

Opening Our Gifts: The Gift of Resurrection

1 Corinthians 15:12-20

But if it is preached that Christ has been raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. 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. For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either. And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost. If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.
L: The Word of God for the People of God.

P: Thanks be to God.

- We are continuing our series called, “Opening Our Gifts.”
- Today we are opening the Gift of Resurrection.
- Apparently, the Corinthians had begun to question the doctrine of resurrection of the body.
 - They weren’t questioning Jesus’ resurrection, they were questioning ours.
 - We talk a lot about going to heaven, but heaven is not the end of the story. (1 Corinthians 15; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18)
- Paul tells them that we are raised because Christ is raised. If we are not raised then neither is Christ. If Christ is not raised then our faith is futile.
- Jesus said that because he lives, we shall live also. (John 14:19) This is the Gift of Resurrection.