

BUT CHRIST HAS INDEED BEEN RAISED FROM THE DEAD!

An Overview of I Corinthians 15

1. REMEMBER THE GOSPEL (verses 1-4):

- The earliest Christian creed: Christ died for our sins, was buried, was raised on the third day
- All in fulfillment of Scripture: Is 53: 8-11; Ps 16:10, Matt 5:17; Luke 24:27
- The Resurrection of Christ confirms that His sacrifice for sin satisfied the wrath of God.
- "He was delivered over to death for our sins, and He was raised to life for our justification."
Romans 4:25

2. THE IMPORTANCE OF THE RESURRECTION TO THE GOSPEL (verses 5-22 and 29-32):

Evidence of Christ's RESURRECTION:

- o Eyewitnesses: He appeared to many people at several different times, last of all to Paul, who was born "out of season."
- o Empirical: The transformation of those who encountered the risen Christ
- o The willingness of the Apostles to suffer and die to proclaim the RESURRECTION
- o No body at the tomb

Hypothetical: If there is no resurrection of the dead, then

- Christ is not raised, and we will not be raised either
- Our preaching is useless
- Your faith in Christ is useless; your faith in Christ is futile
- We are false witnesses
- You are still in your sins
- Those who died believing in Christ have perished
- We are of all people most to be pitied
- "Let us eat and drink for tomorrow we die."

Assurance of the RESURRECTION (verses 20-22):

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Federal headship – what happens to the leader is binding on the group

Examples: President of the country; the captain of a ship, the head coach of a team

3. THE ORDER OF RESURRECTION (verse 23-28):

- Christ the firstfruits (Lev 23: 9-14)
- Then (time interval) those who belong to Christ at His coming (think Rapture, not second coming)
- Then (time interval) ... the end will come
 - o Christ's Victory – defeat all foes; the last enemy to be destroyed is death
 - o Presentation: Christ will hand over the kingdom to God the Father
 - o Purpose: that God may be all in all

4. **PAUL'S APPEAL** (verses 33 and 34)

"Come back to your senses as you ought and stop sinning;" live in accordance with your profession

5. **QUESTIONS ABOUT RESURRECTION** (verses 35-49):

How are the dead raised? With what kind of body will they come? Why must I die?

Lessons from Creation: agronomy, zoology and astronomy

6. **A MYSTERY RELATED TO RESURRECTION** (verses 50-53):

Mystery – something hidden that is now revealed

"We shall not all die, but we will all be changed!"

In a flash (Greek "*atomo*"), in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump

The LAST TRUMP to a Roman soldier was sounded to signify that the victory was won, it's time to go home

7. **THE VICTORY OF RESURRECTION:** verse 54-57

- Death has been swallowed up by resurrection life in Christ
- The sting (poison, venom) of death is removed
- What is the greatest fear of non-Christians if not the fear of death?

8. **PAUL'S EXHORTATION: BE STEADFAST, IMMOVABLE, ABOUNDING IN THE WORK OF THE LORD:** verse 58

SPACE FOR PERSONAL NOTES: