



## Future Rising Impacts Present Living • Part 1

Lesson 9 • 1 Corinthians 15:29-34

**Let's Review This Series: Rising Up!**

### What's the Main Idea of 1 Corinthians 15:29-34?

Our **BELIEFS** about the future impacts our **BEHAVIOR** in the present.

**Specifically:** *What you believe about your future bodily resurrection impacts how you live right now in the present!*

**Personally:** *How you live in the present reveals what you believe about the future!*

**Practically:** *People see what you believe about life after death by how you live in the present!*

### Four Ways Our Future Rising Impacts Our Present Living

What We Believe about Our Future Bodily Resurrection...

## 1. Impacts What We **SEEK FOR** the Dead in the Present. (29)

**Probably the Hardest Verse to Understand in the Entire Bible!**

### Why Is This Verse So Hard to Understand?

1) The most simple understanding of the verse **CONTRADICTS** the rest of Scripture.

2) Nothing that comes before or after this verse really **HELPS** us to understand its meaning.

*What was clearly known to Paul and the Corinthians is virtually unknown to history and to us!*

3) Paul mentions being baptized for the dead **WITHOUT** condemning it, correcting it, or commanding it.

4) Only heretical groups and cults use this verse to **PROMOTE** being water baptized for the benefit of the dead!

➤ Marcionites back in 150 AD

➤ Mormons (The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints) since the 1840's

*Mormons use this verse to justify their practice of being water baptized for the dead to give them another chance to be saved as a Mormon.*



### Whatever This Verse May Mean, the Bible Teaches Three Truths Very Clearly:

- 1) No one gets water baptized **BEFORE** they are saved or in order to **BE** saved!  
*Book of Acts; Ephesians 2:8-9*
- 2) The eternal destiny of the dead is determined **before** they die **NOT AFTER** they die. *Hebrews 9:27*
- 3) Neither the living nor the dead can **CHANGE** the eternal destiny of anyone after they die. *Luke 16:19-31*



### What Are the Main Ways of Understanding This Verse?

- 1) Superstitious/Syncretistic Views to Spiritually **BENEFIT** the Dead
- 2) Syntactical Views that Change the Sentence **STRUCTURE** to Make Biblical Sense  
*"If there is no resurrection what is the point of being baptized? Is it only to be united with the dead? If the dead do not rise again, why are they baptized? Is it only to be united with them (i.e., with the dead who will never rise)?"*
- 3) Sincere Views that Seek to **HONOR** Dead Believers Whose Martyrdom or Ministry Led Them to Be Saved
- 4) Symbolic Views that Seek to **STAND IN** for Believers Who Died Without Being Baptized

### **BOTTOMLINE: WE JUST DON'T KNOW FOR SURE WHAT THIS VERSE MEANS!**

***But We Do Know THE POINT Paul Was Trying to Make and We Will Explain What It Means Next Week***

*What we believe about our future bodily resurrection impacts what we seek for the dead in the present.*

### Six Takeaways for Application

- Interpret **unclear** passages by **clear** passages.
- Don't build your doctrine or application on **unique, ambiguous, or obscure** passages.
- When you **don't know** what a verse means **humbly admit it** rather than making something up or twisting the text.
- You may not always know **what** a particular verse means but we **almost always know why** it was included in the passage.
- The vast majority of the bible is **clear** and **easily understood** by believers who are willing to make the effort to study it.
- **TODAY** is the day of salvation! Don't waste it by **not receiving** Christ or **not sharing** the Gospel with others before they die!