

**“The Ultimate Hope For Our Suffering”**  
**1 Corinthians 15**  
**Sermon Series: “Suffering And Good News”**

**Introduction:** Death is the ultimate expression of suffering. If we don't have hope in facing death, how can we really be ready to live life properly? Are you ready? The death rate is 100%. The current crisis should remind us or demonstrate to us how fragile life is. We can't control how long we live so we should be ready everyday to die but also live life to the full in a way that is not going to waste our life. Jesus is the answer for life and death because He rose from the dead.

**Main Idea: We can ultimately have hope in suffering because Jesus rose from the dead.**

**Why is this true?**

**1. The resurrection of Jesus guarantees our resurrection, which gives us hope in facing death.**

**A. The resurrection is historically factual (v.1-11).** The apostle Paul claims that Christ was literally and bodily raised from the dead. This is either a fact or farce. It is history or a hoax. There is no middle ground. Paul gives us four pieces of evidence (there are many more) that demonstrate the reality of the resurrection as a historical fact:

**Fact #1-This was an early church creed that was passed on to the apostle Paul.**

**Fact #2-Jesus definitely died on the cross and was buried in a sealed tomb that was guarded by soldiers, but that tomb was empty on Sunday.**

- Had to be dead after what he went through
- The soldiers took steps to make sure that Jesus was dead
- Joseph of Arimathea took the body
- They followed the standard Jewish burial practices
- They secured the tomb
- The tomb was sealed with the Roman seal
- A squad of soldiers was placed there to guard it
- The reliability of Scripture
- The most attested to event in ancient history
- If he hadn't risen from the dead, why did they not just produce a body and shut Christianity up forever?

**Fact #3-Christ appeared to many of His followers on several occasions in the weeks that followed.** Here is a list of His appearances:

- Mary Madgelene near the tomb (John 20:11-18)
- The women returning from the tomb (Matthew 28:8-10)
- Peter (Luke 24:34)
- The 2 disciples on the road to Emmaus (Luke 24:13-32)
- To all the disciples except for Thomas (John 20:19-23)
- All the disciples [including Thomas] (John 20:26-31)
- 7 disciples beside the Sea of Galilee (John 21:1-25)
- The disciples on an appointed mountain in Galilee (Matthew 28:16-20)
- 500 people assembled together (1 Cor. 15:6)
- James, the half-brother of Jesus (1 Cor. 15:7)
- The apostles at the ascension (Acts 1:3-11)
- Saul, the persecutor, who became Paul the apostle (1 Cor. 15:8)

**Fact #4-The lives of Christ's followers were radically transformed by the empty tomb and the appearances.**

- The testimony of the women
- The conversion of skeptics including some of his brothers
- The disciples died for what they saw, and no one willingly dies for a lie.
- The Church developed
- They abandoned the sacrificial system
- They emphasized faith over keeping the law
- They changed their day of worship from Saturday to Sunday
- They confessed Jesus as God (the Trinity)
- They changed Passover to communion

**B. The resurrection is logically necessary (v.12-19).** In these verses, Paul turns from historical presentation to logical argumentation. He argues that if the resurrection is not in reality a historical fact that there is no such thing as Christianity, and anyone who believes in Christ is deceived. He claims that if the resurrection is not true that:

- Our preaching is empty (v.14) [I am wasting my words, and you are wasting your time listening].
- Our faith is empty (v.14) [There is nothing to believe in as far as Christianity is concerned].
- We are false witnesses (v.15) [We are lying about God].
- We are still in our sins (v.17) [If you think Christ has forgiven you, think again, because a dead Savior will do you no good].
- There is no hope after death (v. 18) [The only way we can be raised is if Christ was raised so don't expect to see your dead loved ones].

-We are pitiable (v.19) [People should pity us for being so foolish and gullible as to believe in someone who said he would rise from the dead and didn't].

**C. The resurrection of Jesus guarantees our resurrection (v. 20-28).**

**D. This gives us a hope in facing death.**

-D.A. Carson: "I'm not suffering from anything that a good resurrection can't fix."

-My future is as secure as the resurrection of Jesus (people mentioned here were martyred; we can't control how long we live and the death rate is still 100%

-This will mark the end of our suffering (v. 42-49).

**2. The resurrection of Jesus gives us a purpose in living life (v.29-34).** If Christ has not been raised from the dead, then life has no meaning. However, if he is alive then direction, meaning and purpose can be found through following Him. 2 Corinthians 5:15 says, "And He died for all that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again."

**Conclusion: Get off the fence with Jesus. Are you really trusting Him and following Him? He is Someone to live for, and He is worth dying for.**