

4/20/25

Sermon Title: *We Too will Be Resurrected, following Jesus Christ*

Preacher: Pastor Kim Soonbae

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 15:12–26, 55–58

*(1 Cor 15:12) 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?*

*(1 Cor 15:13) If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised.*

*(1 Cor 15:14) And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith.*

*(1 Cor 15:15) 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.*

*(1 Cor 15:16) For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either.*

*(1 Cor 15:17) And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins.*

*(1 Cor 15:18) Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost.*

*(1 Cor 15:19) If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.*

*(1 Cor 15:20) But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.*

*(1 Cor 15:21) For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man.*

*(1 Cor 15:22) For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive.*

*(1 Cor 15:23) But each in turn: Christ, the firstfruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him.*

*(1 Cor 15:24) Then the end will come, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father after he has destroyed all dominion, authority and power.*

*(1 Cor 15:25) For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet.*

*(1 Cor 15:26) The last enemy to be destroyed is death.*

*(1 Cor 15:51) Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed—*

*(1 Cor 15:52) in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.*

*(1 Cor 15:53) For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality.*

*(1 Cor 15:54) When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true:*

*"Death has been swallowed up in victory."*

*(1 Cor 15:55) "Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?"*

*(1 Cor 15:56) The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law.*

*(1 Cor 15:57) But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

*(1 Cor 15:58) Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.*

It is Easter.

We offer all praise, worship, glory, and honor to our Lord Jesus Christ, who conquered the power of death, rose from the grave, and became the firstfruits of the resurrection.

"Resurrection"

Just the thought of it fills my heart with awe and anticipation.

When that day comes, we will rise again, following Jesus—the firstfruits of the resurrection—and be resurrected like Him.

We will enter the Kingdom of God, where justice flows like a mighty river, as the pure and spotless bride of Christ, and live forever with our Bridegroom, Jesus Christ.

Even today, I long for that day, and I prepare myself diligently to become the most pure and beautiful bride for Him.

How about you?

Do you believe in the resurrection?

If so, how are you preparing for that day?

If I were asked to summarize the Bible in just two syllables, I would say without hesitation: "Resurrection."

The resurrection is the core truth of Christianity.

If there is no resurrection and everything ends with this life, then there is no need for us to believe in God.

And if that's the case, there's no need to go to church either.

Some people say they don't believe in the resurrection, even though they attend church.

Then why do they go to church at all?

Why spend their time and money attending worship and participating in church activities?

If this life is all there is—if we only live once—then wouldn't it make more sense to chase after wealth by any means necessary, to enjoy it, gain honor and status, rule over others, and pursue pleasure?

Could it be, then, that such people are actually coming to church to pursue these worldly things?

But these kinds of people are not unique to our time.

Even in the early church—specifically, the church in Corinth—there were people like this who caused division within the church.

They held heretical beliefs and claimed that there was no resurrection. Some of them even went so far as to deny the resurrection of Jesus Christ Himself.

The church in Corinth was the first Gentile church established by the Apostle Paul. Corinth was the capital of the region of Achaia and a port city located at the gateway between mainland Greece and the Peloponnesian Peninsula.

To the west, it connected to the Ionian Sea and Italy through the port of Lechaem, and to the east, it faced Athens and provided access to the Aegean Sea through the port of Cenchreae.



Thanks to its natural geographical advantages, it became the largest trading city in Greece.

As commerce flourished, the city grew wealthy—but it was also morally decadent. A mix of people from various regions lived there, bringing with them many different idols, which led to religious confusion and disorder.

At the time, the name “Corinth” even became synonymous with immorality, showing just how corrupt the city had become.

During his second missionary journey, the Apostle Paul visited Corinth, and after two years of dedicated ministry, he finally established a church there.

However, while the Apostle Paul was staying in Ephesus during his third missionary journey, he received news that many problems had arisen within the church in Corinth.

At the time, the Corinthian church, made up of Gentile believers, was facing serious internal conflicts over a wide range of issues.

These included divisions and factions, sexual immorality, lawsuits among believers, questions about marriage, food sacrificed to idols, whether women should cover their heads, the Lord’s Supper, spiritual gifts, and the resurrection. These problems had caused significant discord among the members of the church.

In response, the Apostle Paul wrote the letter of First Corinthians, addressing each of these issues with doctrinal explanations and practical solutions in order to correct the believers and restore the church.

He sent this letter through Titus.

Later, while staying in Macedonia, Paul received news from Titus that the believers in Corinth had repented of their wrongdoings, had submitted to the apostle’s authority, and had promised to firmly deal with their opponents.

Upon hearing this, Paul wrote a follow-up letter—Second Corinthians—as a response and sent it to them.

This passage addresses one of the key issues: the denial of the resurrection.

The Apostle Paul logically refutes the claims of false teachers who denied the resurrection by pointing to the resurrection of Jesus Christ as the foundation of his argument.

*(1 Cor 15:12) 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?*

*(1 Cor 15:13) If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised.*

*(1 Cor 15:14) And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith.*

*(1 Cor 15:15a) 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.*

Paul explains that the resurrection of Jesus Christ was something the apostles personally witnessed and proclaimed.

The Apostle Paul states that if there is no resurrection of the dead, then God would not have raised Jesus Christ from the dead.

*(1 Cor 15:15a) But he did not raise him if in fact the dead are not raised.*

*(1 Cor 15:16) For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either.*

*(1 Cor 15:17) And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins.*

*(1 Cor 15:18) Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost.*

*(1 Cor 15:19) If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.*

If Jesus Christ did not rise again, Paul says, then we are still in our sins, and our faith is meaningless.

Moreover, those who died believing in the resurrection would have perished in vain.

The Apostle Paul says that Jesus Christ rose from the dead and became the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

*(1 Cor 15:20) But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.*

*(1 Cor 15:21) For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man.*

*(1 Cor 15:22) For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive.*

*(1 Cor 15:23) But each in turn: Christ, the firstfruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him.*

*(1 Cor 15:24) Then the end will come, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father after he has destroyed all dominion, authority and power.*

First is Jesus Christ, the firstfruits.

Next will be those who belong to Christ—that is, the believers—at his second coming.

Also, Paul says that when Christ returns, he will destroy all evil powers and authorities and hand over the kingdom to God the Father.

Jesus Christ will sit at the right hand of God, holding kingship—that is, authority—and will utterly destroy all enemies, including death.

*(1 Cor 15:25) For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet.*

*(1 Cor 15:26) The last enemy to be destroyed is death.*

The phrase “under his feet” signifies total conquest.

The Apostle Paul also mentions believers who will be alive at the time of the Lord’s return.

*(1 Cor 15:51) Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed—*

*(1 Cor 15:52) in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.*

*(1 Cor 15:53) For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality*

The phrase “*We will not all sleep*” means that there will be people who are still alive when Christ returns.

Paul says that at the sound of the last trumpet, the living will be instantly transformed—the perishable will be clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality.

He uses the word “*must*” to express the divine necessity of this transformation—because God has ordained it, it is inevitable.

This emphasizes God's salvific purpose and the certainty of resurrection for all believers.

In the phrase “we will be changed”, we catch a glimpse of the Apostle Paul’s eschatological faith.

Paul always held the possibility in mind that Jesus Christ might return even in his lifetime, because Jesus had said that no one knows the day or hour of His return, and therefore believers should always stay alert.

Paul explains that at that moment—when the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality—death will be swallowed up in victory.

*(1 Cor 15:54) When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: "Death has been swallowed up in victory."*

*(1 Cor 15:55) "Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?"*

*(1 Cor 15:56) The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law.*

According to the law, death is the consequence of sin.

But Jesus Christ, by shedding His blood and dying on the cross in our place, fulfilled the law.

Therefore, death has now been completely defeated.



The Apostle Paul confesses his gratitude to God, who gives us victory through Jesus Christ.

He then encourages the members of the Corinthian church to stand firm and devote themselves fully to the work of the Lord.

*(1 Cor 15:57) But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

*(1 Cor 15:58) Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.*

Beloved members of Church of God's Dream,

We who believe in Jesus Christ and abide in Him are no longer under the dominion of the Law.

Therefore, we are no longer trapped under the yoke of death.

This is because Jesus Christ perfectly fulfilled the Law and conquered death.

Now, we who are in Christ Jesus will also live again, following Jesus Christ who died on the cross, overcame death, and rose again.

Jesus Christ is the firstfruits of the resurrection.

Who dares say there is no resurrection?

Who dares deceive us with such lies?

The world we live in today is even more depraved than Corinth.

Mammonism is rampant—people are lovers of money.

They are consumed with the pursuit of worldly things.

Many churches are expanding their influence by aligning themselves with religious pluralism organizations such as the WCC (World Council of Churches), WEA (World Evangelical Alliance), and Lausanne Movement.

Many religious leaders do not speak the truth.

They seek their own benefit while watching the reactions of people, proclaiming a false peace.

The world we now live in is not at peace.

It is rapidly moving toward the end.

God's judgment is near.

The return of Jesus is imminent.

Yet we have no reason to fear, for we are under the New Covenant.

Under this New Covenant, we have been forgiven of our sins and received eternal life.

Though now we see only in part, on that day—when Jesus returns with the sound of the final trumpet—we will see the full completion of all things.

As we look forward to that day, may you stand firm and devote yourselves more fully to the work of the Lord.

I bless you in the name of Jesus Christ.