



#### 4. We gain victory over all of God's enemies.

*Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death. 1 Corinthians 15:24–26 (ESV)*

#### 5. We gain a resurrected creation.

*For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. Romans 8:19–21 (ESV)*

### Life Group Questions

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1. What have you done to make memories with family and friends while socially distanced?
2. As you reflect on the sermon, how did it change the way you view Jesus and daily life?
3. Muslims, and many Americans, view Jesus as a moral teacher that never rose from the dead. They believe the apostles were also good people that were sadly mistaken about Jesus' resurrection. What is wrong with considering Jesus just a good teacher that did not rise?
4. Jesus' resurrection takes everything destroyed by sin, then restores it and vastly improves it. How does Jesus' resurrection restore and vastly improve what sin has done in our heart, what death has done in our life, what despair has done to our future, and what sin's destruction has done to our planet?
5. In this message, Pastor Kurt gave six things we lose if Jesus didn't rise and five things we gain because Jesus did rise. Of these points, which ones are the most important to you? Why?

## 1 Corinthians 15:12-26 – The Resurrection Changes Everything

April 12, 2020

*Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery. Hebrews 2:14–15 (ESV)*

*"O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?"...But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. 1 Corinthians 15:55–57 (ESV)*

### A. What do we lose if the resurrection is false?

#### 1. We lose the hope of our resurrection, if Christ wasn't raised.

*Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. 1 Corinthians 15:12–13 (ESV)*

#### 2. We lose the Christian faith and the church.

*And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain. 1 Corinthians 15:14 (ESV)*

### 3. We lose the truth about God.

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. 1 Corinthians 15:15 (ESV)

### 4. We lose forgiveness of sin.

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. 1 Corinthians 15:16–17 (ESV)

### 5. We lose the hope of seeing our loved ones.

Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. 1 Corinthians 15:18 (ESV)

### 6. We lose all our efforts to follow Jesus because we were fools.

If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied. 1 Corinthians 15:19 (ESV)

## B. What do we gain because the resurrection is true?

### 1. We gain the guarantee of eternal life.

But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. 1 Corinthians 15:20 (ESV)

### 2. We gain a new family tree.

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. 1 Corinthians 15:21–22 (ESV)

And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. John 3:14–15 (ESV)

### 3. We gain an eternity that gets better.

But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. 1 Corinthians 15:23 (ESV)

Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. 2 Corinthians 5:8 (ESV)

For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better. But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account. Philippians 1:21–24 (ESV)

For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. Therefore encourage one another with these words. 1 Thessalonians 4:15–18 (ESV)