

1 Corinthians

# Wisdom & Unity

Meeting the demands of  
Christian life and living



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Starting where  
you are:

Any questions?



# 1 Corinthians 15:1-58 — What to Make of Resurrection

The resurrection of Jesus is a central tenet of faith in Him. His resurrection secures the believer and is the believer's hope. With Jesus's resurrection as an example, Paul's explanation of bodily resurrection does two things: 1) offers tools for believers to reaffirm the Gospel; and 2) provides an apologetic (defense) for bodily resurrection.

A theological statement precedes a direct address of a dispute that distracted and threatened to distance believers from their professed faith. A final exhortation reveals the aim of a believer's hope when it is tied to the reality of the resurrection: that we may remain faithful.

## **Outline: 1 Corinthians 15:1-58**

- 1 Cor 15:1-34 □ What does Jesus's resurrection mean?
- 1 Cor 15:35-58 □ How does bodily resurrection take place?

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# 1 Corinthians 15:1-28 – The Resurrection, pt. 1

As the last of Paul's major addresses in 1 Corinthians, the matter of bodily resurrection is of great importance. The first portion of this address covers 15:1-34 and centers Jesus—which is to say that Jesus is evidence for bodily resurrection, the nature of Christian hope for resurrection, and the One through whom God achieves ultimate victory.

## Outline: 1 Corinthians 15:1-28

- The reality of the resurrected Christ (1-11)
- The hope of the resurrected Christ (12-19)
- The victory of the resurrected Christ (20-28)



# The Resurrection, pt. 1

The reality of eternal hope.

# The reality of the resurrected Christ (15:1-11)

Paul's previous proclamation of the Gospel (see 2:1-5) is the basis for the faith of the believers in Corinth. Jesus's bodily resurrection is a vital component of this faith.

## **The reality of the resurrected Christ is assured:**

- By the Gospel that produces faith (1-2)
  - Their commitment to persevere
  - Their commitment to spiritual growth (sanctification)
- By the witness of Scripture (3-4)
- By the account of persons in/around Jerusalem (5-7)
- By the testimony of Paul (8-11)

## The hope of the resurrected Christ (15:12-19)

A contrasting opinion of the resurrection prompts the question of why one would believe in something (i.e., the Gospel) that is knowingly false. A series of “if” statements creates an opportunity to reconsider the hope of the Gospel connected to resurrection.

- **Consideration #1** – Do you believe the Gospel? (12-13, 16)
- **Consideration #2** – What do you make of “our” preaching? (14-15)
- **Consideration #3** – What do you make of “your” faith? (17)
- **Consideration #4** – What is the basis of your hope? (18-19)

## The victory of the resurrected Christ (15:20-28)

Lest any might illogically respond to the previous considerations, the point is made clear: resurrection is not only possible but all who believe in Jesus will experience victory over death that He provides.

- Jesus is the “first fruit” required of God as a sacrificial offering (20-22)
  - See Ex 23:14-19
  - Jesus’s bodily resurrection secures believers’ future resurrection.
  - Jesus’s bodily resurrection overrides the physical death introduced by Adam (*and perpetuated by us all*).
- Jesus initiates the beginning of the end (23-25)
- Jesus signifies God’s ultimate reign (26-28)



**'til we meet again:**

- Reflect on today's lesson**
- Pray about today's lesson**
- Read 1 Corinthians 15:29-58**



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