

Resurrection

Benefits and Realities



Sunday 2/24 at 8:00 & 10:45 | Monday 2/25 at 7 PM

Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany – 2019

2/25 is the Final Monday for Now; Ash Wednesday is on 3/6

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ: Today is the final part of our short series on [1 Corinthians](#) (chapters 12-15).

Last week we considered *what the horrible realities would be* if “[there is no resurrection of the dead](#)” (12); for example, ♣Christ is dead, ♣preaching and faith are meaningless, ♣dead believers will not be raised, ♣our sins are not forgiven, and ♣believers have gone on to eternal punishment. Then, after all of that, *Paul assured us that* “[Christ has been raised from the dead](#)” (20) *and all of those horrible things are NOT true!*

Today we continue in chapter 15 with various benefits and realities connected to Jesus’ resurrection and ours! Even though all people will be raised ([Jo 5:28-29](#); [Ac 24:15b-16](#)), *Paul focuses on the resurrection of believers in this section.*

1. **The Great Reversal:** ²¹ [For since through a man came death, also through a man came the resurrection of the dead.](#) ²² [For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be made alive.](#) ²³ [But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruit, then at his coming those who belong to Christ.](#)

// Think about dominos lined up in a very long row; *you know how it works... when the first domino falls... then they all fall* /| | | | | | | | | |. In a similar way, *Adam’s fall brought death to all*, but now, for all who know Jesus ([Jo](#)

17:3), *not death but life – thus the great reversal!* The Father raised Jesus first; then, when He comes, *Jesus will raise all believers to the fullness of eternal life!*

2. **When Jesus Returns:** ²⁴ Then the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father, after destroying every rule and every authority and power. ²⁵ For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. ²⁶ The last enemy to be destroyed is death.... // Verses 23b-25 include four events: Based on various passages in the Bible, *I believe this is the proper order of those events:*
- a. Jesus is now reigning (Mt 28:18; Re 1:5)!
 - b. Jesus is now defeating all enemies of God (Mk 3:22-27)!
 - c. Jesus will return victorious over all, including death!
 - d. Jesus will deliver the rule of the kingdom to the Father!
- All such things should give us much peace and joy now, *and cause us to look forward to much greater things to come when Jesus returns!* He won and, by grace through faith (Ep 2:4-5, 8-9), *we are – even now – sharing in His victory over sin, death, and the devil (Jo 5:24)!*

3. **Motivated by the Resurrection:** ³⁰ Why also are we in danger every hour? ³¹ Daily I die, by the pride that I have in you, brothers, which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord. ³² What do I gain if, humanly speaking, I fought with beasts at Ephesus? If the dead are not raised, “Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die.” // Paul, *with his traveling and preaching*, was exposed to much danger and suffered in horrible ways; he wrote: “Five times I received at the hands of the Jews the forty lashes less one. Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I was stoned. Three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I was adrift at sea; on frequent journeys, in danger from rivers, danger from robbers, danger from

my own people, danger from Gentiles, danger in the city, danger in the wilderness, danger at sea, danger from false brothers; in toil and hardship, through many a sleepless night, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure” (2C 11:24-27 ESV). If this life is it, *Paul was such a fool*; however, *the reality of the resurrection and eternity motivated Paul to live for Christ!*

4. **A Call to Repent:** *Paul was strong in living for Christ*, but some Corinthian believers – *who were lacking in the sureness of their own resurrection* – “**had a lax attitude about moral matters and needed stern warnings**” (CC, 581).
³³ **Do not be deceived** [*led astray*]: “**Bad company ruins good morals.**” ³⁴ **Wake up from your drunken stupor, as is right, and do not go on sinning. For some have no knowledge of God. I say this to your shame.** // As those who are drunk *tend to say and do things without sound reasoning*, so the Corinthians were proceeding *as if they were spiritually drunk!* So Paul called them to SOBER UP and STOP SINNING!! In Acts 24 (15-16), *Paul declared his assurance of the resurrection*; then he said, “**In view of [the resurrection], I also do my best to maintain always a blameless conscience both before God and before men**” (Ac 24:16 NAS). *One day we will give an account* (Ro 14:12)!
5. **Resurrected Body Information:** ³⁵ **But someone will ask, “How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?”** ³⁶ **You foolish person!** [*Paul used such sharp language because those questioning were not humbly seeking information, but were mocking the resurrection!*] **What you sow does not come to life unless it dies.** ³⁷ **And what you sow is not the body that is to be** [*is to come into being by God*], **but a bare** [*literally, naked*] **kernel, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain.** ³⁸ **But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body.** // As an apple

seed is *far different than an apple tree*, so a dead and decaying body is *far different than that person's eventual resurrected body!* And what will resurrected bodies be like? Jesus “will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body” (Ph 3:20 NIV).

- a. ³⁹ **For not all flesh is the same, but there is one kind for humans, another for animals, another for birds, and another for fish.** // Those are the same KINDS identified in Genesis 1 – fish, birds, animals, people!
- b. ⁴⁰ **And there are heavenly bodies and earthly bodies, but the glory [brightness] of the heavenly is of one kind, and the glory of the earthly is of another.** ⁴¹ **There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for star differs from star in glory.** // Our sun is the brightest, then our moon, then the stars – *and they differ from each other.*
- c. ⁴² **So also it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable [subject to decay]; what is raised is imperishable [NOT subject to decay].** // Jesus used these words to point to His own death and to us – *the fruit He would bear: “...unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains by itself alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit” (Jo 12:24 NAS).* As sinners – *forgiven in Christ* – let us be certain of **♣**the coming resurrection and **♣**the fullness of God's gift of eternal life!

This Week's Sermon Challenge: Identify one new thing you learned about resurrection; then apply that one new thing in your life!

Let Us Pray: Dear Father in heaven, *thank You for Your unbelievable goodness to us through Jesus!* In His name!

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