



Sunday December 01, 2019
1 Corinthians chapter 15

We have been studying through 1 Corinthians in recent months, and we are nearing to the end of this Epistle, the last two chapters.

Having addressed the topic of spiritual gifts and their proper expression, the apostle Paul now turns his attention to another topic of importance - the resurrection from the dead. Concerning the resurrection there were two main concerns that Paul addresses: first, is there indeed such a thing as life after death and then, what kind of bodies will we have when we are raised from the dead.

For the purposes of our study we go through this chapter in 7 sections:

- The Gospel And The Resurrection (15:1-8)
- Paul's Call of Grace (15:9-11)
- The Resurrection of the Dead (15:12-19)
- In Christ, Our Hope of the Resurrection (15:20-28)
- Living In View Of The Resurrection (15:29-34)
- A Glorious, Incorruptible, Resurrection Body (15:35-49)
- The Final Victory (15:50-58)

We will read each section through first, share insights on that section, and proceed to the next.

The Gospel And The Resurrection (15:1-8)

1 Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand,

2 by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.

3 For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures,

4 and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures,

5 and that He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve.

6 After that He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once, of whom the greater part remain to the present, but some have fallen asleep.

7 After that He was seen by James, then by all the apostles.

8 Then last of all He was seen by me also, as by one born out of due time.

Paul reminds them of the Gospel which he summarizes in verses 3 & 4: "*Christ died for our sins..He was buried, and that He rose again the third day..*". Christ's death, burial



and resurrection and all that it resulted in, in essence is the Gospel. There can be no complete presentation of the Gospel without presenting this core truth.

Christ's death, burial and resurrection all took place "*according to the Scriptures*", meaning, according to what had already been prophesied and written about in the Old Testament Scriptures.

vs 2:

by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.

"hold fast" (Greek 'katecho') means keep secure, keep firm possession of

We must hold fast, keep secure and keep firm possession of the Gospel message which we have believed, by which we have been saved. This implies two things: (A)there will be enemies or influences that would try to take this away from us and (B)if we let go of believing the Gospel message, we have "believed in vain", that is our previous period of believing comes to no effect (no good), if we do not maintain present continuous faith in the Gospel.

vs 5-8:

The apostle Paul points to the fact that there were many (over 500) eye witnesses to the resurrected Christ, many who were alive at the time of Paul's writing to the Corinthians. **THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS CHRIST WAS INDISPUTABLE. IF 500 EYE WITNESSES WERE TO TESTIFY IN COURT TO THE FACT OF THE RESURRECTION, THE RESURRECTION WOULD BE UPHOLD.** What is interesting is that these 500 eye witnesses included people who previously were antagonistic to Jesus Christ. These included his own brothers (John 7:3-5; Acts 1:14) as well as Saul, himself.

Paul's Call Of Grace (15:9-11)

9 For I am the least of the apostles, who am not worthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.

10 But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.

11 Therefore, whether it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

The great apostle Paul, always remembered that he once was a persecutor of those who believed in Jesus and the grace that the Lord had towards him.



Verse 10 brings out a wonderful understanding of the interplay between grace and works, two sides to the same coin. **WE ARE WHAT WE ARE BY HIS GRACE. YET WE DETERMINE BY OUR RESPONSE, IF GOD'S GRACE EXTENDED TO US GOES IN VAIN, OR RESULTS IN THE FULL MEASURE OF HIS PURPOSES BEING FULFILLED THROUGH US.** Paul points out that he "*labored more abundantly*" than the other apostles/leaders. And yet, even this ability to labor more abundantly, he attributes to God's empowering grace that was on his life.

God extends grace to each of us, aligned to His call and gifting on our lives. Yet we determine by our response (diligent work, discipline, patience, faith, etc.) whether this grace will "go in vain" or produce much for the Kingdom.

The Resurrection Of The Dead (15:12-19)

12 Now if Christ is preached that He has been raised from the dead, how do some among you say that there is no resurrection of the dead?

13 But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ is not risen.

14 And if Christ is not risen, then our preaching is empty and your faith is also empty.

15 Yes, and we are found false witnesses of God, because we have testified of God that He raised up Christ, whom He did not raise up—if in fact the dead do not rise.

16 For if the dead do not rise, then Christ is not risen.

17 And if Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins!

18 Then also those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished.

19 If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable.

THE CHRISTIAN FAITH DEPENDS ENTIRELY ON THIS ONE TRUTH - CHRIST'S RESURRECTION FROM THE DEAD. If Jesus did not rise from the dead, then all the preaching and believing we do is useless, empty and we are promoters of falsity. It also means that we are still lost in our sins, without a savior, and no hope of a life hereafter.

vs 19:

If our faith in Christ was only for this temporal life, then it really is not making a difference. If that were true, Paul says that "*we are of all men most pitiable*". **THE GOOD NEWS IS THAT WE LIVE LIFE WITH HOPE IN CHRIST NOT ONLY IN THIS LIFE BUT ALSO IN THE HEREAFTER.** What a difference this makes in the way we live everyday life!

In Christ, Our Hope Of The Resurrection (15:20-28)

20 But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

21 For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead.



22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive.

23 But each one in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those who are Christ's at His coming.

24 Then comes the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power.

25 For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet.

26 The last enemy that will be destroyed is death.

27 For "HE HAS PUT ALL THINGS UNDER HIS FEET." But when He says "all things are put under Him," it is evident that He who put all things under Him is excepted.

28 Now when all things are made subject to Him, then the Son Himself will also be subject to Him who put all things under Him, that God may be all in all.

vs 20:

However, because we know that Jesus Christ has been raised from the dead, we know we will be raised up - because **He was the firstfruits - the beginning of something that others would follow.**

firstfruits (Greek "*aparche*") a beginning, the beginning of a thing

Christ is the first One to be resurrected from the dead and moving from a flesh and blood body to an incorruptible, spiritual, glorified body

In Christ, those who are His, will be made alive, because He was the beginning. Because of Jesus we have this confidence of the resurrection from the dead.

THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS REPRESENTS OUR RESURRECTION. BECAUSE HE LIVES WE WILL LIVE ALSO (John 14:19; Romans 6:5).

vs 24-28:

We not only have confidence in the resurrection, but we know that all enemies, including death itself, will be ended - there will be no more death.

Jesus will reign (referring to the 1000 year Millennial reign of Christ) till all enemies are brought under him. He will bring an end to all rule (chiefs), authorities and power, including death. All things will be made subject to Christ. And Christ will willingly walk in submission to the Father.

15:27 (GNB)

For the scripture says, "God put all things under his feet." It is clear, of course, that the words "all things" do not include God himself, who puts all things under Christ.

So in Jesus, we have this assurance of resurrection from the dead, and we know that death itself will be conquered, and Jesus will reign over all.



Living In View Of The Resurrection (15:29-34)

29 Otherwise, what will they do who are baptized for the dead, if the dead do not rise at all? Why then are they baptized for the dead?

30 And why do we stand in jeopardy every hour?

31 I affirm, by the boasting in you which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die daily.

32 If, in the manner of men, I have fought with beasts at Ephesus, what advantage is it to me? If the dead do not rise, "LET US EAT AND DRINK, FOR TOMORROW WE DIE!"

33 Do not be deceived: "Evil company corrupts good habits."

34 Awake to righteousness, and do not sin; for some do not have the knowledge of God. I speak this to your shame.

vs 29:

The apostle Paul now looks at what people outside the church do. He points to people outside the church (not believers) who baptize for the dead. The fact that they do this indicates that they have some confidence that there is life after death. NOTE: The apostle Paul is not teaching us to practice baptizing for the dead he is just pointing to people outside the church who have this practice.

vs 30-32:

Paul points to the fact that he puts his own life on the line every hour. The sacrifices he makes, the dangers he suffers, to the point where it appears that he dies daily. At Ephesus (from where he was writing this epistle) Paul mentions that he faced such opposition that it was as though he fought wild animals at Ephesus. Why endure all this, if we did not believe in the resurrection from the dead? We can just live a life that is based on the here and now.

vs 33-34:

We have to be careful who and what we allow to influence us. Evil company corrupts (degrades) good habits. We cannot allow those who do not have the knowledge of God to influence us.

Application:

1, WE MUST LIVE AS PEOPLE WHO BELIEVE IN AND ARE CONVINCED OF THE RESURRECTION - the fact that Christ is alive and therefore we too will be raised to live eternally with Him. This means we can endure hardships for the sake of the call of God on our lives and our faith in Christ.

As Paul wrote in 2 Corinthians:

2 Corinthians 4:16-18

16 Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day.



17 For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory,

18 while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.

2, WE HAVE TO GUARD OUR FAITH IN THE GOSPEL AND IN THE RESURRECTION.

There are those who do not have this understanding and we cannot allow them to adversely influence our lives - how we live and the choices we make.

A Glorious, Incorruptible, Resurrection Body (15:35-49)

35 But someone will say, "How are the dead raised up? And with what body do they come?"

36 Foolish one, what you sow is not made alive unless it dies.

37 And what you sow, you do not sow that body that shall be, but mere grain—perhaps wheat or some other grain.

38 But God gives it a body as He pleases, and to each seed its own body.

39 All flesh is not the same flesh, but there is one kind of flesh of men, another flesh of animals, another of fish, and another of birds.

40 There are also celestial bodies and terrestrial bodies; but the glory of the celestial is one, and the glory of the terrestrial is another.

41 There is one glory of the sun, another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for one star differs from another star in glory.

42 So also is the resurrection of the dead. The body is sown in corruption, it is raised in incorruption.

43 It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power.

44 It is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body.

45 And so it is written, "THE FIRST MAN ADAM BECAME A LIVING BEING." The last Adam became a life-giving spirit.

46 However, the spiritual is not first, but the natural, and afterward the spiritual.

47 The first man was of the earth, made of dust; the second Man is the Lord from heaven.

48 As was the man of dust, so also are those who are made of dust; and as is the heavenly Man, so also are those who are heavenly.

49 And as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly Man.

The apostle Paul explains here that we will have resurrected bodies that are very different from the bodies we presently have.

OUR PRESENT BODIES ARE MORTAL, MADE OF DUST, CORRUPTIBLE, NATURAL. THESE BODIES ARE LAID TO THE GROUND IN DISHONOR AND WEAKNESS.

OUR RESURRECTED BODIES WILL BE IMMORTAL, INCORRUPTIBLE, SPIRITUAL, RAISED UP IN GLORY AND POWER. *"..we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is" (1 John 3:2).*



Encourage those who may have lost their loved ones in Christ....recently.

The Final Victory (15:50-58)

50 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption.

51 Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed—

52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.

54 So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "DEATH IS SWALLOWED UP IN VICTORY."

55 "O DEATH, WHERE IS YOUR STING? O HADES, WHERE IS YOUR VICTORY?"

56 The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law.

57 But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

The apostle Paul completes this teaching on the resurrection point to the return of Christ for His people, similar to what he wrote to the Thessalonians in 1 Thessalonians 4. At that moment, for those of who are alive, in an instant we will have resurrected bodies. Death will be overcome. God Himself will grant us this victory over death, through our Lord Jesus Christ.

vs 58:

In view of all this, here and now **WE CONTINUE, UNSHAKABLE, IMMOVABLE, ALWAYS ABUNDING, ALWAYS ADVANCING IN THE WORK OF THE LORD, BECAUSE WE KNOW THAT ALL THAT IS DONE FOR CHRIST WILL HAVE FRUIT THAT WILL LAST THROUGH ETERNITY!**

MINISTRY TIME | SALVATION CALL



LIFE GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Sunday December 01, 2019
1 Corinthians chapter 15

This is a simple guide for use in Life Group discussions. Our objective is to focus on the application of the Sunday sermon - how each one is becoming a doer of the Word and building their life on God's Holy Word. The Life Group meeting would normally last for 2 hours. Each Life Group would have up to 12-15 people.

Preparation

To prepare for the Life Group meeting, you can listen to the Sermon Key Points (sermon summary in five minutes) or the full length Sunday sermon. You can also review the Sunday Sermon notes. All these are available in the "All Peoples Church Bangalore" mobile App or online at apcwo.org/sermons . Pray for the Life Group meeting and invite the work and ministry of the Holy Spirit.

Welcome

The Life Group meeting may commence with a time of prayer, worship and a fun activity.

LISTEN to God's Word

Read the following Scripture passages: *1 Corinthians chapter 15*

INVESTIGATE God's Word Together

Please discuss a few of these together, giving time for people to share their insights. We encourage each one individually to make notes of their personal learning during the Group discussion.

1, Discuss the importance of the resurrection of Jesus Christ to our faith, as pointed out by Paul in this chapter. Include additional insights from other Scripture references as well (e.g. Romans 1:4; Romans 4:25; Romans 8:11; Romans 14:19; 1 Peter 1:3)

2, How does believing in the resurrection affect the way we live life here and now, as believers?

3, Contrast the body we now have and the resurrected body we will have one day?

If time permits, each one takes a few (3 minutes max) to share one or two key learning and how they see themselves applying it into their specific life situations. Encourage each one to participate and share.



FELLOWSHIP by sharing your life and spiritual journey

Each one takes a few (3 minutes max) to share anything from their walk with God, something God has been teaching them, a testimony of answered prayer or a specific challenge that they would like prayer for. Encourage each one to participate and share.

ENCOURAGE each other by praying and ministering to one another

Get into small groups of two or three and take turns to thank God and pray for each other in the light of what was learnt today. Listen to the Holy Spirit. Expect the gifts of the Holy Spirit to flow bringing healing, releasing miracles, prophecy, etc.

Regroup and pray together for:

1, families to be protected and strengthened

2, a mighty outpouring of God's Holy Spirit on us as a church and through us to bless many others in our city and nation. Nothing but a mighty work of God's Spirit can change our city and nation.

3, for the BUILD TO IMPACT project - for God's hand to guide us through the land search and acquisition process, and for finances to be more than enough to get this project done.

Close by thanking God together.