

SERMON NOTES

1 Corinthians 15:1-11 (NLT)

Written by Rev. Dr. Clay Brown

1. Someone has colloquially described first-century Corinth as the “Las Vegas of the ancient world.” What do you think this description means for the ministry Paul is attempting to guide and grow in Corinth?

READ 1 Corinthians 15:1-7

2. Clay says what’s rendered in 15.2 in most translations (like NRSV, ESV, and NIV) as “in vain” gets rightly expanded in the NLT: “It is this Good News that saves you if you continue to believe the message I told you—unless, of course, you believed *something that was never true in the first place.*” (NLT) What is the reason Clay gives for this translation choice. More importantly, what’s the significance of this choice as you start looking at verses 3-7, according to Clay?
3. For extra points: Did you, by chance, remember the 1985 music video Clay quotes that references nuclear science? (It’s perfectly fine if you didn’t.) Had you heard of the MIT nuclear scientist, Dr. Ian Hutchinson, that Clay mentions? (You need to get Dr. Hutchinson’s book, *Can a Nuclear Scientist Believe in Miracles?* [Veritas Press, 2016] for an excellent discussion of this topic that doesn’t require a degree from MIT to appreciate and value.)
4. The evidences for the Resurrection in 15:3-7 are not scientific proofs, but they function in a much different way that connects well with how historical evidence works. Many people have problems with such evidence and say it’s not really evidence at all. What’s the perspective that says only through science can you gain any knowledge that’s worth knowing? Why is this such a deeply flawed way to think about how we humans ordinarily know and learn things?
5. Work through the accounts of 15:3-7, and you discover they not only function as legitimate historical evidence, but also they help to support the truthfulness of the Resurrection in several other ways. Clay mentions three. What way stands out to you as particularly helpful, and why?

READ 1 Corinthians 15:8-11

6. Clay’s outline titles 15:1-7 as “The True,” as in an emphasis upon the truthfulness, reliability, and legitimacy of the Resurrection and of Christianity as a whole. But the Resurrection and Christianity are not just about what’s true. They are also about “The Good” (15:8-9) and “The Beautiful” (15:10-11). How does Clay unpack Paul’s use of his own story to talk a little about these two classic transcendent characteristics?
7. Clay mentions three implications of 15:1-11, the first two of which he states will be dealt with in future discussions and sermons from 1 Corinthians 15. But what is the third implication that he deals with today? How does Clay refer to Ian Hutchinson’s story to give an example of this third implication’s profound importance for us today?

Financial Update as of April 5, 2026

2026 Annual Budget \$ 14,728,728
Actual Income to Date 3,859,670
Needed to Meet 2026 Budget 10,869,058

Births and Deaths

Nolan Kurt Nondorf was born March 30 to Garrett and Kristi Nondorf.
Dorothy Harlan passed away March 30.

Sun, Apr 12, 2026

When Death Died

I Corinthians 15

College Prep Series

Sundays, Apr 12, May 3 | 11:15am

High school seniors, gather in the Youth area to hear from an amazing guest speaker on important topics for life in college. Food provided. April topic: *What To Do When It All Falls Apart (Managing Disappointments)*. Learn more: youth.mdpc.org

Grief: It’s Complicated

Thu, April 16-30 | 6-7:30pm

Grief isn’t predictable, and it doesn’t look the same for everyone. It can come from loss, change, unmet expectations, and more. Come be part of a 3-week small group experience to explore what grief is (and isn’t), what to do with it, and how to move forward with hope. Register: caring.mdpc.org

Marriage Clinic

Fri-Sat, Apr 17-18 | MDPC

A two-day marriage clinic led by Karl Elkins, an LPC with more than 31 years of experience in marriage counseling. Discover the number one reason relationships fail, the top 12 needs of men and women, and practical tools to deepen your intimacy. Details and reg: marriageclinic.mdpc.org

Join an Outreach Committee!

Encounter God through the work of our partners while playing a crucial role in MDPC’s radical giving! Teams visit 2-3 outreach partners during the year to review and consider MDPC’s partnership. Committee meetings are once a month. Contact Julie LaRue to learn more: jlarae@mdpc.org

CityServe with MDPC Young Adults

Sat, Apr 25 | 9am-11:30am

New to the city? Looking for friends, faith, or a meaningful connection? You’re not alone! CityServe is a monthly gathering for young adults in their 20s and 30. We’ll serve side by side, then grab lunch at a local spot. See upcoming project details and more: cityserve.mdpc.org

Men’s Life: Getting Crystal Clarity

Tue, Apr 14 and 21 | 7-8am | Amphitheater

When life feels blurry, God’s Word brings the lens into focus—clarity isn’t just possible, it’s promised. Join us for these two bonus weeks to further unpack how to get *crystal clarity*. Men, let’s challenge ourselves to grow deeper in understanding as we wrap up our spring series: ml.mdpc.org

You’re Invited to

ALL-CHURCH LUNCH

Sun, Apr 12 | 11am-1pm
Fellowship Hall

Join your church family for lunch on the first Sunday of each month (second Sun in April due to Easter)!
Pricing and menu: ACL.mdpc.org



HAYDN'S

THE CREATION

WITH MULTIMEDIA AND CONGREGATIONAL HYMNS

Experience *The Creation* by Joseph Haydn in an immersive multimedia presentation.

Sun, Apr 26 FREE Admission
Sanctuary | 6pm springconcert.mdpc.org



 Online Giving give.mdpc.org

 All Events events.mdpc.org



8:30 BLENDED SERVICE

GATHERING

Call to Worship Marcus Vajdos

*Worship Songs *Glorious Day*
This Is Amazing Grace

*Confession & Assurance | Prayers of the People Rachel Poysky

*Worship Song *A Thousand Hallelujahs*

HEARING THE WORD

Message 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 (NLT) Clay Brown

RESPONDING

Song of Response *Amazing Grace*

SENDING

*Benediction Clay Brown

9:45 CONTEMPORARY SERVICE

GATHERING

Invitation to Worship *Glorious Day*

Welcome Beth Case

Baptisms and Congregational Response Rachel Poysky
Parker Thomas Jeckovich, son of Wilson and Cynthia Jeckovich
Henry Luke Bass, son of Benjamin and Annie Bass

*Worship Song *This Is Amazing Grace*

*Confession & Assurance | Prayers of the People Rachel Poysky

*Worship Song *A Thousand Hallelujahs*

HEARING THE WORD

Message 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 (NLT) Clay Brown

RESPONDING

Song of Response *Amazing Grace*

SENDING

*Benediction Clay Brown

Worship Team: Asher Pudlo, Uvaldo Callejas, David Cavazos,
Will Story, Coppelia Acevedo, & Angel Uribe

11:15 TRADITIONAL SERVICE

GATHERING

Prelude *Easter Medley* arr. Hayes/Sprunger

Call to Worship Marcus Vajdos

Choral Introit *Christ the Lord Is Risen Again* arr. John Rutter (b. 1945)

*Hymn of Praise *Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna!* Vs. 1, 3 | #104 | HYMN TO JOY

*Confession and Assurance of Pardon Amy Delgado

*Affirmation of Faith from The Apostles' Creed

*Congregational Response *Christ Is Alive* Vs. 1, 5 | #108 | TRURO

HEARING THE WORD

Anthem of Preparation *Just As He Said* Valerie Showers Crescenz

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RESPONDING

*Hymn of Response *Come, Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain* Vs. 1, 2, 5 | #115 | ST. KEVIN

Baptism and Congregational Response Dan Aikins
Wakefield "Field" Cullen Watkins, son of Cullen and Alexandra Watkins

Anthem *The Old Rugged Cross* arr. Mark Hayes (b. 1953)

SENDING

*Doxology *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow* #592 | OLD 100TH

*Benediction Clay Brown

Postlude *Lift High the Cross* John Behnke (b. 1952)

Musicians in this service:

MDPC Sanctuary Choir | Charles Hausmann, Traditional Worship Director
Beth Case, pianist | Kathryn White, organist

Our pastors are here to help. We'd love to hear from you!



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Remember Our Frontline Mission Partners

MDPC partners in local and global ministry truly covet your prayers! Find out this week's prayer recipients by picking up the prayer booklet available around campus or visit partners.mdpc.org.