

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 15:29-58 – The Resurrection, pt. 2

As seen in pt. 1, resurrection from the dead has doctrinal and practical implications; these remain at the heart of the discussion for pt. 2. With the resurrection of the human body as a future event, Paul addresses “four areas of Christian experience that are touched by the resurrection.”¹ Ultimately, what one believes about the resurrection impacts how one lives.

Outline: 1 Corinthians 15:29-58

- Appeals for belief in the resurrection (29-34)
- The explanation of the resurrection (35-49)
- The outcome of the resurrection (50-58)

2. Warren Wiersbe. “1 Corinthians 15” in *The Bible Exposition Commentary* (Colorado Springs: David C. Cook 1989) 619.



The Resurrection, pt.2

The reality of eternal hope.

Appeals for belief in the Resurrection (15:29-34)

Following the previous section, Paul uses reason, experience, and rebuke to convince doubters about the reality of the resurrection.

An appeal to reason (29)

The questions relate to surrogate baptism practiced in Corinth. Paul does not endorse the practice, but uses it to highlight the value of the resurrection as seen in:

- The meaning of baptism
- The motivation for baptism

An appeal to experience (30-32a)

Paul's ministry experiences point to his trustworthiness as a herald of the Gospel. If, and since, Paul can be trusted then Paul's message, including resurrection, should be trusted.

- The cost of ministry (see 4:11-13)
- The joy of ministry
- The motivation for ministry (see 5:10-11)

Appeals for belief in the Resurrection (15:29-34) cont'd.

An appeal for meaning (32b-34)

This final segment is part rebuke and part call to conscience. The appeal is that believers would be grounded by the reality of the resurrection. For without the resurrection:

- Life is futile; there is no hope (*Is 22:8-14*)
- Life has no center; there is no standard
- Life has no clarity; there is no direction

A concluding statement reminds believers of the necessity of ensuring they are firmly rooted in the message of the Gospel. Salvation is at stake!

The Explanation of the Resurrection (15:35-49)

Verse 35 (the anticipated question) and Verse 49 (the summarized response) frame Paul's detailed explanation of bodily/physical resurrection. With illustrative language, Paul describes ways to view how glorious the resurrection will be for believers. This description occurs in two parts—35-41 and 42-29.

Resurrection explained

- Illustrations employed ☐ 1 Cor 15:35-41
- Illustrations explained ☐ 1 Cor 15:42-49

The Explanation of the Resurrection (15:35-49) *cont'd.*

Illustrations employed (35-41)

Two questions in v. 35 are the basis for the following explanation, but only the second question is explained. Two analogies increase understanding.

Analogy from nature

- Seeds die as a precursor to life (36)
- Seeds do not predict the appearance of future life (37)
- Seeds are uniquely prepared by God (38)

Analogy of bodies

- Bodies take on the form of their nature (39)
- Bodies take on the form of their purpose (41)

**Only through death can
new life be understood.
Even then, what shall be
will be different than what
has been.**

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The Explanation of the Resurrection (15:35-49) *cont'd.*

Illustrations explained (42-49)

The suspense is broken: not only will resurrection life be different, but it will be distinct! Paul takes up the prior illustrations of nature and the body to explain what “distinct” looks like.

Resurrection Life is Transformed Life

- From corruption to incorruption
- From dishonor to honor (or, glory)
- From weakness to power
- From natural (or, unspiritual) to spiritual

Now Not Yet

**A Change is
Gonna Come!**

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From Adam to Adam

First Adam The Last Adam

A living being The life-giving spirit

The physical The spiritual

Made of earth From heaven

Those of the earth Those of heaven

Image (icon/stamp) of earth Image (icon/stamp) of heaven

What is Paul saying?

First raised in 15:21-22, the distinctions between Adam and Jesus promote distinctions between those who have the hope of resurrection and those who do not. Christian hope is in the resurrected One.

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The Outcome of the Resurrection (15:50-58)

The inheritance of resurrection

- Heaven is free from “earth”
- All will be changed

The imminence of resurrection

- The timing of resurrection
- The transformation of resurrection
- The triumph of resurrection

The anticipation of resurrection

- Believers need not fear death
- Believers can continue in the faith

But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Cor 15:57

'til we meet again:

- Reflect on today's lesson**
- Pray about today's lesson**
- Read 1 Corinthians 16:1-24**



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