

August 31, 2025

God's Good News Story: The Church Alive & Growing

The Book of 1 Corinthians – Part 14 Chapter 15

The Reality & Implications of the Resurrection

Today we continue on our multi-year journey through the New Testament where we are seeking to understand the historical, chronological and missiological of the 1st Century Church so that we in the 21st Century Church can keep the 'CHURCH LIVE & GROWING'. In the Book of 1 Corinthians we see where...

Paul **REMINDS** them of their **HIGH CALLING TO...**

1. Be Holy
2. Develop a Fellowship of Harmony & Love
3. Glorify God.
4. Have the Mind of Christ.
5. Be God's Sanctuary & Temple
6. Honor & Respect Faithful Spiritual Leaders
7. Live as Obedient 'Beloved Children' of our Heavenly Father.
8. Live Your Life With Integrity & Godliness.
9. Honor God in Our Relationships & Service
10. To Use Your Liberty In Christ in Loving Wisdom
11. To Make The Message of the Gospel a Priority Over Our Freedom and Rights.
12. To Follow the Example of Christ in How We Treat Others.
13. To Honor Christ in the way we worship.
14. To Use Your Spiritual Gifts For the Good of the Church and to the Glory of God.
15. To Place Love as the Priority in Everything We Do.
16. To Pursue a Passionate , Pure Worship of God.

Today in Chapter 15 we discover

17. **To Live in Victory & Confidence in Light of the Resurrection of Jesus.**

In this chapter Paul deals with problems the Corinthians were having concerning the resurrection of the dead. Evidently there were teachers at Corinth, most likely influenced by Greek philosophy, that taught there is no such thing as the resurrection of the dead.

Paul powerfully and completely addresses this false doctrine by reminding them of the Gospel which they had received, and which proclaimed the resurrection of Jesus from the dead (1-11). Paul then proceeds to verify the resurrection with several different lines of argumentation (12-34). The last half of the chapter is devoted to answering anticipated questions concerning how the dead will be raised and the nature of the resurrected body(35-58).

https://www.ccel.org/contrib/exec_outlines/lco/lco_15.htm

"1 Corinthians 15 emphasize the crucial importance of Jesus' resurrection for Christian belief and salvation, as His resurrection guarantees the resurrection of all who believe in Him. **Key takeaways include:**

- **The Priority of the Gospel Message as Found in the Scriptures Supplies our Faith and Hope.**
- **The Reality of the Resurrection of Christ Gives Confidence in our Current Faith and Our Future Blessings.**
- **The Implications of the Resurrection on our Current Faith and Future Resurrection.**

(Adapted from Co-pilot)

1. The Priority of the Gospel Message as Found in the Scriptures Supplies our Faith and Hope.

1 Corinthians 15:1-11... *Now I make known to you, brethren, the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received, in which also you stand, ² by which also you are saved, if you **hold fast the word** which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain.*

*³ For I delivered to you as of **first importance** what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴ and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, ⁵ and that He appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. ⁶ After that He appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time, most of whom remain until now, but some have fallen asleep; ⁷ then He appeared to James, then to all the apostles; ⁸ and last of all, as to one untimely born, He appeared to me also. ⁹ For I am the least of the apostles, and not fit 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 did not prove vain; but I labored even more than all of them, yet not I, but the grace of God with me. ¹¹ Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.*

Paul reinforces to the Church the message of the Gospel that he and others had preached to them. He challenges them to “**hold fast to the Word**” (vs. 2) and to prioritize the Gospel message which includes these basic Gospel Elements:

1. That Christ Died for our Sins
2. That He was Buried
3. That He was Raised Form the Dead
4. That He Appeared to Numerous Individuals, Groups and to Paul himself.

These facts are the very heart of the Gospel story and we as the Modern Day Church must commit to making the Gospel a Priority in our daily lives and as a product of a vibrant faith.

2. The Reality of the Resurrection of Christ Gives Confidence in our Current Faith and Our Future Resurrection.

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, not even Christ has been raised; ¹⁴ and if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is vain, your faith also is vain. ¹⁵ Moreover we are even found to be false witnesses of God, because we testified against God that He raised Christ, whom He did not raise, if in fact the dead are not raised. ¹⁶ For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised; ¹⁷ and if Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins. ¹⁸ Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. ¹⁹ If we have hoped in Christ in this life only, we are of all men most to be pitied. ²⁰ But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who are asleep.

(continued on next page)

²¹ For since by a man came death, by a man also 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 first fruits, after that those who are Christ's at His coming, ²⁴ then comes the end, when He hands over the kingdom to the God and Father, when He has abolished all rule and all authority and power. ²⁵ For He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet. ²⁶ The last enemy that will be abolished is death. ²⁷ For HE HAS PUT ALL THINGS IN SUBJECTION UNDER HIS FEET.

Re-phrasing this point in the negative ... If Christ has not been raised from the dead, our faith, Christianity will collapse like a house of cards and have no power.

As James Merritt states in "Christ-Centered Exposition" commentary on 1 Corinthians: (p. 279)

Without the Reality of the Resurrection:

- Our Message in Meaningless
- Our Witness is Worthless
- Our Faith is Foolish
- Our Sin is Sovereign
- Our Loves Ones are Lost
- Our Existence is Empty

With The Reality of the Resurrection:

- Our Message is Powerful
- Our Witness is Fruitful
- Our Faith is Unshakable
- Our Sin is Conquered
- Our Loves Ones are Secure in Christ

➤ Our Existence is Vibrant

3. The Implications of the Resurrection on our Current Faith and Future Blessings.

³³ Do not be deceived: "Bad company corrupts good morals." ³⁴ Become sober minded as you ought and stop sinning; for some have no knowledge of God. I speak this to your shame. imperishable..... ⁵¹ Behold, I tell you a mystery; we will not all sleep, but we will 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 imperishable, and we will be changed. ⁵³ For this perishable must put on the imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality. ⁵⁴ But when this perishable will have put on the imperishable, and this mortal will have put on immortality, then will come about the saying that is written, "DEATH IS SWALLOWED UP in victory. ⁵⁵ O DEATH, WHERE IS YOUR VICTORY? O DEATH, WHERE IS YOUR STING?" ⁵⁶ The sting of death is sin, and the power 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 toil is not in vain in the Lord.

What are some practical implications from the reality of the Resurrection?

- **We Should Exhibit Steadfastness and Perseverance:** Knowing the certainty of the resurrection and our future hope should inspire Christians to be steadfast and unmovable in their faith.

- **We Should Make a Priority of Abounding in the Work of the Lord:** Because our labor in the Lord is not in vain, we should be diligent and dedicated in serving Him and advancing His kingdom.
- **We Should Be Living with an Eternal Perspective:** The hope of resurrection helps us to live with an eternal perspective, not solely focused on the fleeting things of this life. It reminds us that our trials and suffering are temporary and will be overshadowed by the glory to come.
- **We Should Be Sharing the Gospel:** The resurrection message, the "*Good News*," is for all people. Christians are called to share this hope with a world grappling with the fear of death and the search for meaning. (Co-pilot)

Summary of the Reality of the Resurrection

1. It authenticates Jesus as the Son of God & Lord of all.
2. It gives us a living hope and provides us with the content of saving faith.
3. It shows the greatness of God's power at work in us & proves to us that God keeps all His promises in His word.
4. It assures us that our sins truly are forgiven and reminds us that death has been conquered for us, and it makes it possible for us to walk in newness of life.
5. It comforts us that our bodies will be raised with Him.
6. It assures us of the ultimate judgment of evil.
7. It supports us with authority in spreading His gospel & confirms to us that our labor in Him is never in vain.

Adapted from message delivered Resurrection Sunday, March 23, 2008 at Bethany Bible Church. Portland, Oregon. <https://www.bethanybible.org/archive/2008/032308.htm>

Take-Away: Will You Commit To:

- **The Priority of the Gospel Message as Found in the Scriptures to Supply Your Faith and Hope.**
- **The Reality of the Resurrection of Christ To Give You Confidence in Your Current Faith and Future Blessings.**
- **The Implications of the Resurrection on our Current Faith and Future Resurrection to Lead You to Live Steadfast, Righteous Lives That Abound in Good Works.**

The Complete Passage for Today:
Follows on the Next Two Pages

1 Corinthians 15:1-58... Now I make known to you, brethren, the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received, in which also you stand, ² by which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain. ³ For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴ and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, ⁵ and that He appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. ⁶ After that He appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time, most of whom remain until now, but some have fallen asleep; ⁷ then He appeared to James, then to all the apostles; ⁸ and last of all, as to one untimely born, He appeared to me also. ⁹ For I am the least of the apostles, and not fit 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 did not prove vain; but I labored even more than all of them, yet not I, but the grace of God with me. ¹¹ Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed. 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, not even Christ has been raised; ¹⁴ and if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is vain, your faith also is vain. ¹⁵ Moreover we are even found to be false witnesses of God, because we testified against God that He raised Christ, whom He did not raise, if in fact the dead are not raised. ¹⁶ For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised; ¹⁷ and if Christ has not

been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins. ¹⁸ Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. ¹⁹ If we have hoped in Christ in this life only, we are of all men most to be pitied. ²⁰ But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who are asleep. ²¹ For since by a man came death, by a man also 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 first fruits, after that those who are Christ's at His coming, ²⁴ then comes the end, when He hands over the kingdom to the God and Father, when He has abolished all rule and all authority and power. ²⁵ For He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet. ²⁶ The last enemy that will be abolished is death. ²⁷ For HE HAS PUT ALL THINGS IN SUBJECTION UNDER HIS FEET. But when He says, "All things are put in subjection," it is evident that He is excepted who put all things in subjection to Him. ²⁸ When all things are subjected to Him, then the Son Himself also will be subjected to the One who subjected all things to Him, so that God may be all in all. ²⁹ Otherwise, what will those do who are baptized for the dead? If the dead are not raised at all, why then are they baptized for them? ³⁰ Why are we also in danger every hour? ³¹ I affirm, brethren, by the boasting in you which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die daily. ³² If from human motives I fought with wild beasts at Ephesus, what does it profit me? If the dead are not raised, LET US EAT AND DRINK, FOR TOMORROW WE DIE. ³³ Do not be deceived: "Bad company corrupts good morals." ³⁴ Become sober-minded as you ought, and stop sinning; for some

have no knowledge of God. I speak this to your shame. ³⁵ But someone will say, "How are the dead raised? And with what kind of body do they come?" ³⁶ You fool! That which you sow does not come to life unless it dies; ³⁷ and that which you sow, you do not sow the body which is to be, but a bare grain, perhaps of wheat or of something else. ³⁸ But God gives it a body just as He wished, and to each of the seeds a body of its own. ³⁹ All flesh is not the same flesh, but there is one flesh of men, and another flesh of beasts, and another flesh of birds, and another of fish. ⁴⁰ There are also heavenly bodies and earthly bodies, but the glory of the heavenly is one, and the glory of the earthly is another. ⁴¹ There is one glory of the sun, another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for star differs from star in glory. ⁴² So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown a perishable body, it is raised an imperishable body; 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. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body. ⁴⁵ So also it is written, "The first MAN, Adam, BECAME A LIVING SOUL." The last Adam became a life-giving spirit. ⁴⁶ However, the spiritual is not first, but the natural; then the spiritual. ⁴⁷ The first man is from the earth, earthy; the second man is from heaven. ⁴⁸ As is the earthy, so also are those who are earthy; and as is the heavenly, so also are those who are heavenly. ⁴⁹ Just as we have borne the image of the earthy, we will also bear the image of the heavenly. ⁵⁰ Now I say this, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God;

nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. ⁵¹ Behold, I tell you a mystery; we will not all sleep, but we will 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 imperishable, and we will be changed. ⁵³ For this perishable must put on the imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality. ⁵⁴ But when this perishable will have put on the imperishable, and this mortal will have put on immortality, then will come about the saying that is written, "DEATH IS SWALLOWED UP in victory. ⁵⁵ O DEATH, WHERE IS YOUR VICTORY? O DEATH, WHERE IS YOUR STING?" ⁵⁶ The sting of death is sin, and the power 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 toil is not in vain in the Lord.