sting that results in death, and the law gives sin its power.

57 But thank God! He gives us victory over sin and death through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Romans 6:23 “The penalty for sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”

Psalms 23:4 “Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; For You *are* with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.

6 Surely your goodness and love will be with me all my life, and I will live in the house of the LORD forever.

IF you make a reservation!

The risen Christ guarantees us new incorruptible, immortal bodies vs. 50 – 57

1 Corinthians 15:45 “The Scriptures tell us, “The first man, Adam, became a living person.” But the last Adam—that is, Christ—is a life-giving Spirit.

46 What comes first is the natural body, then the spiritual body comes later.

47 Adam, the first man, was made from the dust of the earth, while Christ, the second man, came from heaven.

48 Earthly people are like the earthly man, and heavenly people are like the heavenly man.

49 Just as we are now like the earthly man, we will someday be like the heavenly man.”

50 “What I am saying, dear brothers and sisters, is that our physical bodies cannot inherit the Kingdom of God. These dying bodies cannot inherit what will last forever.

51 But let me reveal to you a wonderful secret. We will not all die, but we will all be transformed!

52 It will happen in a moment, in the blink of an eye, when the last trumpet is blown. For when the trumpet sounds, those who have died will be raised to live forever. And we who are living will also be transformed.

53 For our dying bodies must be transformed into bodies that will never die; our mortal bodies must be transformed into immortal bodies.”

The risen Christ guarantees our work for Him is worthwhile – vs. 58

1 Corinthians 15:58 “So my dear brothers and sisters, stand strong. Do not let anything change you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your work in the Lord is never wasted.”

1 Cor. 3 Paul says our works are either like “gold, silver, precious stones” or like “wood, hay and stubble” God’s refining fire of judgment will test our works and if they pass the test Scriptures say we will be rewarded.

What rewards? 5 different types of crowns spoken of in the Bible.

Apostle Paul said in 2 Timothy 4:7 “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.”