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1 CORINTHIANS

## Chapters 15 & 16 HOPE OF THE RESURRECTION

### I. INTRODUCTION

A. Paul has come to the final movement of the "spirituals", RESURRECTION.

1. The resurrection is the ultimate triumph: the end of all earthly difficulties.
  - a) **Rev 21:3-5 NKJV** And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God *is* with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them *and be* their God. (4) And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away." (5) Then He who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new." And He said to me, "Write, for these words are true and faithful."
    - (1) Death is only the beginning for the Christian, a "graduation day" from pain and suffering and the limits of this life.
    - (2) It is to this, (the resurrection) that Paul turns his attention!

B. You see, Corinth being the center of modern thought, held 3 differing views on resurrection.

1. **EPICUREANISM** = which believed in pure materialism. - no existence beyond the grave! (JUST DO IT!) (GO FOR THE GUSTO)
2. **STOICISM** = which believed that at death the soul was merged in Deity and there was a complete and total loss of personality.
3. **PLATONISM** = which insisted upon immortality of the soul, but completely denied the idea of a bodily resurrection.
  - a) Paul wants the church to know the truth!

II. **THE FACTS: 1CO 15:1-12 NKJV** 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. (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. (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? (EPICUREANISM)**

A. Paul demonstrates that the gospel is based on indisputable evidence.

1. He realizes that perhaps some of them are not saved at all, so he restates the facts of the "gospel"! **vrs 3-4**
  - a. If you take any part of that away, you have no gospel!
  - b. His death was for our sins, not His own.
    - (1) **Luk 23:4 NKJV** So Pilate said to the chief priests and the crowd, "I find no fault in this Man."
    - (2) **2Co 5:21 NKJV** For He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.
2. "According to the scriptures"
  - a) What scriptures? The O.T.
    - (1) **Isa 53:5-6 NKJV** But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed. **(6)** All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.
    - (2) Abraham and Isaac: **(Gal 3:6 NKJV** just as Abraham "BELIEVED GOD, AND IT WAS ACCOUNTED TO HIM FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS.")
    - (3) Jonah in the belly of the whale, "resurrected" after 3 day and 3 nights. **Mat 12:40 NKJV** For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.
3. "Seen by the Apostles and others"
  - a) Peter, James, and the 12: **Mar 16:6-7 NKJV** But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He is risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid Him. **(7)** But go, tell His disciples—and Peter—that He is going before you into Galilee; there you will see Him, as He said to you."
    - (1) Peter had denied and fallen away!
      - (a) In fact almost all of them had given up hope!
      - (b) Over 500 people gathered as the news of His resurrection spread!
      - (c) James (his own ½ brother) didn't even believe in Him 'til after he witnessed His resurrection.
    - (2) Paul: On the road to Damascus, was made aware of the awful sinner that he was and even at the time of this writing could not believe the Lord would choose him to be an Apostle!
      - (a) After all, he had persecuted the very cause, he was now trying to prove.
      - (b) He mentions the word "grace" 3 times in **vrs 10**. Paul himself was proof of the resurrection!
      - (c) He had seen the risen Christ!!

**III. THE HOPE: 1CO 15:13-34 NKJV 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. (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. (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 EPHEBUS, 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.

A. For there to be any hope, there must be a resurrection!

1. In Corinth: like many people today, they were "picking and choosing" what they wanted to believe out of the gospel.
2. What they didn't seem to understand was that if they "altered" the resurrection of Christ, they also destroyed their own eternity!
  - a) Everything in their history taught them to believe that there was no resurrection of the body, only the soul!
  - b) If that be true, then Jesus could not have risen.
  - c) If He did not rise, then it would all be a joke!
    - (1) The gospel would be a lie, faith would be without meaning, and Christians would be without hope, and that would be pitiful!

B. But Paul assures them in **vrs 20**, "**CHRIST HAS BEEN RAISED FROM THE DEAD.**"

1. He goes on to explain that there are 2 circles of life.
  - a) The first exists with Adam. We can be born, live, and die in that circle if we choose to.
    - (1) There was only one restriction placed on Adam. That was the

sovereignty of God!

- (a) He was given life and liberty as long as he submitted to the Lord!
- (b) He chose not to submit to the sovereignty of the Lord and died spiritually!
  - (i) We can choose to do the same!!
- b) There is another circle however and it exists in the second Adam, Jesus Christ!!
  - (1) The first circle we are all born into: the second, we must be "born again" into!
    - (a) **Joh 3:1-6 NKJV** There was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. (2) This man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, "Rabbi, we know that You are a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him." (3) Jesus answered and said to him, **"Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."** (4) Nicodemus said to Him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?" (5) Jesus answered, **"Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. (6) That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit."**
    - (b) The first circle is without choice, the second must be by choice!
    - (c) In the first circle, "I" am god. In the second, I am in subjection to the sovereign will of God!

C. Paul looks far into the future. **vs 24-28**

1. **"Then comes the end"**

- a) Jesus now reigns in a program of grace even in the storms of life.
  - (1) But there is coming a time when He will deliver everything up, into the hands of His father.
  - (2) The last great enemy to be destroyed will be death! **1Co 15:52-55 NKJV** 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?"**

D. Paul addresses the Corinthian practice of "baptizing for the dead" in **verse 29**.

- 1. Please don't misunderstand this passage to mean that he is condoning the practice. (Remember this is a letter of correction regarding the Resurrection). What he is saying is that without believing in the resurrection of the dead, it is a

futile practice!

2. Without resurrection their suffering from persecution is in vain!
  - a) They might just as well "party down".

E. Then Paul gives a warning: [33-34](#).

1. Don't hang around people espousing false doctrine!
  - a) "For some do not have the knowledge of God", and yet you are letting their "philosophy" of the resurrection rub off!
  - b) And there are people dying without Jesus!

IV. **THE RESULTS: 1CO 15:35-50 NKJV** 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*. (50) NOW THIS I SAY, BRETHREN, THAT FLESH AND BLOOD CANNOT INHERIT THE KINGDOM OF GOD; NOR DOES CORRUPTION INHERIT INCORRUPTION.

A. WHAT WILL IT BE LIKE WHEN I GET THERE?

1. HOW CAN IT BE? = like the seed. sown=dead=and alive!
2. WHAT KIND OF BODY WILL I HAVE?
  - a) Sown in death, a natural body, a result of the first circle and the first Adam.
  - b) All in Jesus will be raised with a spiritual body, life given as a result of the second birth!
    - (1) Sown in corruption, raised pure and holy!

V. **THE VICTORY: 1CO 15:52-58 NKJV** 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.

- A. Because of this hope of the resurrection we must not let the trials of this life shake us. (STEADFAST AND IMMOVABLE)
- B. For the same reason we must (ABOUND) in the work of the Lord.
  - 1. Many will die without Christ, we must be busy doing the will of our Father!
- C. This is what we must hang on to:
  - 1. "Knowing that our labor is not in vain in the Lord."
  - 2. People may not notice, but the Lord does!

VI. **CONCLUSION: 1CO 16:1-24 NKJV** NOW CONCERNING THE COLLECTION FOR THE SAINTS, AS I HAVE GIVEN ORDERS TO THE CHURCHES OF GALATIA, SO YOU MUST DO ALSO: (2) ON THE FIRST *DAY* OF THE WEEK LET EACH ONE OF YOU LAY SOMETHING ASIDE, STORING UP AS HE MAY PROSPER, THAT THERE BE NO COLLECTIONS WHEN I COME. (3) AND WHEN I COME, WHOMEVER YOU APPROVE BY *YOUR* LETTERS I WILL SEND TO BEAR YOUR GIFT TO JERUSALEM. (4) BUT IF IT IS FITTING THAT I GO ALSO, THEY WILL GO WITH ME. (5) NOW I WILL COME TO YOU WHEN I PASS THROUGH MACEDONIA (FOR I AM PASSING THROUGH MACEDONIA). (6) AND IT MAY BE THAT I WILL REMAIN, OR EVEN SPEND THE WINTER WITH YOU, THAT YOU MAY SEND ME ON MY JOURNEY, WHEREVER I GO. (7) FOR I DO NOT WISH TO SEE YOU NOW ON THE WAY; BUT I HOPE TO STAY A WHILE WITH YOU, IF THE LORD PERMITS. (8) BUT I WILL TARRY IN EPHEBUS UNTIL PENTECOST. (9) FOR A GREAT AND EFFECTIVE DOOR HAS OPENED TO ME, AND *THERE ARE* MANY ADVERSARIES. (10) AND IF TIMOTHY COMES, SEE THAT HE MAY BE WITH YOU WITHOUT FEAR; FOR HE DOES THE WORK OF THE LORD, AS I ALSO *DO*. (11) THEREFORE LET NO ONE DESPISE HIM. BUT SEND HIM ON HIS JOURNEY IN PEACE, THAT HE MAY COME TO ME; FOR I AM WAITING FOR HIM WITH THE BRETHREN. (12) NOW CONCERNING *OUR* BROTHER APOLLOS, I STRONGLY URGED HIM TO COME TO YOU WITH THE BRETHREN, BUT HE WAS QUITE UNWILLING TO COME AT THIS TIME; HOWEVER, HE WILL COME WHEN HE HAS A CONVENIENT TIME. (13) WATCH, STAND FAST IN THE FAITH, BE BRAVE, BE STRONG. (14) LET ALL *THAT* YOU *DO* BE DONE WITH LOVE. (15) I URGE YOU, BRETHREN—YOU KNOW THE HOUSEHOLD OF STEPHANAS, THAT IT IS THE FIRSTFRUITS OF ACHAIA, AND *THAT* THEY HAVE DEVOTED THEMSELVES TO THE MINISTRY OF THE SAINTS—(16) THAT YOU ALSO SUBMIT TO SUCH, AND TO EVERYONE WHO WORKS AND LABORS WITH *US*. (17) I AM GLAD ABOUT THE COMING OF STEPHANAS, FORTUNATUS, AND ACHAICUS, FOR WHAT WAS LACKING ON YOUR PART THEY SUPPLIED. (18) FOR THEY REFRESHED MY SPIRIT AND YOURS. THEREFORE ACKNOWLEDGE SUCH MEN. (19) THE CHURCHES OF ASIA GREET YOU. AQUILA AND PRISCILLA GREET YOU HEARTILY IN THE LORD, WITH THE CHURCH

THAT IS IN THEIR HOUSE. (20) ALL THE BRETHREN GREET YOU. GREET ONE ANOTHER WITH A HOLY KISS. (21) THE SALUTATION WITH MY OWN HAND—PAUL'S. (22) IF ANYONE DOES NOT LOVE THE LORD JESUS CHRIST, LET HIM BE ACCURSED. O LORD, COME! (23) THE GRACE OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST *BE* WITH YOU. (24) MY LOVE *BE* WITH YOU ALL IN CHRIST JESUS. AMEN.

A. Paul says his goodbyes!

1. Reminds them he will be coming to collect their monetary gifts for the saints in Jerusalem. **vrs2**
2. To receive Timothy with open arms! **vrs 10-11**
3. **1Co 16:13 NKJV** Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong.
4. **16:14** Let all *that* you *do* be done with love