

March 31, 2024 *Worship Service*
But Now Christ Is Risen!
Holiday Series

Text: 1 Corinthians 15:1-11, 20-28

Introduction: God has given mankind a collection of writings, a library of sorts, composed of sixty-six books, written by over 40 different authors over a period that spanned approximately 1500 years. I believe the word of God gives us all the guidance we need to live life on this earth and to be assured of life with God eternally.

The first book of this collection introduces us to a perfect world that Creator God put into perfect order but that was quickly marred when His highest creation chose to disobey. Just as quickly we are told that one day the evil one who deceived the first woman and man would be crushed by a Perfect Man who would come.

We can find many promises of that Rescuer, Redeemer, Messiah throughout this library. The Gospels that begin the New Testament introduce this Person as a man named Jesus. This Jesus was conceived like no other child, by the Holy Spirit, and His identity was revealed by God the Father when He began three years of ministry. He proved Himself to be the Son of God.

Through His life He showed us who God is and how much He loves us. He left us a perfect example to follow of what loving and depending on and obeying His Father looks like. And, most importantly, for our benefit Jesus gave His life for all sins mankind has committed from that earliest disobedience in the Garden of Eden.

That is what we, as His Church, commemorate and celebrate each year at this time of the year: God's ultimate blessing of forgiveness and salvation made possible through Jesus. We refer to it as the *gospel* or our *good news*.

This *gospel* was foremost in Paul's preaching – 1 Corinthians 15:1-11. Jesus suffered the cruelest of deaths for our sins but was not held captive by death – He rose after three days in the grave.

It was of utmost importance to Paul that the Corinthians understood the impact of Christ's resurrection. Without it the Christian faith crumbles. Jesus promised that because He lives, His disciples, His followers, would also live. (John 14:19)

Some in the Corinthian church believed there could be no resurrection for the dead, thus nullifying even Christ's resurrection. In today's Scripture, Paul set things straight. Read 1 Corinthians 15:20-28.

But Now Christ Is Risen!

I. Jesus Is the First. v. 20-23

Firstfruit – an allusion to the first harvest sheaf of the Passover that was presented in the sanctuary. It was an offering showing a trust that God would provide and was given in thankfulness and anticipation of what was to come.

Jesus is the only person ever to be resurrected from the dead, with an incorruptible body, one that never diminishes or will die again.

Death came into our world when Adam sinned. This death was both *physical* (an end to existence in this realm) and *spiritual* (a separation from the God of creation).

Resurrection became possible when Jesus rose from the grave.

A. Resurrection for Judgment. v. 22

May point to a resurrection that all experience. See Acts 24:15-16 and Daniel 12:2.

And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment. Hebrews 9:27

Revelation 20:11-15 ~ the judgment of the lost.

2 Corinthians 5:10 ~ the judgment of God's children.

B. Resurrection for Blessing. v. 23

Read 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18.

II. Jesus Will Be the Victor. v. 24-26

The best picture of this is found in **Revelation 19:11-16;**
20:10, 14-15.

The day is coming when death and Satan and his followers will
once and for all be judged and be forever powerless.

III. Jesus Will Always Honor His Father. v. 27-28

We believe that the God of the Bible is one God who is expressed
through Three Persons ~ the Father, the Son, and the Holy
Spirit. Each Person had a part in creation and has been
active throughout time and eternity.

We also understand that this Triune God is perfect in design and
function and that each Person serves in right perspective to
the Others. The Son came to the earth solely to elevate His
Father.

In the end the Father's wishes will be observed everywhere, just
like at the beginning in the garden.

So What? Shortly before His death, Jesus prayed to His Father
and John's gospel preserved this prayer for us.

Read **John 17:1-5.**

Jesus had come to make redemption possible, so people could
attain the life that was lost to sin.

- He allowed His blood to be shed for the cleansing from sin.
- He bore the agony of sin, not His own but ours, while on the cross.
- He lost His life so we could find a way to eternal life with Him.
- God glorified Jesus with power over the grave.

Admit your sin. Believe in Christ's work. Confess your need and
receive Jesus as your Savior and Lord.

Questions to Ponder Through the Week
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1. Read 1 Corinthians 15:1-11. The good news according to Paul was that Jesus died for our sins, was buried (proving His death), and the rose again three days later. Why is Jesus' death good news? Is Paul's list of those who saw the risen Lord exhaustive? What makes each of these witnesses noteworthy?

2. Read 1 Corinthians 15:12-19. Why was it so problematic to Paul that some were insisting that there could be no bodily resurrection for the saints? What surely falls apart if this teaching is true? Under what circumstance did Paul describe the plight of believers as being *most pitiable*?

3. Read 1 Corinthians 15:20-23 and Romans 5:12-21. How does Paul's message to the Romans expound on what he wrote to the Corinthians? How destructive was Adam's choice to disobey? How is God's gift so different from the impact of Adam's sin?

4. Jesus is portrayed as the ultimate victor in 1 Corinthians 15:24-26. By His resurrection He has been victorious over His physical death. What does He have to accomplish to *crush the serpent's head*? Will these things happen in one momentous event or over the course of several events possibly spread over a thousand years?

5. Read John 6:35-40. How did Jesus determine what He should do in ministry? By using this filter, He was able to make the claims he did in John 17:1-5. What filter do you use to determine how best to serve God? How does your life and service honor and bring glory to God?

Sermon Topic for April 7:

John & Jesus ~ They Knew Their Calling Luke 1-4

The angel Gabriel introduced both John the Baptist and Jesus to their parents before they were even conceived. Although both men were prophesied in the Old Testament, Gabriel's introductions inform the parents well as to the life purposes each would have. Reading along with your Quiet Time journal will prepare your heart as we see both men as adults begin to live out God's calling for their lives. How did each life interact with the other?