

Sunday School Lesson, April 5, 2026
Rev. Mark A. Seals, Instructor/Teacher
Mike Moore, Superintendent

Lesson—Thoughts on Life and Death¹
Text: 1 Corinthians 15:13-20, 51-58

I. Aim for Change/Learning Objectives

By the end of this lesson, we will...

1. Defend, as Paul does, the belief in God's promised resurrection life, grounded in the resurrection of Christ.
2. Take comfort and not lose heart in the face of worldly suffering.
3. Encourage others with the assurance that injustice in this life is not God's final word.

Why This Lesson Matters: People often question what happens after death. Can we hold for the life beyond the grave? For Paul, it is Jesus' own resurrection that grounds the Christian expectation: all who believe in Christ will share in a future resurrection life.

Key Verse: *But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the first fruits of them that's slept. (1 Corinthians 15:20, KJV).*

II. Topical Outline of the Lesson (from the Townsend Commentary)

1. Introduction
2. The Point of Preaching (1 Corinthians 15:13-20)
3. The Mystery of Faith (vv. 51-53)
4. It Pays to Serve Jesus (vv. 54-58)

III. Historical/Biblical Background and Lesson Context

One of the challenges for the early church was how to teach and affirm the resurrection of Jesus. Although there were several post-resurrection appearances, the sightings by the disciples, the testimony of more than 500 witnesses, the upper room encounter, and even the dramatic calling of Saul, it remained an issue of debate. An even greater challenge emerged as Christians themselves began to die. The community of faith needed to know what to believe about life beyond the grave. In First Corinthians 15, the apostle Paul addressed this concern directly. He

¹ Outline Content courtesy of the Sunday School Publishing Board Teacher Manual, which should be purchased at www.sspbnb.com

sought to reassure believers about their own resurrection and its connection to Jesus' resurrection.

The books of 1 and 2 Corinthians are widely accepted as authentic letters written by the apostle Paul. These letters arose from Paul's intimate familiarity with the Christian community in Corinth. First Corinthians was likely written around AD 55, during Paul's third missionary journey, from Ephesus.

IV. *Prominent Character(s) in the Lesson*

Jesus: The crucified and risen Son of God—the Messiah who fulfills the promises of the Hebrew scriptures and offers salvation to all who trust in him.

Paul: formerly Saul of Tarsus, Paul became a leading apostle to the Gentiles. As the author of 1 Corinthians, he addresses doctrinal and ethical concerns in the early church with pastoral and theological rigor

V. *Key Terms in the Lesson (KJV)*

Dead *Faith* *Hope* *Raised*
Resurrection *Testified*

Food for thought/question for consideration: (What have we learned, Charlie Brown?)

Death is inevitable. It is the one certainty of life. There is only one person in human history who has overcome it into eternity. Our faith and trust in him puts us in eternity where we will see him in the resurrection.

Closing Hymn: *Blessed be the tie that binds, our hearts in Christian love;
The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.*

Sunday School Slogan: *To Sunday School to Sunday School, we all should go; we have classes for all ages, help us to grow.*

Notes and Scripture References...