

05 April 2026

Resurrection: The Future Hope

Lesson Scriptures: *1st Corinthians 15:13–20*



Key Text: Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. (1st Corinthians 15:20)

Lesson Aims

After participating in this lesson, we will be able to:

1. Identify the “mystery” of 1st Corinthians 15:51
2. Explain how Christ’s resurrection brings believers comfort.
3. Compose a letter encouraging other believers that trials of this are not God’s final word.

Lesson Text

Isaiah 11:6–10

13 If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised.

14 And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith.

15 More than that, we are then found to be false witnesses about God, for we have testified about God that he raised Christ from the dead. But he did not raise him if in fact the dead are not raised.

16 For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either.

17 And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins.

18 Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost.

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

20 But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

Introduction

A. Groundbreaking News

B. Lesson Context

I. The Resurrection (1 Corinthians 15:13–20)

A. False Witness (vv. 13–15)

B. Futile Hope (vv. 16–19)
Hopeful or Hopeless?

C. Faithful First-fruits (v. 20)

II. The Mystery (1 Corinthians 15:51–57)

A. Changed People (vv. 51–53)

B. Victorious Promise (vv. 54–57)
Unforeseen Losses

III. The Work (1 Corinthians 15:58) Conclusion

A. Comma, Not Period

B. Prayer

C. Thought to Remember

A. Groundbreaking News The 1969 book *On Death and Dying*, by Elisabeth Kübler-Ross (1926–2004), proved revolutionary in identifying grief stages. The author named five parts of the grief cycle: *denial, anger, bargaining, depression, and acceptance*. These are typical stages experienced by a person diagnosed with a terminal illness. As a result of her research, Kübler-Ross pioneered hospice care for the terminally ill and served as an advocate for grieving families. Kübler-Ross received numerous honorary degrees for her insights. By July 1982, she had taught her grief model to approximately 125,000 students in various learning institutions. Today we will consider the subject of death and dying too. As we do, we remember that the ultimate expert is Jesus. His experience of death and resurrection changed things forever.

Summary of Lesson

Corinth was a major trade city in southern Greece, located between two seas, which made it wealthy and culturally diverse. Paul the Apostle visited Corinth during his second missionary journey and stayed about 18 months, later writing **First Epistle to the Corinthians (1 Corinthians)** while in Ephesus.

A key issue in the Corinthian church was confusion about the **resurrection of the dead**, influenced by Greek philosophy. Thinkers like Plato and Socrates taught that the soul was immortal but the body was unimportant, leading some believers to reject bodily resurrection.

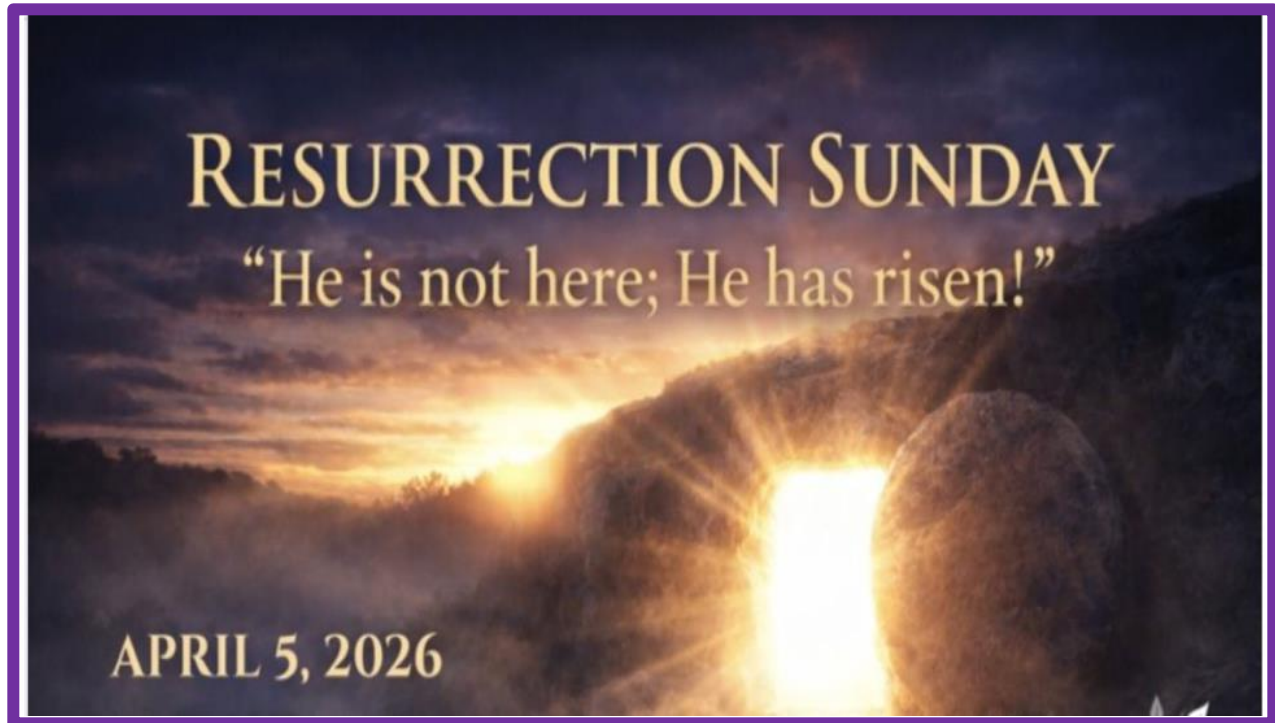
In response, Paul reminds them that the **core of the gospel** is Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection, and he emphasizes that if Christ did not rise, the Christian faith would be meaningless.

Paul argues that if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Jesus was not raised. If Christ was not raised, Christian preaching is meaningless and believers' faith is worthless. Furthermore, the apostles would be false witnesses, because they claimed that God raised Jesus from the dead.

Paul the Apostle argues that if the dead are not raised, then Jesus Christ was not raised either. If that were true, Christian faith would be useless, sins would remain unforgiven, and those who have died believing would be lost. In that case, Christians would have no real hope and would be the most pitiful of all people.

His Main Point: the entire Christian faith depends on the resurrection—without it, everything falls apart; with it, hope and salvation are secure.

AMEN/ASE!



Daily Bible Readings

Monday: Proverbs 11:3-14

Tuesday: Acts 5:26-32

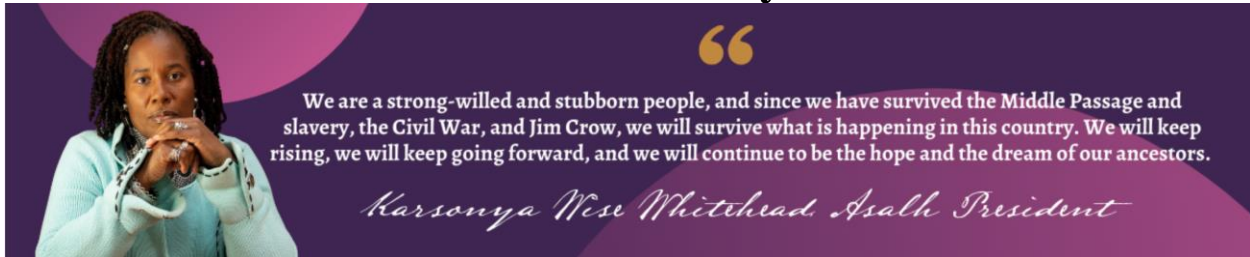
Wednesday: Hebrews 13:16-21

Thursday: 2nd Samuel 23:1-7

Friday: Deuteronomy: 17:14-20

Saturday: Mark 12:13-17

Black History



Association for the Study of African American Life and History

The mission of the ASALH® is to promote, research, preserve, interpret and disseminate information about Black life, history and culture to the global community. Established on September 9, 1915, by Dr. Carter G. Woodson, we are the Founders of Black History Month and carry forth the work of our founder, the Father of Black History. We continue his legacy of speaking a fundamental truth to the world—that Africans and peoples of African descent are makers of history and co-workers in what W. E. B. Du Bois called, “The Kingdom of Culture.” ASALH is in short, the nexus between the Ivory Tower and the global public.



The Negro Historical Association with Carter Woodson (with bow tie) seated next to Mary Church Terrell (in white) in front row, center, of this portrait (1925). Source: Courtesy of the Moorland-Spingarn Research Center, Howard University Archives, Howard University, Washington DC

We are in the final stages of establishing Northern Virginia Branch. If you have any questions, please contact: Deac Joe Boutte, Bro Harvey Woodson, or Rev Gillis M. Taylor.

Come Join ASALH!!