

Subject: *The Resurrection of Christ and Christians – Part 6*

Scripture: *1 Corinthians 15:50-58*

This chapter is all about the resurrection. As we come to the grand conclusion of this monumental text, let's take a look at the main teachings in this chapter:

Main Teachings in 1 Corinthians 15

1. The resurrection of Christ is a *fundamental* truth of the Gospel (vs. 1-11)
2. The resurrection of Christ is *essential* to Christian faith and practice (vs. 12-19)
3. The resurrection of Christ is the *guarantee* of the believer's resurrection (vs. 20-23)
4. The resurrection of believers will bring God's plan to *completion* (vs. 24-28)
5. The resurrection of believers has a *practical* impact on our daily life (vs. 29-34)
6. The resurrection body is *patterned* after Christ's resurrection body (vs. 35-49)
7. The resurrection of believers is our ultimate *victory* (vs. 50-57)
8. The resurrection of believers is our driving *motivation* (vs. 58)

After Paul laid out the importance of Christ's resurrection and the certainty of our resurrection as believers, he closes with a summary of how it is going to take place, what the final outcome will be, and how that should be the spiritual fuel to energize our daily Christian lives.

1. A human impossibility (vs. 50)

Paul is talking about the problem that our present body is not fit for heaven. We can't live forever in heaven in these bodies. The kingdom of God is the ultimate future kingdom in heaven where we will be with the Lord, serve and worship Him forever. Would you really want to live forever in your present body? When John Quincy Adams was 80 years old someone asked him, "How are you today?" He said, "Thank you for asking. John Quincy Adams is quite well, thank you, but the house in which he is living is becoming rather dilapidated. In fact, it will soon become unlivable, and I will have to move out any day now."

These bodies eventually remind us that they are not meant to last forever. One senior saint said he was living in the Metallic Age: "I've got silver in my hair, gold in my teeth, and lead in my feet." We need a new body—an incorruptible body fit for Heaven. We need a body that won't experience any of the things we normally associate with the aging process—bulges, bifocals, bunions, bridges, and baldness. We need a body that won't be subject to disease, disability, death, or decay.

2 Corinthians 4:16 *For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day.*

2. A divine mystery (vs. 51-53)

A "mystery" is truth that was hidden for ages, but now has been revealed by God. This mystery was not discovered by human investigation, but something only known by divine revelation.

The mystery revealed to Paul is “the Rapture.” The Bible says that we will not all “sleep” (die), but we shall all be changed. The Bible speaks of the Rapture here and two other places:

John 14:3 *And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.*

1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 *For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.*

Living saints will be changed and they will receive new glorified bodies just like those who will be raised from the dead. Whether we die or whether we live, we will receive a new body.

This change will take place “in a moment” (*atom*), something that cannot be divided. It means the smallest amount of time possible. In the “twinkling of an eye,” means the rapid movement of the eye, faster than the blink of an eye.

1 John 3:2 *Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.*

The trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised. When we go to a cemetery (sleeping place) we are going where dead bodies are sleeping. The noise of cars, tractors, mowers, and people can't disturb them, but when the trumpet of God sounds, it will be a call for the grave to give up, and for the saints to wake up, to go up, and to dress up. Notice verse 53, “put on.” God is going to clothe us with a new body.

2 Corinthians 5:1-5 ¹ *For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.* ² *For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is from heaven:* ³ *If so be that being clothed we shall not be found naked.* ⁴ *For we that are in this tabernacle do groan, being burdened: not for that we would be unclothed, but clothed upon, that mortality might be swallowed up of life.* ⁵ *Now he that hath wrought us for the selfsame thing is God, who also hath given unto us the earnest of the Spirit.*

3. A final victory (vs. 54-57)

All through history it seems like death is winning, but Paul tells us the ultimate outcome.

A. Death is a definite fact

Ever since Adam sinned, the whole human race has been subject to death. The story is told of the ancient philosopher Diogenes, who was looking at a pile of human bones when Alexander the Great asked him what he was doing just standing and looking at the bones. Diogenes said, “I’m searching for the bones of your father, but I can’t seem to tell them apart from the bones of the slaves.” Diogenes made his point. Death is no respecter of persons. Rich and poor, old and young, good and bad, all die.

B. Death is a destructive force

Death is a great separator. According to verse 26, death is an enemy. Every funeral home and cemetery reminds us that death is a destructive force.

C. Death is a defeated foe

Paul looks at death and the grave and taunts them: “Death, where is your sting? Grave, where is your victory?” We ought to be thankful for victory in Christ. Our favorite sports team wins a championship and we say, “We won the game,” because we share in the victory. How thankful we are that Christ won the victory: “O victory in Jesus, my Savior forever, He sought me and bought me with His redeeming blood. He loved me e’er I knew Him and all my love is due Him. He plunged me to victory beneath the cleansing flood.”

4. A personal responsibility (vs. 58)

Since Christ rose from the dead, and since believers are going to be raised from the dead and will have a perfect body like Christ, we ought to live like it. Our responsibility includes two things:

- A. We are called to *stand firmly* – We are not to be swayed by false teaching and fads. If we are grounded in Christ, nothing else can attract us or satisfy us.
- B. We are called to *serve faithfully* – The word “abounding” means “overflowing.” Instead of trying to do as little as possible, we should do as much as we can and we do it while we can. Everything done for Christ will be worth it.

We know that earthly investments can appreciate or depreciate in value. Serving the Lord is an investment. We invest our time, our effort, our money, and our whole lives for Him. There is no down side and no possible loss of value. There will be a payday someday. Heaven is more than a destination; it is a motivation.

THE RESURRECTION OF CHRIST AND CHRISTIANS – PART 6

The Believer's Ultimate Victory

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2. The resurrection of Christ is _____ to Christian faith and practice (vs. 12-19)
3. The resurrection of Christ is the _____ of the believer's resurrection (vs. 20-23)
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2. A _____ (vs. 51-53)

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3. A _____ (vs. 54-57)

A. Death is _____

B. Death is _____

C. Death is _____

4. A _____ (vs. 58)

A. We are called to _____

B. We are called to _____