

1. Paul begins **1 Corinthians 15** with the gospel message in the **first 4 verses**, the message which centers on the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. He emphasizes that this message is foundational to our faith and salvation.
2. In **verses 5-11** Paul provides evidence for the resurrection by listing witnesses, including Peter, the Twelve, and over five hundred others, many of whom were still alive at the time of his writing. Validate the resurrection as a verifiable event.
3. Paul then asserts in **verses 12-19** that if Christ has not been raised, then Christian preaching and faith are in vain, useless.
4. Next Paul triumphantly states in verse 20 that Christ has risen and uses **verses 20-28** to explain the order of resurrection: Christ as the firstfruits, followed by those who belong to Him at His coming.
5. Paul then uses **verses 29-34** to reflect on the significance of his own struggles and the sacrifices he has made for the sake of the Gospel, implying that these efforts would be meaningless without the hope of resurrection.

**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?

The Mormons have made this into the **Doctrine of Baptism for the dead**, basically Baptism by proxy. It means:

1. Baptism is essential to get to heaven,
2. (ultimate works-based salvation).

There are no other supporting verses in either the New or Old Testament that provide a doctrinal basis for this practice. Making this the only doctrinal statement in the Bible without accompanying instructions.

Understanding this verse is not intended as a doctrinal statement but is part of Paul's argument addressing doubts about the resurrection of the dead.

Paul uses baptism to illustrate that if there is no resurrection, then the act of baptism becomes meaningless; he emphasizes that baptism is rooted in the belief of resurrection, and without this belief, its significance is lost. The Christian faith would be a delusion, and you would still be lost in your sins.

verse 35

**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. (NKJV)

Jesus said in:

**John 12:24** Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain.

- Seeds are a picture of new life. A healthy seed enters into a state where its metabolic processes stop. They do not germinate if conditions aren't right, but when the conditions are right, temp, moisture then they germinate and blossom into new life.
- Just as a seed must die to produce a new plant, for the Christian to experience the fullness of new life we also undergo a transformation through death when our metabolic processes stop, then in God's timing called the RAPTURE we will blossom into new life.
- Paul explains when you plant a wheat seed, a big wheat seed does not come up. Instead, a stalk of wheat grows. So, even though our resurrection bodies come from our present bodies, we should not expect that they will be the same bodies or just "improved" bodies. **Who we are is our soul**, our body is just a vehicle to get around in.
- God does not need this body to make a resurrection body. The bodies of Christians who died a thousand years ago have, by now, completely turned into dust. This will in no way prevent God from being able to resurrect their bodies. He created us in the first place; He will have no difficulty re-creating us.

- Is Cremation wrong. The Bible does not specifically address cremation; the Old Testament does not prohibit it or impose any judgment on those who are cremated. Cremation simply accelerates the natural process of returning the body to dust.

- It was believed to be wrong For centuries by the Catholic Church who prohibited cremation**, in part because the Roman Empire would burn the bodies of Christian martyrs to stop them from one day rising from the grave. This was also a Catholic practice for heretics, they even dug up and burned **John Wycliffe's bones**, to stop his resurrection.
- They have allowed cremation since 1963, provided it is not chosen for reasons contrary to Christian doctrine, such as a denial of the resurrection of the body. And spreading the ashes is not allowed. **The Catholic Encyclopedia**

**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.

- Paul reminds us that "all flesh is not the same flesh," emphasizing the incredible diversity of "bodies" in God's creation. Our resurrection body will be a heavenly, celestial creation, perfectly suited for our new life.
- This aligns with biblical truth that affirms science and challenges Darwin's theory of evolution.
  - After Job's frienemy Zophar, bluntly tells Job, "You deserve much worse." He goes on to say in
  - Job 11:12, "An empty-headed person won't become wise any more than a wild donkey can bear a human child."

The next 3 verses give us a comparison of the two kinds of bodies.

**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.

- My wife and I spent time training our kids at home around the dinner table to eat with manners, bottom flat legs forward, we use please and thank you, look people in the eye when they talk to you responded clearly. Because home was the training ground for when we went out in public to a restaurant.

Our lives and decisions serve as a training ground for eternity; the bible prompts us to use our time wisely. The acronym I use for the word BIBLE is **basic instructions before leaving earth**.

Every Sunday this Church building is a training ground for us to mature as a Christians; we are commanded in **Matt 28:19** go and make disciples of all nations. This command stresses the importance of learning the Gospel for the reason of reaching others with what we are learning. If were not actively using your talents to fulfill this mission, seek a ministry where you can contribute and start handing out lifejackets. Don't live your life like this is the waiting room.

**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 (NKJV)

Paul is saying through the first Adam, we received our natural bodies, perfectly suited to this earth:

- We became perishable as a consequence of the Fall.
- Due to disobedience, mankind became mortal.
- Aging, deterioration, and eventual death now affect us all.
- From dust we came, and to dust shall we return (Genesis 3:19; Ecclesiastes 3:20).

We have many difficult decisions coming, 1 of the biggest differences between America and many hostile countries is our belief in the sanctity of life

One of the biggest differences between America and many hostile nations is our belief in the sanctity of life. This belief is relevant in light of the Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD) law, which Canada passed. **June 2016**. Assisted suicide is

fraught with ethical implications. We should strive to provide compassionate care for those who are suffering with the conviction that life is a divine gift.

**Deut 30:19** I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, *that* I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live;

- The normalization of abortion and assisted suicide reflects a troubling "culture of death." This shift in beliefs contradicts what the bible teaches, where God urges us to "choose life" **Deuteronomy 30:19**.
  - **Euthanasia rejects the gift and embraces the curse.**
- Life encompasses joy and suffering, but our perception of quality can be vastly different.
- I would never advocate for prolonged suffering; I am saying we must respect God's divine authority over life and death.

**Romans 5:3** And not only *that*, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance;

- Just as suicide is not recognized as a human right, neither should assisted suicide be viewed as such. **Romans 5:3** emphasizes that tribulations can foster perseverance and purpose, even in suffering.
  - Many Families are brought together when 1 member is dying, many times old wounds are healed, forgiveness is extended and priorities are made straight,

it is not always about the person suffering, more often it is about the people around them.

- **1 Corinthians 15:26** says death is an enemy, and **Genesis 2:7** reminds us that life is a sacred gift from God.
- Instead of hastening death, we should look to enhance palliative care, also called comfort or supportive care.
- Used to alleviate suffering, in people of any age and improve the overall well-being of patients and their families while allowing natural death. This approach respects the dignity of the individual and acknowledges God's timing in life and death.
- Most discussions debate 2 choices: suffering and misery or death. Why aren't more of us informed about alternatives like **Palliative /comfort or supportive care?**

A significant barrier to palliative care is its cost. We are unaware of the options available because the focus tends to be on more immediate solutions rather than approaches that prioritize life.

As Christians, we must take this issue seriously. It is crucial to rally together, advocate for the sanctity of all life, and make our voices heard.

**Joh 3:4** Nicodemus said to Him, How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter the second *time* into his mother's womb and be born?

**Joh 3:5** Jesus answered, Truly, truly, I say to you, Unless a man is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

**Joh 3:6** That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. (NKJV)

I. Jesus further emphasizes this transformation in His conversation with Nicodemus, where He states that one must be "born of water and the Spirit" to enter the kingdom of God **John 3:5**.

- This spiritual rebirth signifies a transition from our earthly existence to a new life in Christ, that our true identity is not bound to these physical bodies.
- Paul elaborates on this mystery of transformation, declaring that "we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed" **1 Corinthians 15:51**.
- He describes a moment when the dead will be raised imperishable, and those alive will be transformed at the last trumpet **1 Corinthians 15:52**.
  - This promise of resurrection is echoed in his letter to the Thessalonians, where he assures believers that "the dead in Christ will rise first" and that we will be united with the Lord forever **1 Thessalonians 4:16-17**.

**1 Th 4:16-18** For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

**17** Then we who are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.

**18** Therefore comfort one another with these words

It is clear the two passages, **1 Corinthians** and **1 Thessalonians**, fit together, based on the relationship of events described and the intended results.

<i>Events</i>	<i>1 Corinthians 15</i>	<i>1 Thessalonians 4</i>
Trumpet sound	v. 52	v. 16
Dead saints raised	v. 52	v. 16
Living saints changed	v. 52	v. 17
Death overcome by victory	v. 54	v. 14
Jesus descends from Heaven		v. 16

II. I have to touch on the trumpet sound and the crucial role played in distinguishing the different beliefs about the rapture. Pre, Mid, and Post-tribulation.

- The Greek word for last "eschatos" can be interpreted two ways: as "last in point of time" or "last in point of sequence."
  - This dual meaning is significant in understanding Paul's focus on the church and the conclusion of the church age at the rapture.
  - Paul is conveying a clear message to his readers, and to fully grasp his intent, we can look to the Old Testament for further clarification, especially since the Book of Revelation had not been written yet.
- Throughout Scripture, trumpets were used as signals to gather people, to set armies on the move, and as part of the worship of God. The trumpet that summons the church is called "the trump of God,".

**Numbers 10:1** And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying:

**2** "Make two silver trumpets for yourself; you shall make them of hammered work; you shall use them for calling the congregation and for directing the movement of the camps.

**3** When they blow **both** of them, all the congregation shall gather before you at the door of the tabernacle of meeting.

**4** But if they blow **only one**, then the leaders, the heads of the divisions of Israel, shall gather to you.

Since it is a summoning trumpet, we can look to the Old Testament for further understanding. **Numbers 10** gives instruction to Israel about the use of trumpets to call an assembly of the people and to set them in motion. The first trumpet blast (v. 4) called the leaders together. A series of trumpet blasts was the signal for each group of tribes to begin their journey; the last blast indicated the movement of the last group in the camp.

In **1 Corinthians 15:23**, Paul highlights the concept of different orders or ranks in the resurrection: "Every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at His coming." This verse establishes a clear sequence in the resurrection, beginning with Christ and followed by those who belong to Him. Likewise, in **1 Thessalonians 4:16–17**, Paul divides believers into two distinct groups: the dead in Christ and those who are alive and remain at His coming.

The trumpet will be the call for saints to assemble and journey to heaven; it carries profound implications for us as believers. We are warned that nobody knows the hour emphasizing the need for preparedness. We must be ready for Christ's return, He is coming.

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Paul's exhortation to the Corinthian church shows us the importance of remaining faithful to the teachings he communicated.

When we encounter the word "therefore" in Scripture, it prompts us to reflect on the preceding context. In this instance, Paul addresses those who had strayed from his original teachings on the resurrection, embracing heretical ideas that contradicted the gospel. He reaffirms the truth of Jesus' death for our sins and His bodily resurrection, urging the church to stand firm in this foundational doctrine.

To be steadfast and unmovable means to be spiritually grounded, knowing what you believe and being able to engage with false teachings without your faith being shaken; as stated in **2 Timothy 2:15**, Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

- As parents, we must guard our children against all ungodly influences that threaten to corrupt their innocence.
- As Christians, we uphold truth and protect the integrity of our faith confronting those who seek to undermine our walk with Christ.
- As members of the church, we stand united against false teachings and diluted gospel messages that can lead our brothers and sisters astray. Together.
- In all things, we are "self-controlled and alert" because our "enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour" (**1 Peter 5:8**).