

We will begin the 14<sup>th</sup> lecture on 1 Corinthians. /In this lecture, we will study up to chapter 16. /Today's message is from 1 Corinthians 15. We will pick off from where we ended last week by studying the logic behind resurrection.

/Verses 39-41. Let us read. /For not all flesh is the same, but there is one kind for humans, another for animals, another for birds, and another for fish. There are heavenly bodies and earthly bodies, but the glory of the heavenly is of one kind, and the glory of the earthly is of another. There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for star differs from star in glory.

/When God created the flesh of all living things, he made each of them differently. /In this way, our current bodies are different than our resurrected bodies. /Not only are heavenly bodies and earthly bodies different, /but the glory of the heavenly and the glory of the earthly are also different.

/Verses 42-49 are about the nobility of the resurrected body. /To emphasize the glorious state of the resurrected flesh, /Paul compares the current body to the resurrected body in four ways.

/First, he compares what is perishable to what is imperishable. /Perishable means to die and return to the earth. /Whatever is imperishable is eternal. /Second, he compares what is sown in dishonor to what is raised in glory. /Our bodies being dishonored means that our emotions or desires are put to shame.

/But in the future, our resurrected bodies will be glorious before God. /The third comparison is made between what is weak and what is powerful. /Our current bodies are weak, which makes us subjects of trials and temptations. /Power refers to having freedom.

/Fourth, there is the natural body and the spiritual body. /The natural body refers to the limitations of man. /However, because the spiritual body is something completely new, it is eternal and unchanging.

/Verse 45. /Thus it is written, "The first man Adam became a living being"; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit.

/This verse is an application of Genesis 2:7. /The first man Adam became a living being, and the last Adam, Jesus Christ, became a life-giving spirit. /Here, we see the principle of representation.

/Christ, who represents the spiritual body, /is compared to Adam, who represents the natural body. /It says that Adam became a living being. /God gave Adam the breath of life to make him into a life form. Genesis 2:7.

/But the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. /Before we believe, our souls are dead, but when we believe, our souls come to life.

/Verses 50-58 are about the victory of resurrection. /It is the conclusion. /When Christ returns, all believers will be resurrected. It also sings of the ultimate victory that Christ and believers have over death.

/We can learn three lessons here. /Man cannot find salvation in anything other than Jesus Christ. /Faith of the resurrection is the basis on which we believers live in perseverance and victory. /Currently, our Christian bodies are living in this world, but through our faith, we get to participate beforehand in the glory of the future.

/Verse 50 says that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God. /The perishable cannot inherit the imperishable. /Flesh and blood refers to the things that are perishable. /Thus is it certain that there is the resurrection of believers.

/Verses 51-52. /Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed.

/The last trumpet is the seventh trumpet. /This is the trumpet of Jesus' second coming. /The trumpet's purpose is to resurrect the Lord's people and bring them to one place. /Matthew 24:31. /Revelation 8:2; 10:7.

/When the last trumpet sounds, we will instantly be changed, and we will meet the Lord in the air. /At this time, the dead will be raised imperishable. /Those who are living will be changed into spiritual bodies.

/It speaks of the believer's resurrection that occurs when Christ returns. /1 Thessalonians 4:16,17.

/Verse 54 says, "When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory." /Death will be completely defeated. /The verse says, "Death is swallowed up in victory."

/The verse is an application of Hosea 13:14. /Christ's resurrection and the resurrection of believers will completely swallow and destroy death. /Up until now, death had defeated and conquered people. /Therefore, no hero or the most beautiful person is able to defeat death when it comes. /There is no one who can defeat the power of death.

/Verse 56 says, "The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law." /Death entered the world through sin. /The power of death is in God's law. /Romans 7:8 tells us that without the law, sin would be dead.

/Sin, by relying on the law, lived to gain power. /Sin, by relying on the law, found power, and it is stinging everyone. /It says that the power of sin is the law. /God's ethical and religious demands from humans make up the law.

/The law makes us human beings realize that we are sinners. /The law also condemns people. /Romans 5:13. /Human beings cannot be saved by their morality. /We are only made righteous by believing in Christ.

/Because of Jesus Christ, we can defeat death and sin. /Refer to verse 57. /Death relies on the law and applies its force. /Jesus fulfilled the law, and he paid the price of sin for us.

/Also, Jesus, in his resurrection, defeated death. /For this reason, whoever is in Jesus Christ has no death or condemnation. /The believer has received new life that does not die.

/Verse 58. /Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

/The word “therefore” means that there is a God who gives us victory. /In other words, Jesus has already defeated death. /We too have this power. /Jesus is with us.

/That is why Paul encourages us to be steadfast, immovable, and always abounding in the work of the Lord. /I hope that you stand firmly in the faith of the resurrection and are victorious.

/We will move on to chapter 16. /Chapter 16 is the conclusion of the book of 1 Corinthians. /The chapter isn't about abstract things or about doctrine. /It is about the actual administration of the church.

/The chapter talks about collections made for the Jerusalem church, /and it concludes with several requests and greetings. /Through chapter 16, we learn in detail about Paul's faith, how he practiced love in his life.

/We can also see the brotherly interest that the churches that collected for the church of Jerusalem had. /In today's world, churches have become selfish. /The true church has Jesus Christ as its head and all churches as one body.

/Therefore, it is important that we help each other when someone is experiencing hardship. /Because the churches in foreign lands received the spiritual gospel that came from the Jerusalem church, it was right for these churches to help by giving material aid.

/We can dissect the message into six parts. /First, verses 1-4, teaching about collections. /Second, verses 5-9, Paul's plan to travel to Corinth. /Third, verses 10-12, greet the workers. /Fourth, verses 13-14, be strong. /Fifth, verses 15-18, respect the church workers. /Sixth, verses 19-24, greetings and blessings.

/Verses 1-4 are about collections made for the saints in Jerusalem. /During the time of the early church, the Council decided to make collections to help the Jerusalem church. /Why was the Jerusalem church in such trouble?

/It is said that there were many poor people in the church of Jerusalem. /But above this, due to many bad years, there was a severe famine. /That is why the Council of Jerusalem made the decision to make collections for the Jerusalem church.

/Thus Paul teaches the Corinth church about collections. /Verse 2 says, “On the first day of every week, each of you is to put something aside and store it up, as he may prosper, so that there will be no collecting when I come.”

/The “first day of every week” is the Sunday that we keep today. /Observing this, we can know that the early church changed the Sabbath day from Saturday to Sunday. /In the New Testament times, Sunday is kept to remember the day of Jesus Christ’s resurrection.

/Verse 3 reads, “And when I arrive, I will send those whom you accredit by letter to carry your gift to Jerusalem.” /When the members of the Corinth church send the collection to Jerusalem, they should leave the collection to people they accredit and have them bring it to Jerusalem.

/Paul didn’t manage the offerings himself, but he left it to those who were accredited. /Today, God’s ministers who deliver the word of God must accurately and honestly manage the church’s finances.

/In verses 5-9, Paul expresses his willingness to travel to Corinth. /He especially mentions his change of travel plans. /This letter was written at around 57 AD. /It was written in Ephesus before the Passover.

/Paul’s original travel plans were like this. He was to travel across the sea from Ephesus to Corinth, go from Corinth to Macedonia, and return to Corinth from Macedonia.

/However, his plans changed. /He is saying he will visit Macedonia first and then visit Corinth on the way back. /Concerning this, some of the members of the Corinth church criticized Paul.

/Some said that Paul was not faithful. /However, Paul did not change his plans for the safety of his flesh. /He did it for the gospel. /Therefore, this cannot be reason to criticize Paul.

/Verses 8-9. /But I will stay in Ephesus until Pentecost, for a wide door for effective work has opened to me, and there are many adversaries.

/Paul wrote the letter in Ephesus before the Passover, /and they say it was about two months before Pentecost. /There are two big reasons why Paul stayed in Ephesus.

/First, a wide door for effective work had been opened. /Second, because there were many adversaries. /What does it mean when it says, “A wide door for effective work had been opened?” /It means the opportunity to effectively preach the gospel had come.

/During this time, the work of the gospel was successful in this place. /God's great work was happening at this time. /Due to the effectiveness in doing God's work, the opportunity to widely spread the gospel had come.

/Because he bore many fruits, Paul could not just leave the place. /God opened the way and the door for Paul. /It is during these times that Paul must carry out the work. /Next, there were many adversaries.

/It is normal for people to leave a place where there is suffering. /However, Paul worked harder to preach the gospel. /When we do this, our faith grows and we gain strength. /Our faith becomes strong.

/Whenever the work of God is happening, the work of the devil happens as well. /It is wrong for us to doubt God's sovereignty and leave a place because there are many adversaries.

/As workers of God, we must believe in the guidance of God's sovereignty and do our best. When God guides us to a different place, that is when we leave. /Verses 10-12 are about greeting the workers.

/Verses 10-12. /When Timothy comes, see that you put him at ease among you, for he is doing the work of the Lord, as I am. So let no one despise him. Help him on his way in peace, that he may return to me, for I am expecting him with the brothers. Now concerning our brother Apollos, I strongly urged him to visit you with the other brothers, but it was not at all his will to come now. He will come when he has opportunity.

/When Paul was writing this letter, Timothy, who was with Erastus, had stopped by Macedonia and was traveling to Corinth. /Paul is asking the members of the Corinth church to treat Timothy well.

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/Paul says the same for Apollos. /Apollos was well versed in the Bible and had studied extensively. /Seeing that Paul urges Apollos to go to Corinth, we can know that there was no sense of division between the two.

/Above all else, we know of Apollos' faith of putting God first. /We can learn from Paul and Apollos, who, for the benefit of the church and to obey God's will, put aside their personal will and worked together.

/Verses 13-14 urge believers to be strong. /These verses tell us to firmly believe in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ so that we are not shaken by any challenge. /Paul encourages believers to cast aside the weaknesses in their faith and to move forward in Jesus with wisdom and courage.

/We must always be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, and be strong. /To keep our spirits watchful, we must always pray and direct our hearts to God. /If we do not pray, our spirits cannot be watchful.

/We must always be watchful to discern the times, and we need to know how to discern the will of God. /We also need to be able to discern the work of the devil. /We have discernment only when our spirits are watchful.

/Therefore, to be watchful means we are living according to our spirits, /and to be asleep means we are living according to our flesh. /1 Timothy 5:6 says that the person who is self-indulgent is dead while he lives.

/ “Strong” means “powerful.” /The believer must always be strong and bold. /What must we do to act like men and be strong? /We need to understand the gifts that God has given to us. /We also need to use the power that he has given to us.

/We need to rely on God. /How can we use the strong power God has given us? /In all environments and trials, we need to keep the word of God.

/If we pour out our strength to keep the word of God, God, in his almightiness, helps us. /Women must also act like men to fight the devil and defeat him. /Mary Magdalene was a woman, but she was the first to visit Jesus’ tomb and the first to see the resurrected Jesus.

/Fifth, /verses 15-18, respect the church workers. /Stephanas was the first person of Achaia to believe in Jesus, /and he was the first person who resolved to serve believers. /He probably served as pastor.

/Paul valued Stephanas, and he is teaching the Corinth church to give him recognition and to obey him. /Furthermore, Paul tells the church to recognize and obey the people who worked hard like him and who served with him.

/Verse 17. /I rejoice at the coming of Stephanas and Fortunatus and Achaicus, because they have made up for your absence,

/Stephanas, Fortunatus, and Achaicus went to Paul from Corinth. They told Paul about how the believers in Corinth thought highly of Paul and how they were doing well in their faith. /For this reason, Paul was glad and relieved.

/This made up for the things that the church of Corinth was lacking. /They made up for the church of Corinth, which had made Paul concerned and curious. /We as God’s servants must not worry our leaders, but we must be those who can make up for the things lacking in the Lord’s church.

/These three people came and got rid of Paul’s worries, and they gave him great joy. /Paul’s heart was relieved. /Paul says that they should be recognized.

/Finally, as the sixth point, verses 19-24. Greetings and blessings. /Paul greets the believers in Corinth, and in the end, he blesses them. /Greetings and blessings are a form of fellowship between believers. /Having true fellowship confirms the idea of unity in Christ among believers.

/Verses 19-21. /The churches of Asia send you greetings. Aquila and Prisca, together with the church in their house, send you hearty greetings in the Lord. All the brothers send you greetings. Greet one another with a holy kiss. I, Paul, write this greeting with my own hand.

/ “The churches of Asia” does not refer to the region of Asia of today. /Here, we are talking about the coastal region of the Aegean Sea in the Asia Minor. /They are the regions of Ephesus, Colossae, and Laodicea.

/In Revelation chapters 2 and 3, we find a letter sent to the seven churches in Asia, which is the region of Asia Minor. /The Bible mentions Aquila and Prisca multiple times. /The order of the names of this married couple is sometimes switched, so there are instances where the wife’s name is written before the husband’s name.

/The reason for this may be that the wife did more service for the gospel than her husband did. /Verse 19 says, “The church in their house.” /There were many family churches in the time of the early church. /Romans 16:5; Colossians 4:15; Philemon 1:2.

/In the current New Testament times, it is important for us to worship in spirit and in truth no matter where the place is. /Although the place of worship may not be much, if believers worship in spirit and in truth, God accepts it.

/Verse 20 says, “All the brothers send you greetings. Greet one another with a holy kiss.” /In the early church, greeting with a kiss was a Near Eastern region way of greeting people. /This kind of greeting carries the meaning of kindness, love, respect, and acceptance. /Men would greet other men with a kiss, and women would greet other women with a kiss.

/In modern times, we do not greet each other this way. /In Korea or in China, we greet each other with a handshake. /In Russia or in other Western countries, people greet each other with a hug.

/Verse 21. /I, Paul, write this greeting with my own hand.

/Paul had someone else write the letter for him, but he wrote the final greeting with his own hand. /Colossians 4:18; 2 Thessalonians 3:17. /Paul wrote with his hand the final part of the letter /to express his love and sincerity, /to prove that the letter is real and not fake. /Furthermore, he does this to bear witness to the fact that he writes the letter with the authority of an apostle.

/Verse 22. /If anyone has no love for the Lord, let him be accursed. Our Lord, come!

/ “Anyone has no love for the Lord” refers to the one who does not believe in Jesus.  
/Whoever does not believe in Jesus has already been cursed. /Whoever believes in Jesus  
is in Christ, /and he is someone who must be in Christ spiritually. John 15:1.

/In Christ is the world of love, the world of light. /It is also a world of joy and peace.

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/The second half of verse 22 says, “Our Lord, come!” /In Greek, this is “Maran atha.”  
/Originally, “Maran atha” was translated in the way it sounded in Aramaic. /It was a  
commonly used greeting during the time of the early church.

/It means, “Our Lord, come!” /Also included in this phrase is an earnest prayer about  
Jesus Christ’s return. /Revelation 22:20.

/Verse 24 says, “My love be with you all in Christ Jesus. Amen.” /We need to live in  
Jesus.

/Our spirits do not have joy, thanks, or love /because our hearts have strayed from the  
Lord, which means we live outside of Jesus. /Therefore, we must make sure to repent and  
return into the Lord.

/The Apostle Paul says, “My love be with you all in Christ Jesus. Amen.” /Paul wishes  
for his love to be with the believers in Corinth in Christ. /Paul wrote the letter with love  
for the members of the Corinth church, and he ends it with love. /In 1 Corinthians, Paul  
rebukes the Corinth church, but because he did it with love, the recipients most likely  
listened to him and repented.

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/This concludes the 14<sup>th</sup> lecture on 1 and 2 Corinthians. /Thank you.