

"TO THE CHURCH OF GOD WHICH IS AT CORINTH"

PAUL'S LETTERS TO THE CORINTHIAN CHURCH



1 CORINTHIANS 15

OUTLINE OF THE CHAPTER

- A reminder of the original Gospel they'd heard (vv. 1-11)
- The supremely important nature of the doctrine of the resurrection (vv. 12-19)
- Why do we not see people resurrected now? (vv. 20-28)
- Other brief arguments for the truth of the resurrection (vv. 29-34)
- What will resurrection bodies be like? (vv. 35-49)
- The necessity of the resurrection change (vv. 50-57)

¹ Now I make known to you, brethren, the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received, in which also you stand, ² by which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain.

³ For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴ and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, ⁵ and that He appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. ⁶ After that He appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time, most of whom remain until now, but some have fallen asleep; ⁷ then He appeared to James, then to all the apostles; ⁸ and last of all, as to one untimely born, He appeared to me also. ⁹ For I am the least of the apostles, and not fit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. ¹⁰ But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me did not prove vain; but I labored even more than all of them, yet not I, but the grace of God with me. ¹¹ Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

THE GOSPEL WITHIN WHICH YOU STAND (VV. 1-11)

- Now I make known to you the _____ which...
 - I _____ to you
 - you _____
 - in which also you _____
 - by which also you are _____
 - _____ you hold fast the word which I preached to you
- Of _____ importance
 - Christ died for our sins according to the _____
 - He was _____
 - He was _____ on the third day according to the Scriptures
 - appeared to...
 - _____
 - the _____
 - more than _____ brethren at once
 - _____
 - _____ the apostles
 - _____ himself

THE SUPREMELY IMPORTANT NATURE OF THE DOCTRINE OF THE RESURRECTION (VV. 12-19)

¹² Now if Christ is preached, that He has been raised from the dead, how do some among you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? ¹³ But if there is no resurrection of the dead, not even Christ has been raised; ¹⁴ and if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is vain, your faith also is vain.

¹⁵ Moreover we are even found to be false witnesses of God, because we testified against God that He raised Christ, whom He did not raise, if in fact the dead are not raised. ¹⁶ For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised; ¹⁷ and if Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins. ¹⁸ Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. ¹⁹ If we have hoped in Christ in this life only, we are of all men most to be pitied.

- _____ there is no resurrection of the dead, not even Christ has been raised
- if Christ is not _____
 - our preaching is _____
 - your _____ is vain
 - we are found to be _____ witnesses
 - v. 17 — your faith is _____
 - you are still in your _____
 - those who have fallen asleep (died) have _____
 - Christians are of all men most to be _____

WHY DO WE NOT SEE PEOPLE RESURRECTED NOW? (VV. 20-28)

²⁰ But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who are asleep. ²¹ For since by a man came death, by a man also came the resurrection of the dead. ²² For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be made alive. ²³ But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, after that those who are Christ's at His coming, ²⁴ then comes the end, when He hands over the kingdom to the God and Father, when He has abolished all rule and all authority and power. ²⁵ For He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet. ²⁶ The last enemy that will be abolished is death. ²⁷ For HE HAS PUT ALL THINGS IN SUBJECTION UNDER HIS FEET. But when He says, "All things are put in subjection," it is evident that He is excepted who put all things in subjection to Him. ²⁸ When all things are subjected to Him, then the Son Himself also will be subjected to the One who subjected all things to Him, so that God may be all in all.

- Christ was the _____ of the resurrection
- Our resurrections naturally come _____
 - by a man came _____, by a man came _____
 - in Adam all _____, so also in Christ all are made _____
 - but each in his own _____
 - First, _____
 - Second, _____ at His coming
- After this comes the _____... (vv. 24-26)
 - When Christ hands over the _____ to the Father
 - When all rule and authority and power have been _____
 - The last enemy to be abolished is _____ itself (resurrection)
 - Aside, an important note about the popular premillennial doctrine — Christ rules over the kingdom _____ the resurrection (and "change" — vv. 51,52)
 - Then He hands the Kingdom over to the _____
 - You can't hand over a kingdom that you don't _____

²⁹ Otherwise, what will those do who are baptized for the dead? If the dead are not raised at all, why then are they baptized for them? ³⁰ Why are we also in danger every

OTHER BRIEF ARGUMENTS FOR THE TRUTH OF THE RESURRECTION (VV. 29-34)

- What will those do who are baptized for the _____? (Paul is using a heretical doctrine of his opponents against them; note the word "they" not "we" in the verse)

hour? ³¹ I affirm, brethren, by the boasting in you which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die daily. ³² If from human motives I fought with wild beasts at Ephesus, what does it profit me? If the dead are not raised, LET US EAT AND DRINK, FOR TOMORROW WE DIE. ³³ Do not be deceived: "Bad company corrupts good morals."

³⁴ Become sober-minded as you ought, and stop sinning; for some have no knowledge of God. I speak this to your shame.

³⁵ But someone will say, "How are the dead raised? And with what kind of body do they come?" ³⁶ You fool! That which you sow does not come to life unless it dies; ³⁷ and that which you sow, you do not sow the body which is to be, but a bare grain, perhaps of wheat or of something else. ³⁸ But God gives it a body just as He wished, and to each of the seeds a body of its own. ³⁹ All flesh is not the same flesh, but there is one flesh of men, and another flesh of beasts, and another flesh of birds, and another of fish. ⁴⁰ There are also heavenly bodies and earthly bodies, but the glory of the heavenly is one, and the glory of the earthly is another. ⁴¹ There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for star differs from star in glory. ⁴² So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown a perishable body, it is raised an imperishable body; ⁴³ it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; ⁴⁴ it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body. ⁴⁵ So also it is written, "The first MAN, Adam, BECAME A LIVING SOUL." The last Adam became a life-giving spirit. ⁴⁶ However, the spiritual is not first, but the natural; then the spiritual. ⁴⁷ The first man is from the earth, earthy; the second man is from heaven. ⁴⁸ As is the earthy, so also are those who are earthy; and as is the heavenly, so also are those who are heavenly. ⁴⁹ Just as we have

- Why are we in _____ every hour?
- Why not _____, _____, and be _____, for tomorrow we die?
- These anti-resurrection arguments are made by those without _____, shame on you for listening to the ignorant (new Christian or Greek philosopher)

WHAT WILL RESURRECTION BODIES BE LIKE? (VV. 35-49)

- Metaphors
 - _____
 - Seed looks much different from the plant
 - Connection, but more glorious
 - _____
 - Different in substance and possibly strength and ability
- The _____
 - Different in glory
- A comparison of the body to be sown to the body which will be raised...
 - sown _____, raised imperishable
 - sown in dishonor, is raised in _____
 - sown in _____, it is raised in power
 - it is sown a _____ body, it is raised a _____ body
- Natural man and heavenly man
 - The _____ is not first, but the natural and earthly
 - We first bear the image of the _____ man, Adam
 - We then bear the _____ of the spiritual, heavenly man, Jesus Christ at the resurrection

borne the image of the earthy, we will also bear the image of the heavenly.

- What does this tell us?

⁵⁰ Now I say this, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. ⁵¹ Behold, I tell you a mystery; we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed, ⁵² in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. ⁵³ For this perishable must put on the imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality. ⁵⁴ But when this perishable will have put on the imperishable, and this mortal will have put on immortality, then will come about the saying that is written, "DEATH IS SWALLOWED UP in victory. ⁵⁵ "O DEATH, WHERE IS YOUR VICTORY? O DEATH, WHERE IS YOUR STING?" ⁵⁶ The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law; ⁵⁷ but thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁵⁸ Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord.

THE NECESSITY OF THE RESURRECTION CHANGE (VV. 50-57)

- Why must those who are alive at the second coming be "changed"?
- When is the "change" to happen?
- Cross reference — 1 Thessalonians 4:15-17 "For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord, will not _____ those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the _____ in Christ will rise first. _____ we who are alive and remain will be caught up _____ with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall _____ be with the Lord."
- Who has given us our victory over death?

CONCLUSION (V. 58)

- 1 Corinthians 15:58 "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be _____, _____, always _____ in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in _____ in the Lord."
- All your work, all your suffering, all the dangers you face will be rewarded in the resurrection.