

Hello. /We will begin our 13<sup>th</sup> lecture on 1 Corinthians. /Our message is from 1 Corinthians 15. /1 Corinthians 13 is about love, and chapter 15 is about the resurrection.

/In our message today, Paul flawlessly explains the doctrine of resurrection. /Paul applies careful reasoning to bear witness about the resurrection. /Chapter 15 can be largely divided into two parts.

/In the first half, verses 1-34, Paul proves the certainty of the resurrection, /and in verses 35-58, Paul describes the resurrected body. /First, in verses 1-11, Paul bears witness about the certainty of Christ's resurrection.

/The point is made that Jesus Christ's resurrection happened just as the Bible said it would. /Next, he proves that the resurrection of Jesus Christ is an actual historical event. /Verses 1-4 are about Christ dying and resurrecting as the Bible said he would.

/Verses 1-2 are the introduction. /Paul reminds the members of the Corinthian church that they received this gospel and were saved. /Next, because the resurrection is the core idea of the gospel, it must not be altered. /Also, Paul emphasizes the idea that believers must protect the resurrection they have received to fulfill salvation. /Will you read verse 3 with me?

/Verse 3. Let us read. /For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures,

/ "What I also received" refers to Jesus Christ's death on the cross and his resurrection that Paul received from Christ himself. /Paul is delivering what he received to the church of Corinth.

/Jesus Christ's resurrection happened as the Bible said it would. /His death took place as the Bible said it would, and his resurrection too was fulfilled as the Bible said.

/Isaiah 53 talks about "Jesus' suffering." /It is about Jesus Christ suffering and dying for our sins. /Psalm 16:10 also prophesies Jesus Christ resurrecting from the dead in three days.

/Therefore, the resurrection of Jesus Christ was not an unpredicted event that happened by chance, but it was fulfilled exactly as the Bible prophesied. /Verses 5-11 bear witness about the resurrection of Christ. /Paul proves the historical factuality of the Lord's resurrection. /He lists in order the names of the people who witnessed the resurrection.

/Verses 5-8. /and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me.

/Verse 5 says, “That he appeared to Cephas.” / “Cephas” is Peter. /Next, he appeared to the twelve apostles, /and after that, the risen Jesus appeared to five hundred brothers. /Next, he appeared to James, /and lastly, he appeared to Paul.

/The Bible contains twelve instances of Jesus Christ appearing after his resurrection. /Let us take a closer look at this. /First, he appeared to Mary Magdalene. /John 20:18. /Second, he appeared to the women. /Matthew 28:9.

/Jesus appeared to Cephas for his third appearance. /His fourth appearance was to his two disciples on the way to Emmaus. /Luke 24:13. /Fifth, he appeared to the ten disciples when Thomas wasn’t present. /John 20:26-29.

/Sixth, he appeared to the eleven disciples. Thomas was there at this time. /When Jesus made his fifth appearance to the ten disciples, Thomas wasn’t there.

/His seventh appearance was to the seven apostles. John 21:12 . /For his eighth appearance, Jesus appeared to the eleven apostles at the mountain of Galilee.

/Let me repeat this. Jesus appeared to the eleven apostles on the mountain of Galilee. Matthew 28:16,17. /Jesus’ ninth appearance was to the five hundred brothers at Galilee. / 1 Corinthians 15:6, our message today.

/Jesus’ tenth appearance was to his brother James. /This happened in Jerusalem. /Refer to the text. /Before his ascension, the Lord appeared for the eleventh time to all the apostles at the Mount of Olives. /Mark 16:19. /Acts 1:9.

/Finally, his twelfth appearance was to the Apostle Paul on the road to Damascus. /Refer to verse 8 of the text. /Please refer to Acts 9:3-6 as well. /James who appears in our message today is not Jesus’ disciple James, /but it is Jesus’ younger brother.

/He is the one who wrote the book of James. /This James did not believe in the Lord when Jesus Christ was alive. /After meeting the risen Lord, James believed, and he became the leader of the Jerusalem Church.

/Thereafter, he became like a pillar of the Jerusalem Church. /Galatians 2:9. /Acts 15:13. / You may refer to John 7:5 to find proof that James, at first, did not believe in Jesus.

/Through this verse, we can see how Jesus’ brothers in the flesh did not believe in him. / His brothers only thought of Jesus Christ in the flesh. /Paul explains his encounter with Jesus on the road to Damascus, /and he introduces himself as someone who is “untimely born.”

/It is normal for people to give birth to a child ten months after conception. /However, Paul is saying he is like a prematurely born baby, someone who doesn’t amount to much. /Because Paul was always humble, God’s power was with him.

/In verse 9, Paul says, “For I am the least of the apostles.” /He persecuted the Lord’s church, and he says he is unworthy to be called an apostle. /The truth is Paul worked harder than the other apostles.

/But because he in the past persecuted the church, he says he is “unworthy to be called an apostle.” /In Ephesians 3:8, Paul says, “I am the very least of all the saints.”

/In 1 Timothy 1:15, he calls himself the foremost of sinners. /When he says he is the foremost of sinners, he is calling himself the chief of all sinners. /For example, let’s say we put all sinners in a line in order of the number of their sins.

/Paul believed that he would be first in line. /Then wouldn’t the grace of Jesus Christ be the greatest to Paul? /Because Paul was forgiven of his sin at the greatest magnitude, he was able to give thanks to God /and be faithful to the death.

/Verse 10. /But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me.

/Paul confesses, “But by the grace of God I am what I am.” /Today, if there is anything we have accomplished, you and I must know that all of it is the grace of God. /It is by God’s grace that Paul worked harder than anyone else and did the Lord’s work.

/He is saying there is nothing he has done or accomplished. /Everything happened by the grace of God. /Paul gave glory to God alone. /If anyone says that he has done something, he is proud.

/To say I won’t do anything is also pride. /In today’s time, we as Christ’s servants must do as the Lord commands. /If anyone believes he is something, then he is deceiving himself. /Whoever thinks he stands must be careful not to fall.

/Verse 11 says that the believers of the church of Corinth believed because Paul, Peter, Apollos, and the other apostles equally spread the news of the resurrection of Christ. /Verses 12-19 are about the resurrection faith.

/Verse 12. /Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead?

/Some members of the Corinthian church said that there is no resurrection of the dead. /They are people who were influenced by Judaism or Greek ideologies. /They denied the resurrection of the bodies of the dead.

/They did acknowledge Christ’s resurrection, but they didn’t believe in the resurrection of the bodies of dead believers. /That is why Paul quickly writes a letter to prove that Jesus Christ’s resurrection happened as the Bible said it would, that it is a real, historic event.

/The resurrection is the core doctrine of Christianity, the basis of the Christian faith.  
/Additionally, the resurrection of Christ is the basis of the resurrection of believers.  
/Therefore, whoever denies the resurrection of the dead denies God's grace.

/Verses 13-15. /But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain. We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified about God that he raised Christ, whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised.

/Earlier, we said that there were people within the church of Corinth who denied the resurrection. /To deny the resurrection of Christ is to deny the following five things.

/If they deny the resurrection of the dead, they deny the resurrection of Christ. /If they deny the resurrection of the dead, they deny the faith of believers. /They deny the work of the spreading of the gospel, /and they deny the integrity of the gospel preacher's words.

/Ultimately, if they deny the resurrection of the dead, then they deny the forgiveness of sins. /To deny the resurrection of the dead is to deny these five things. /Therefore, Paul bears witness about the certainty of the resurrection of the bodies of the dead.

/Verses 16-17. /For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins.

/If the dead are not raised, then Paul is a false witness. /This is true because Paul spread the word of Christ's resurrection. /Therefore, the resurrection of believers will be fulfilled by the power and promise of God in the same way Christ was raised.

/If the dead are not raised, then Christ would not have come to life. /If Christ was not raised, then our faith is futile. /Also, we would still be in our sins. /The reason is we have true faith and the forgiveness of sins only when we believe in Christ's cross and resurrection.

/Verse 18. /Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished.

/ "Those also who have fallen asleep in Christ" are believers who have passed away.  
/They are believers who died believing in Jesus. /They are those who died with the hope of resurrection. /Then if there is no resurrection, those who have fallen asleep in Christ has perished. /In other words, whoever does not believe in the resurrection of Christ will perish.

/Verse 19. /If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied.

/If there is no resurrection of the flesh and if there is no eternal life, /those who keep their faith in the Lord are the most pitiful people in the world. /A true believer makes an effort

to live more upright than the people of the world, and he tries to fight the good fight and keep his faith.

/The true believer sacrifices everything to carry out the calling he has received from God. /This person goes through numerous hardships and difficulties, and he is persecuted. /In the midst of all this, he does whatever he can to not fall into sin. /The reason is the believer has hope for resurrection, a hope in the life to come.

/But a believer who has no hope in resurrection and believes there is no life after this world is the most pitied person. /Verses 20-34 are about the power of the resurrection.

/Verse 20. /But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

/The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the first fruits of resurrection. /The first fruits illustrate how the next fruits will form. /Because Christ's resurrection is the first fruits, believers will be resurrected in the same body as Christ.

/For your information, the Israelites gave to God the first sheaves of grain or the first fruits of the harvest before they harvested the grain. /In the way the first sheaves offered to God signified the beginning of the harvest, /Christ is the first fruit of the resurrection who was offered to God. /Therefore, the resurrection of Christ is a token of the promise of the resurrection of all believers,

/Verses 21-22. /For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive.

/Death came by Adam, but resurrection came by Christ. /Adam and Jesus Christ are representatives of the human race. /Humanity's representative, Adam, sinned, and this brought upon the death of the spirits and bodies of all people.

/But as the other representative, Christ died the atoning death and was raised to life so that every believer who is in Christ first have their souls brought to life and their bodies resurrected on the day of the Lord's second coming. /Then what is the order of resurrection?

/Verse 23. /But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ.

/Christ's resurrection is the first of all resurrections. /Next is the resurrection of believers. /Last is the resurrection of unbelievers. /Both believers and unbelievers are raised from the dead. /However, unbelievers are resurrected to be judged and to receive the punishment that is hell.

/But the resurrection of believers happens in multiple steps. /We can see it happening in five steps. /First, when Jesus rose from the dead, believers who had been sleeping were

also resurrected. /Matthew 27:52,53. /Second, when Jesus comes for a second time, believers sleeping in the grave will be raised from the dead.

/Third, when Jesus returns, believers who are alive will suddenly be resurrected. /Fourth, after Christ's second coming, believers who are dead will be raised to life. /Fifth, every believer who is alive at the end of the Millennium Kingdom will be resurrected.

/In this way, we can divide the resurrection of believers into five parts. /This is a true blessing.

/Verse 24. /Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power.

/ "Then comes the end" refers to the time after the Millennium Kingdom when unbelievers are resurrected. /At this time, God the Father will destroy every rule and every authority and power, and the kingdom will be delivered to him.

/ "Rule" in the verse refers to all politics that go against the will of God. / "Authority" refers to the forces that hold power in this world. / "Power" is the power of the world, the power of money and knowledge.

/God will destroy every authority and power that is against his will. /At the end of the world, Christ will conquer the nations of the world and the disobedient forces to make them obey God.

/Verses 25-28. /For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death. For "God has put all things in subjection under his feet." But when it says, "all things are put in subjection," it is plain that he is excepted who put all things in subjection under him. When all things are subjected to him, then the Son himself will also be subjected to him who put all things in subjection under him, that God may be all in all.

/Verse 25 says, "Until he has put all his enemies under his feet." /This refers to complete subjection. /Christ will have all the authorities in the heavens and the earth, and he will assert his kingship to conquer all enemies and put them under his feet.

/Verse 26 says, "The last enemy to be destroyed is death." /Revelation 21:4 reads, "Death shall be no more." /In the end, death too will be destroyed and will be gone forever. /And God's kingdom is forever.

/Because Jesus is God's Son who created all things, /it is clear that he is the one who will conquer all things. /However, all things are not completely under God's rule just yet.

/The reason is because of the work of the devil, all things do not act according to God's will. /But to those who obey, God's rule and works are with them. /When all things do

become subjected to Christ, God's rule and love will fully be with all things. /This is the unification of all things.

/God created the church for the unification of all things. /When we children of God live according to the will of God, the will of God will be delivered to all things.

/God will be glorified when we use all things in accordance with the will of God. /This is what it means to unify all things.

/Verses 29-32. /Otherwise, what do people mean by being baptized on behalf of the dead? If the dead are not raised at all, why are people baptized on their behalf? Why are we in danger every hour? I protest, brothers, by my pride in you, which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die every day! What do I gain if, humanly speaking, I fought with beasts at Ephesus? If the dead are not raised, "Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die."

/Verse 29 says, "Being baptized on behalf of the dead." /This verse is difficult to interpret. /We must not be baptized on behalf of someone whose body is dead. /Here, "the dead" are those whose souls are dead.

/The souls of unbelievers are dead. /Also, "baptize" here refers to suffering. /Jesus says this in Luke 12:50. / "I have a baptism to be baptized with, and how great is my distress until it is accomplished!"

/The baptism Jesus talks about is the suffering he is to endure on the cross. /Therefore, to be "baptized on behalf of the dead" is to suffer for the salvation of unbelievers. /All preachers experience suffering when they preach the gospel to save the dead souls of unbelievers.

/Verse 30 says, "Why are we in danger every hour?" /The preacher is in the risk of many dangers. /Verse 31 says, "I protest, brothers, by my pride in you, which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die every day!"

/Because Paul had the hope of resurrection, he risked his life and suffered to preach the gospel and to do what is righteous. /To "die every day" is to hand one's life to death, to lay down one's life for the spreading of the gospel. /Why did he do this? /He did this because he had the hope of resurrection.

/Verse 32 says, "What do I gain if, humanly speaking, I fought with beasts at Ephesus?" / Paul risked his life fighting the people who were against the gospel. /If there was no hope for resurrection, there is no gain in doing so. /Rather, he should eat and drink for he will die tomorrow. However, we have hope for resurrection.

/Verses 33-34. /Do not be deceived: "Bad company ruins good morals." Wake up from your drunken stupor, as is right, and do not go on sinning. For some have no knowledge of God. I say this to your shame.

/At the time, there were members of the church of Corinth who denied the resurrection or were influenced by cults that twisted the truth of the resurrection. /There were people who doubted the resurrection and lived in debauchery. /Paul is warning the members of the church of Corinth to have a proper faith and to stop sinning.

/There is an important lesson we can learn here. /The believer's moral self-indulgence comes from spiritual ignorance and doubt in faith.

/Verses 35-41 are about the logic behind resurrection. /Paul makes several comparisons to reveal the nature and character of the resurrection body. /He points out the fundamental differences between a dead body and a resurrected body.

/Verses 35-37. /But someone will ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?" You foolish person! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. And what you sow is not the body that is to be, but a bare kernel, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain.

/The question is asked, "If a person dies, is buried, and decays, how can he be resurrected? Paul answers this question. /He gives an analogy to explain how resurrection works.

/Paul explains the idea of resurrection by referring to the way plants work. /A seed that is sown must die for it to come to life. /However, when a new sprout or stem emerges, it is in a completely different shape than it was when it was a seed. /Also, seeds are not good looking.

/A seed must die in the ground before the stem grows. /If a seed is planted, a new life form emerges. /Also, for example, chicks come from eggs.

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/Cicadas live underground or in manure as larvae for seven years. /After time passes, they transform into a new, beautiful form in which they sing for three weeks before they die.

/Paul explains the certainty of the resurrection to the church of Corinth. /Paul preached that the resurrection happened as the Bible said it would, that it is an actual historical event. /Because believers who went before them stood firmly in the faith of the resurrection, they were able to overcome every trial and difficulty.

/This concludes our 13<sup>th</sup> lecture on 1 and 2 Corinthians. /Thank you.