

**ROAD TO EASTER**  
**RESURRECTION LIFE**

Saturday, April 6

Reading: 1 Corinthians 15

**1 Corinthians 15:53** *For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality. 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." 55 "Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?" 56 The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. 57 But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. 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.*

The Apostle's Creed has been loved and recited in various forms since the 700's AD. It is a simple statement of what the Church believes. The closing lines of this great statement of faith reads "I believe...in the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. Amen." These may be the most important words in the Creed when it comes to Christian living. Paul certainly thought so!

1 Corinthians 15 tells us that without Jesus' resurrection we might as well pack it in and "eat, drink, and be merry for tomorrow we die!" The whole of our Christian life and faith is based on the truth of Jesus' resurrection. Paul begins by giving the evidence for the resurrection of Christ (15:1-11). He continues by telling us that our faith is worthless if Jesus has not risen from the dead (15:12-19). But because of the resurrection of Christ, we have the sure hope that we too will live forever (15:20-53).

Sometimes we read all these great truths and miss the verse at the end. We concentrate on the evidence that Jesus really rose. We rejoice that we have a sure foundation on which to rest our faith. We wonder at the mystery of Christ's return when we will be transformed and taken to spend eternity with our Savior. But what does that have to do with the here and now?!

In the last verse Paul tells us to "stand firm" and "let nothing move you." While the world doubts and laughs at our faith, we can hold on to this wonderful truth – Jesus said, "Because I live, you will live also" (John 14:19).

He also tells us to "always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord." We can be confident that what we do for Christ is not worthless. Even when we don't see the results, God is keeping an account and he is using our heartfelt service to bring glory to His name. Resurrection life is not just for the future. It should impact and inspire the way we live our lives right now!

**LESSON ONE:** Some liberal scholars say that the resurrection of Jesus is not crucial. They do not believe that it happened. They say only Jesus' message is important. What does Paul have to say about this? Why is our faith and the gospel message worthless if Jesus did not rise from the dead?

**LESSON TWO:** What does it mean to "stand firm" and "fully give yourself to the work of the Lord?" How does the promise at the end of 1 Corinthians 15:58 help us in our pursuit of serving the Lord?