

## 1 CORINTHIANS 15 - RESURRECTION

15:3-8 – An ancient doxology. This is nothing new. “This statement may be the earliest formulation of NT Christianity, predating Paul’s earliest letters by 15 years.” “Greeks... believed in an after-life [and] tended to speak of the immortality of the soul. They viewed the soul as something different than matter. In the Greek view, the soul is liberated from the body and lives forever in a non-corporeal state.”

- Christ died for your sins (according to scripture) – Isaiah 52:13-53:12; Ps. 22
- He was buried – Is. 53:9
- He was raised on the third day (according to scripture) – Ps. 16:9-11, Hosea 6:2, Joel 1:17, 2:10
- He appeared for forty days after his resurrection – Acts 1:3

15:9-11 – By the Grace of God I am what I am.

- Satan says, “you’re not worthy”
- Jesus says, “you’re worth more than you’ll ever realize. So get up, we have work to do” Ephesians 2:1-10

### The Doctrine of Resurrection

15:12-19 – The bad news. If there is no bodily resurrection, then:

- V13 - Jesus was never raised
- V14 - Our preaching is in vain/meaningless
- V14 - Our faith is in vain/meaningless
- V15 – We are lying about God
- V16 – (Again) Jesus is still in the tomb
- V17 – Our faith is worthless and our sins have never been forgiven
- V18 – The dead are lost forever under the judgment of their unforgiven sin
- V19 – We are pitiful

15:20-28 – The Good News

- V20 – The big but. Christ has been raised. The reason Paul uses the term “fall asleep” is because it implies there will be a coming awakening.

- Firstfruits: “By firstfruits Paul brings to bear the rich imagery of the OT. The ‘firstfruits’ – the first sheaf of the harvest offered to the Lord (Lev. 23:10-11, 17, 20) – was not only prior to the main harvest but was also an assurance that the rest of the harvest was coming. So with Christ, he preceded his people in his bodily resurrection and he is also the guarantee of their resurrection at his second coming.”
- V21-22 – Death through one man, life through one man. (Rom. 5:12-21)
- V23 – Resurrection order: 1) Christ; 2) Believers at his coming (1 Thess. 4:13-17; Rev. 20:4-6)
- V24-25 – Then comes the end.
- V24/25 - Christ will destroy all rulers/authorities/powers. All enemies will be made a footstool (Psalm 110:1). Matthew 24:14
- V26 - The last enemy to be destroyed is death. (Rev. 20:7-15)

### The Resurrection Body

15:35-58

- V36-41 – Not all flesh is the same. What is sowed will not come to life unless it first dies.
- V42-44 – We are raised with a spiritual body.
  - Angels: Luke 20:35-36. Angels: appeared and disappeared, looked like regular people, ate (Gen. 18:2, 22; 19:1-22), were material
  - Resurrected Jesus: Ate, appeared and disappeared, had a physical/material form which could be touched, was recognizable, still had his scars (Luke 24; John 20-21, Acts 1:1-9). Lk. 24:39. *Our resurrected bodies will be like that of Jesus’.*
- V50 – Why do we need resurrected bodies anyway? Flesh and blood is not eternal. Spiritual bodies are.
- V51-52 – The main points are this:
  - Christ is coming back.
  - When he comes, not everyone will be dead – there will be both dead and living believers.
  - When he comes, both the dead and living believers will transform into our eternal spiritual bodies. (Enoch Gen 5:24, Elijah 2 Kings 2:11)
- Matt 25:31-35, 41, 46; 2 Thess 1:7-12. Rev 20:11-15, 21:1-7