

1 Corinthians Part Two

Lesson #23, Chapter 15:12-28

Please read all of Chapter 15 before beginning this lesson. Ask the Lord to help you understand and apply His Word.

1. What was the essence of the gospel message preached by Paul and the apostles according to 1 Corinthians 15:1-11?

2. Why did Paul need to reaffirm that gospel? See verse 12.

3. Why is the resurrection so important according to verses 13 and 14?

4. What does the term *in vain* mean when Paul says that without the resurrection his preaching and our faith would be *in vain* [Strong's #2756]?

5. Paul goes on to provide some reasons why the resurrection is essential to our faith in verses 15-19. What is the first reason he gives for why we need to believe in the resurrection according to verse 15? How do Acts 2:24; 10:39-42; 13:30-37 confirm what Paul says in verse 15?

6. If we don't believe in the resurrection of Jesus Christ what are we saying about God and His character?
 - a. Yet what do we know to be true of God? See 1 Samuel 15:29; Titus 1:2; Hebrews 6:17-18.

7. Another reason why the resurrection is essential to our faith is found in verses 16-17. What do you learn there? Explain why that is the case: See Mark 2:9-12; John 14:19; Romans 4:24-25; 5:10.

8. In verse 17 we learn that if the resurrection hadn't taken place our faith would be *worthless*. After defining the word, describe what our faith would be like if it was *worthless* [Strong's #3152 (KJV *vain*; NIV and ESV *futile*)].

9. Another reason that the resurrection is essential to our faith is found in verse 18. What else would have happened if Christ hadn't risen from the dead?

10. What do the Scriptures have to say about those who have gone before us in the faith? See 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18.
 - a. How does that encourage us in this life?

11. The last reason given in this section for the value of the resurrection is found in verse 19. What's the connection between the resurrection and hope? See also verses 22, 24, 51-52, 54; Romans 8:11.

12. Isn't it interesting how one "little" divergence from the gospel message can have such massive implications? What does this teach you about adhering to the Scriptures and the need to communicate them accurately?

13. After discussing the negative results of not believing in the resurrection, Paul now moves to discussing the great benefits of the resurrection. What do we learn in verse 20?

14. What does Paul mean when he says, “first fruits”? See Nehemiah 10:34-36; Psalm 105:36; 1 Corinthians 16:15.

15. D. A. Carson states, “The first fruits of any harvest indicates that there is more of the crop to come.” Explain the connection between Christ's resurrection and first fruits.

16. Verse 22 explains verse 21—what do you learn? Also note the points of comparison in those two verses.

17. Our well-ordered and all-wise God has even planned the stages of the resurrection. What is the first stage of the resurrection according to verse 23?
 - a. What is the next stage of the resurrection from verse 23?

 - b. What do you learn about this stage of the resurrection? See 1 Thessalonians 4:16; John 14:2-3.

 - c. What do you learn happens in the last stage of the resurrection mentioned in verse 24?

18. What is the purpose of Christ abolishing all rule, authority, and power at the end? See verse 24 and Revelation 11:15.

19. The ripple effect of Jesus Christ rising from the dead continues. What else will happen as a result of the resurrection of Jesus Christ according to verses 25-28?

20. What do we learn about the relationship between the Father and the Son from verses 24-28?

21. Explain how the first fruits resurrection of Christ is a promise that death will be abolished and the Lord will be exalted over all.

22. Why is it essential for every believer to believe in the resurrection as we've learned from verses 12-28?

23. How should the resurrection of Jesus Christ affect how we live, our relationships, our hope, and our future?

HEARTS TO HEAVEN AND VOICES RAISE

by Christopher Wordsworth

Alleluia, alleluia! Hearts to Heaven and voices raise:
Sing to God a hymn of gladness, sing to God a hymn of praise.
He, who on the cross a Victim, for the world's salvation bled,
Jesus Christ, the King of glory, now is risen from the dead.

Now the iron bars are broken, Christ from death to life is born,
Glorious life, and life immortal, on the holy Easter morn.
Christ has triumphed, and we conquer by His mighty enterprise:
We with Him to life eternal by His resurrection rise.

Christ is risen, Christ, the first fruits of the holy harvest field,
Which will all its full abundance at His second coming yield:
Then the golden ears of harvest will their heads before Him wave,
Ripened by His glorious sunshine from the furrows of the grave.

Christ is risen, we are risen! Shed upon us heavenly grace,
Rain and dew and gleams of glory from the brightness of Thy face;
That we, with our hearts in Heaven, here on earth may fruitful be,
And by angel hands be gathered, and be ever, Lord, with Thee.

Alleluia, alleluia! Glory be to God on high;
Alleluia! to the Savior who has gained the victory;
Alleluia! to the Spirit, fount of love and sanctity:
Alleluia, alleluia! to the Triune Majesty.