



Resurrection Sunday, April 9, 2023 – Fulfillment Hour
Rev. Dr. Christopher M. Moore, Sr., Assistant Pastor

“Christ is Risen”
1 Corinthians 15



In 1946, a Christmas-themed fantasy film debuted to the public, "It's a Wonderful Life." In this film, at the moment George Bailey contemplates suicide, the prayers of his family and friends reach heaven. George's guardian angel comes to help him. The guardian angel, Clarence, shows George what life would be like without him. During the film, Clarence shows George a timeline of what life would be like if he was never born. He finds out that things are different and not for the better. His brother is dead, his uncle is in an institution, someone is in jail, and crime fills the town. He then begs the angel for his life back. This film makes you appreciate your life. After this film ends, you are inspired to declare, "What a Wonderful Life."

What would life be like without the Resurrection of Jesus Christ? Can we view this? The Apostle Paul, in **1 Corinthians 15**, explores this question because people rejected that there was a resurrection. If there is no resurrection, then God has not raised Christ.

1. Our preaching is useless (**v. 14a, 15**)
2. We base our faith on lies (**v. 14b**)
3. You are still guilty of your sins (**v. 16**)
4. All who died in Christ are lost (**v. 18**)
5. People should pity us more than anyone else in the world because we have nothing else to look forward to after this life (**v. 19**)
6. Our baptism was in vain (**v. 29**)
7. There is no value in serving God, even in hard times (**v. 32**)

The picture that Paul paints is horrible. Jesus did die. However, we all have a reason to rejoice because Jesus did not stay dead (v. 20). Since Christ has been raised from the dead, the reverse of the above list is accurate.

1. Our preaching of the resurrection is a fact (Matthew 28:6)
2. Your faith has a solid foundation (Acts 4:11-12 and 1 Corinthians 3:11)
3. You are not guilty of your sins (Romans 8:1)
4. Those who died in Christ are not lost (1 Thessalonians 4:13-14)
5. Our hope is not only for this life but also for life to come (Philippians 1:21)
6. Our baptism was for real (Romans 6:3-4)
7. There is value in serving God, even in hard times (1 Corinthians 15:58)

Unlike us, the original readers of 1 Corinthians lived in a time when they could talk to people who saw the risen Christ with their very own eyes. So, Paul gives them a list of eyewitnesses (v. 5-8).

Today, although we cannot testify that we have seen Jesus with our naked eye, we can attest that we have seen the effects of Him. I was not present when the plane I rode on was built and came out of the manufacturer; however, I rode on one that took me to Georgia. I was not present for the plane's first passenger flight. I was not there when it came to Michigan the first time. However, it got me to Georgia. Likewise, I have evidence of Jesus active in my own life.

