

Apr 05, 2026



Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

The Oaks Baptist Church
Grand Prairie, Texas

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Resurrection: The Future Hope 1 Cor 15:13-20, 51-58

Lesson Background and Introduction

Corinth was a great commercial center in the first-century Roman Empire. It was situated between two seas on a very narrow strip of land in southern Greece: the Aegean to the east and the Adriatic to the west. A popular trade route grew between the two harbors because it was cheaper and less dangerous for merchants to freight their cargo overland than to sail around the Peloponnesian Peninsula. Paul traveled to Corinth from Athens during his second missionary journey between AD 51-54. His initial visit lasted around 18 months (Acts 18:11). Then Paul traveled to Ephesus, where he made a brief stop before proceeding to Jerusalem. He returned to Ephesus on his third missionary journey and, while there, wrote a letter to the church in Corinth. We now refer to that letter as 1 Corinthians. (Paul mentions being in Ephesus in 1 Corinthians 16:8.) Among an array of issues causing tension and debate within the Corinthian church was the resurrection of the dead. Some believers were still impacted by their pagan background and philosophical ways of thinking. The Greeks considered the body and soul as entirely separate entities. Plato and Socrates viewed the body as a “prison” for the soul. They even had a saying to express their philosophical disdain for physical mortality: Soma Sema, which means “the body [is] a tomb.” Greek philosophers believed in the immortality of the soul but not a resurrection of the body (Acts 17:32). Paul begins 1 Corinthians 15 by reminding the Corinthian church of the gospel he preached to them and that they received. The foundation of the gospel is Jesus’ death, burial, and resurrection (1 Corinthians 15:1-4). Paul then lists some of the appearances Jesus made after his resurrection, including his appearance to Paul, “as of one born out of due time” (15:5-8). In the first portion of our printed text, Paul describes the devastating consequences that result if Jesus’ resurrection did not occur.

Many have noted the work of Elisabeth Kübler-Ross and her contributions to the psychological study of death and dying. Despite her extensive research and writing on the topic, she named death the “greatest mystery in science.” Paul also used the word mystery in conjunction with death (1 Corinthians 15:51). There is much we cannot fully comprehend as humans in a fallen world. Death is indeed a mystery. It is not a friend; it is an enemy. The good news is that Christ’s cross and empty tomb defeat death for all time (1 Corinthians 15:26; 2 Timothy 1:10; Revelation 20:14). Death’s defeat is what Easter Sunday celebrates! Loss still hurts; of that, there is no question. But the power of death is vanquished by the resurrection. Because Jesus is risen, death is not the period at the end of life’s “sentence”; it is only a comma. As Christians, we believe the “comma” of death is just a pause leading to something far greater than anything this world can ever provide.

(Adapted from the NIV Standard Lesson Commentary)

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:

You’re alive, Jesus, and You possess the resurrection power we need

COMMENT FOR THE WEEK:

“He has risen! He is not here,” That declaration explains what we can expect from the living Jesus: His miraculous resurrection power. He is alive

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:

But he said to them, “Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He is risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid Him

(Mark 16:6 NKJV)

(from "Our Daily Bread", Apr 05, 2026)

Series: Social Teachings of the Church

UNIT 2: Fulfilling Our Obligations to Family and Community

NEXT WEEK

Authority: Belonging to God (Mark 12:17; Rom 13:1,6-8; 1 Peter 2:13-17)

NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

Hope of the Resurrection (1 Cor 15:13-20)

Hope of resurrection assured regardless of unbelievers (13-15)

Unbelief in the promises of God (Rom 4:18-21)

Unbelief because of ignorance (1 Tim 1:12-14)

Unbelief that can be avoided by standing firm in the faith (1 Cor 16:13)

Unbelief because of weaknesses and persecutions (2 Cor 12:10)

Unbelief that can be combated by being strong in the Lord (Eph 6:10)

Hope of resurrection depending on faith (16-19)

Faith in the power of God (John 11:14-15)

Faith in the word of God (John 20:30-31)

Faith in God's indwelling presence (Exod 4:4-5)

Faith in Jesus as the Son of God (John 19:34-35)

Hope of resurrection confirmed because of Jesus rising (20)

Resurrection witnessed by many (Acts 2:32)

Resurrection that saints will be united with Jesus (Rom 6:5)

Resurrection by the power of God (Acts 2:23-24)

Resurrection of the saints at the rapture (1 Thess 4:17)

Hope for the Rapture (1 Cor 15:51-58)

Hope for the rapture that changes us into immortality (51-53)

Immortality by being clothed in the heavenly dwelling (2 Cor 5:1-4)

Immortality through being a child of God (1 John 3:2)

Immortality through God giving eternal life to our mortal bodies (Rom 8:11)

Hope for the rapture that defies death (54-57)

Defies death because there will be a resurrection (1 Thess 4:16)

Defies death because it is precious in the sight of God (Ps 116:15)

Defies death because it cannot separate us from the love of Jesus (Rom 8:37-39)

Defies death because it represents a baptism into Jesus' death (Rom 6:2-5)

Defies death because there is no fear associated with it (Heb 2:14-15)

Hope for the rapture through being steadfast in work of the Lord (58)

Work that results in belief in Jesus (John 6:28-29)

Work that overcomes fear (1 Cor 16:10)

Work produced by faith (1 Thess 1:3)

Work that equips us to do God's will (Heb 13:20-21)