

THE RESURRECTION

I Corinthians 15

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Slide 1

The 15th chapter of Corinthians is referred to as the resurrection chapter. Here the Apostle Paul is refuting the false belief, by some, that there is no resurrection of the dead. Paul spends the next few verses presenting logical arguments for the resurrection of Jesus Christ and for all of us at the end of time.

Slide 2 “Resurrection of Jesus Christ” I Cor. 15:1-11

Verses 1-2 – Notice that Paul says, the Gospel which he preached, which they received, in which they stand, by which they are being saved, **IF** they hold fast to the word (Gospel) that he preached. The Gospel is the means by which we are saved. When we hear it, believe, repent, confess, baptized and live faithfully we will spend eternity with God.

Romans 1:16 – “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.”

II Peter 1:3 – “His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue.”

John 12:48 – “He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him—the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day.”

Foundation of the Gospel – Is the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ. He lived to be an example, died on the cross and shed His blood for the forgiveness of our sins and rose on the third day never to die again.

Slide 3 “Importance of Christ Resurrection” **I Cor. 15:12-19**

Here Paul tries to logically reason with them by saying:

If there is no resurrection of the dead then Christ is not risen!”

If Christ has not risen then;

Our preaching is vain

Your faith is vain

We are false witnesses of God

You are still in your sins!

Their denial of the resurrection involves logical inconsistencies with the most obvious one being, “if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ is not risen!” (verses 13, 16)

The consequences of such a belief meant that both the forgiveness of sins and salvation were not really true. Their faith could not save them if Christ is not risen.

Slide 4 “Order of Resurrections” **I Cor. 15:20-28**

Paul begins by saying, “Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.” What does he mean that Christ has become the firstfruits?

The Jews celebrated three feasts throughout the year. (Ex. 23:14-19)

1. The Feast of Unleavened Bread (Passover)
2. The Feast of Harvest (firstfruits)
3. The Feast of Ingathering.

The firstfruits were the first portion of the harvest that was offered to God with the understanding that the rest of the offering would come when the harvest was complete. It was a down payment, a promissory note, or earnest money.

We put a down payment or earnest money when we purchase a house. We give the owner a security deposit showing that we are committed to following through with the rest of the money and completing the transaction.

Christ's resurrection is God's security deposit (firstfruits) that He will follow through and complete the transaction by raising us from the dead.

Paul also compares Adam with Christ. Through Adam all men die but those in Christ are resurrected and made alive.

Notice the sequence of verses 23-26. First Christ is raised as the firstfruits then we that belong to Christ will be raised at His coming. Then the end comes and the kingdom of God (the church) will be delivered to God. Christ will reign until the last enemy is destroyed which is death.

Slide 5 “Effects of Denying Resurrection” I Cor. 15:29-34

This is a difficult passage with a lot of different interpretations.

What it does not mean – That a living person may be baptized for someone who is already dead, like the Mormons teach. When a passage is hard to understand we must go to other passages on the subject that is easier to understand.

Such as the story of the rich man and Lazarus in **Luke 16:19-31**. Lazarus ended up in Paradise and the rich man found himself in torment. He asked Abraham that Lazarus dip his finger in water and cool his tongue. Abraham told him that was not possible because there is a gulf fixed between the two of them and that no one can pass between the two areas. Then, the rich man asked Abraham to send Lazarus back to earth to testify to his five brothers so they would not end up in this place of torment. Abraham again said that is not possible, they have Moses and the prophets to listen to.

(rich man is never told “don’t worry someone will be baptized for you”)

Romans 1:28-32 – “And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting; being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; they are whisperers, backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, ^[d] unmerciful; who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them.”

Romans 2:5-9 – “But in accordance with your hardness and your impenitent heart you are treasuring up for yourself wrath in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God, who “will render to each one according to his deeds” eternal life to those who by patient continuance in doing good seek for glory, honor, and immortality; but to those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness—indignation and wrath, tribulation and anguish, on every soul of man who does evil.”
(Fate is sealed when we die. Not given second chance after we die)

What it does mean – Remember the context of what Paul is saying.

Paul is confirming, what some were denying, the fact that Jesus Christ was resurrected from the dead. He is trying to reason with them the spiritual effects of denying the resurrection.

Verse 29 – Notice he says, “What will **THEY** do who are baptized for the dead, if they do not rise?” Paul doesn’t say, “What will **YOU** do, but “What will **THEY** do.”

Paul appears to be speaking about a group of non-Christians or a small group that called themselves Christians who were baptizing for the dead. He is not endorsing what they are doing, simply, using them as an example that they believe in a resurrection and an afterlife or why would they be worried about those who have already died!

Verse 32 – Notice that Paul says he fought with beast in Ephesus. These are not literal beast Paul is speaking of, but spiritual beast or false teachers. Paul is saying, “Why would I put by life on the line by fighting false teachers if there is no resurrection, no afterlife, no eternal reward?”

He also states, that if there is no resurrection, **“Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die!”** for this is the logical conclusion of their line of reasoning.

Verses 33-34 – Paul admonishes them some do not have the knowledge of God and not to be deceived by these false teachers.

Slide 6 “The Resurrected Dead” **I Cor. 15:35-50**

Paul begins by anticipating a couple of questions, “How are the dead raised up?” and “With what body will we have?” Maybe you have even asked these questions yourself.

Paul states that what we sow is not made alive unless it dies. For example, an acorn is a small seed that when planted and the seed dies it becomes a mighty oak tree. Or the caterpillar that dies in the cocoon and becomes a beautiful butterfly.

God does not tell us exactly what we will look like but we do know that we will be changed. We will be changed from:

Corruption to Incorruption
Dishonor to Glory
Weakness to Power
Natural to Spiritual
Image of Earthly man to Image of heavenly Man

We will be raised with a glorious body fit for eternity with God.

Slide 7 “The Victorious Resurrection” **I Cor. 15:51-58**

Here God gives us a glimpse of what will happen when time ceases to exist.

Whether we are alive or already dead when Jesus comes again – at the last trumpet, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, everyone will be changed.

Changed into what? We are not told specific details but we do know that we will be changed into our new glorious body that will be ready for eternity, just as Paul mentioned a few verses ago.

“Death is swallowed up in victory” because God will have overcome the last enemy, which is DEATH!

We will be raised NEVER TO DIE AGAIN!

Verse 57

“Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Verse 58

Here Paul says, THEREFORE, meaning because of the fact that Jesus Christ lived, died and was resurrected from the dead never to die again, we have the promise from God that we to, will be victorious over death!

So let us “be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.”

Slide 8

Review each of the points that has been made in the lesson.

Slide 9

“BECAUSE OF CHRIST’S DEATH, BURIAL AND RESURRECTION WE HAVE THE HOPE OF ETERNAL LIFE!”

Slide 10

“WILL YOU TAKE ADVANTAGE OF CHRIST’S RESURRECTION?”

YES! JESUS CHRIST HAS RISEN FROM THE DEAD!

Everything we believe in, everything we hope for depends on the fact that God has raised His Son from the dead and now sits at His right hand in heaven. With that assurance we can know that when Jesus comes again we too will be resurrected, never to die again, and spend eternity with God in heaven.

Are you a Christian? If you are that is great! Remain faithful doing what God has called you to do. If you are not a Christian then God is giving you the opportunity to take advantage of His death, burial and resurrection to obey His plan of salvation and become a Christian today!