

LESSON 8 — THE RISEN CHRIST, OUR ONLY HOPE

1. INTRODUCTION: THE RESURRECTION AND OUR HOPE

- The resurrection is the culmination of the plan of redemption
- Its significance is greater than we often realize
- **PRINCIPLE:**
 - Everything in the Christian faith rests upon the resurrection

2. PAUL'S TESTIMONY: TRANSFORMED BY GRACE

- 1 Corinthians 15:9–10
- Paul acknowledges:
 - His past (persecutor of the church)
 - His present (redeemed by grace)
- "I am what I am":
 - Not what he was
 - But what grace has made him
- **PRINCIPLE:**
 - Redemption redefines identity
- **INSIGHT:**
 - Grace must not be received in vain
- **QUESTION:**
 - What are we doing with the grace given to us?

3. THE CENTRALITY OF THE RESURRECTION

- 1 Corinthians 15:11–14
- Paul presents a logical argument:
 - If there is no resurrection
 - Then Christ is not risen
 - If Christ is not risen:
 - Preaching is vain
 - Faith is vain
- **PRINCIPLE:**
 - The resurrection is essential to the gospel

4. THE RESURRECTION AND OUR COMFORT

- 1 Thessalonians 4:16–18
- Promise:
 - The dead in Christ shall rise
 - Believers will be reunited
- **INSIGHT:**
 - This passage provides comfort in times of loss
- **TRUTH:**
 - Without Christ's resurrection, this hope collapses

5. THE FOUNDATION OF OUR HOPE

- 1 Corinthians 15:13

- If there is no resurrection:

- Christ is not risen

- PRINCIPLE:

- The resurrection of Christ guarantees the resurrection of believers

- HOPE:

- Sin does not have the final word

6. WITHOUT THE RESURRECTION: EVERYTHING FALLS APART

- 1 Corinthians 15:14

- “Vain” (Greek: kenon):

- Empty

- Worthless

- False hope

- WITHOUT THE RESURRECTION:

- Preaching is empty

- Faith is empty

- Redemption is empty

- Victory is lost

- PRINCIPLE:

- The resurrection validates salvation itself

7. A WORLD WITHOUT THE RESURRECTION

- Revelation 1:18

- Christ holds the keys of death and the grave

- WITHOUT THE RESURRECTION:

- No keys

- No victory over death

- No escape from the grave

- John 3:16

- No Promise

- No assurance of everlasting life

- Only perishing

- Matthew 12:38–40

- The sign of Jonah (Christ's death and resurrection)

- WITHOUT THE RESURRECTION:

- No confirming sign

- No validation of Christ's mission

- Psalm 24:

- The King of glory enters victoriously

- WITHOUT THE RESURRECTION:

- No victorious entrance

- Psalm 23:

- Confidence in the face of death
- No assurance in the valley

8. THE REALITY: VICTORY IS OURS

- 1 Corinthians 15:57

- "Thanks be to God... which giveth us the victory"

- TRUTH:

- The resurrection is real
- Therefore, victory is real

- PRINCIPLE:

- Because Christ lives, we have victory over sin and death

9. FINAL APPEAL

- Our faith is not empty
- Our hope is not false
- Our Savior is risen

- FINAL TRUTH:

- Because He lives...
- We live