

**THE IMPORTANCE OF THE RESURRECTION-#1
1 CORINTHIANS 15:1-20**

Introduction

We have now finally completed the section of 1 Corinthians that deals with spiritual gifts. As we move to the next section we will see that it deals with the resurrection of both Christ and Believers.

This is a very important section in that it points out that without the resurrection there is no real substance to Christianity! As we study this section it should make us truly appreciate all we have in Christ!

I. INTRODUCTION TO THE SUBJECT OF THE RESURRECTION. (15:1-4)

A. Two Distinct Resurrections Are Taught In Scripture. (John 5:24-29)

Daniel 12:2–“And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.”

Revelation 20:4-15

1. There Is The Resurrection Unto Life. (John 5:29)

a. There is a particular order to this resurrection. (15:20-24)

The word “order” is a military term that speaks of a review where the separate battalions pass in their proper order.

b. The Biblical order of the resurrection of life:

(1) Christ the first fruits. (Vs 23)

Romans 1:4–“And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead:”

Matthew 27:51-54

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- (2) Believers of the Church Age. (Vs 23)**
“They that are Christ's at his coming.”
This involves the dead in Christ.
(1 Thessalonians 4:13-18)

Also consider 1 Corinthians 15:51-57

- (3) Israel or the Old Testament Saints.**
Daniel 12:13–“But go thou thy way till the end be: for thou shalt rest, and stand in thy lot at the end of the days.”

Isaiah 26:19-20

- (4) The Tribulation saints.**
Revelation 20:4–“And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.”

There Is The Resurrection Unto Life...

2. There Is The Resurrection Unto Damnation.

We read where Jesus mentioned that in John 5:29.

2 Peter 2:9–“The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished:”

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Matthew 25:41—“Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:”

The Great White Throne of Revelation 20:12-15.

*So, There Are Two Distinct Resurrections Mentioned In Scripture:
The Resurrection Unto Life...The Resurrection Unto
Condemnation.*

B. Let’s Look At The Background Affecting Paul’s Writing To The Corinthians.

1. The resurrection is essential to the Gospel though they did not understand it.
2. Greek culture rejected a bodily resurrection.
 - a. They felt the body was evil and would be discarded in eternity.
 - b. They considered the human body a prison for the soul and spirit.
 - c. They welcomed death because of their beliefs. The resurrection was distasteful to them. (cp Acts 17:31-32)
3. 1 Corinthians 15 was written to help these Believers understand. Their academic background had been superimposed over Bible doctrine.

C. Paul Restates The Gospel To The Corinthians. (15:1-4)

1. He had preached the Gospel.
2. They had received the Gospel.

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3. They were standing in the Gospel.
i.e. They were saved though they did not fully understand all.

D. Paul States The Boundaries Of The Gospel. 15:3-4

1. It begins with the death of Christ.

- a. Christ died for our sins.
- b. Sin is no longer the issue.
- c. The issue in salvation begins with
"What think ye of Christ?"

2. It terminates with the resurrection of Christ.

II. THE FACT OF THE RESURRECTION. 15:5-20

A. The Facts Are Sustained By Evidence. 15:5-11

1. Peter had witnessed the resurrected of Christ. (15:5a)
2. The disciples as a collective group had witnessed.
 - a. The twelve speaks of the body of disciples.
 - b. There were ten present at first.(Thomas absent)
3. Five hundred Believers had seen Jesus at one time. (15:6)
4. James had witnessed (he was the ½ brother of Christ Cp Matthew 13:55). 15:7a
5. All the apostles had seen the resurrected Christ at one time. 15:7b
6. Paul was a witness of the resurrection. 15:8
 - a. He was as one out of due season.

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- b. The grace principle involved Paul.
- 7. Paul's attitude resulted from seeing Christ. 15:9-11
 - a. He was the least of all the apostles because of action prior to salvation. 15:9
 - b. But grace made a difference. 15:10
 - (1) "But" provides a contrast with 15:9
 - (2) His apostleship was dependent on who and what God is.
 - (3) Paul's attitude expressed full confidence without ego.
 - (4) Paul's entire life was affected by his understanding of God's grace.
 - (5) All the apostles preached the Gospel that involved the death and resurrection.
 - c. The Corinthians had believed regardless of who was preaching. 15:10-11

B. The Fact Of The Resurrection Is Sustained By Logic.
(15:12-20)

- 1. If Christ were resurrected then why not Believers. 15:12
- 2. If Believers will not be resurrected then Christ was not. 15:13
- 3. If Christ is not risen the preaching of the Gospel was vain. Their faith would be vain. 15:14

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- 4. The apostles are false witnesses if Christ is not resurrected. 15:15
- 5. If Christ is not resurrected then sin is not paid for. 15:16-17
- 6. If Christ is not resurrected then deceased Believers are perished. 15:18
- 7. The Gospel without the resurrection results in men who have believed being pitiable people. 15:19
- 8. But Christ is risen. 15:20

Conclusion

Christ is risen and those who are in Christ will rise to be with Him.

Those who are not in Christ will be raised to face Him in judgment.

Each of us should settle the matter of whether or not we are in Christ. It is not a matter of whether we are Church members or whether or not we are basically good people or even religious people.

The crux of the matter is whether or not you have been born into the family of God. Are you really in Christ?