

From Sinners to Saints

1 Corinthians 15:21-32

- Paul is describing to the Corinthian Church and his readers the importance of Jesus resurrection as it pertains to our salvation and our assurance of eternal life. He ended last weeks section saying “that if all a Christian has is this life, then we are of all creation upon the earth most miserable” > **1Cor 15:19**.
- Translation: If Christ was not resurrected Believers are the most foolish and tragic people on earth, as we endure persecution, live discipline and sacrificial lives, being prepared to give up everything, all for a lie. Praise God Paul says it’s the truth!

V21-32

- **V21-22** since by one man death entered into the world, for in Adam all die, this is why death is so unnatural to us as it was never intended to be a part of our existence until the disobedience in the garden by Adam and Eve. Then God in His infinite wisdom and grace sent His Son Jesus as a man that all who put their trust in Him though we were spiritually dead will be made alive, for as in Adam all die, those who are in Christ will live, having eternal life through the sacrifice of Jesus.
- That’s the good news, on every T.V. and radio show that is what we should wake up to, not who was shot, killed, or arrested last night or this morning, but that Jesus has died, and risen, so that death is defeated, and all those in Christ have eternal life, that’s what a believer needs to wake up remembering every day. Instead of what’s the weather, how’s the traffic, where’s my coffee, very little spiritual joy in that amen!
- **V23-28** God is a God of order, and there is order, a sequence in our resurrection: The word order here originally referred to a military rank, Jesus as we see is first, this is why Satan attacks Him viciously in the world, from using His name as a curse word, blasphemy, and the butt of many ungodly sick jokes and lies. Because He comes first, and afterward we are right behind Him, even when He returns to the earth to judge it and we’ll be right with Him at His second coming.
- This section references the Millenium mentioned in **Revelation 20:1-10** when Christ rules on earth for a thousand years and establishes His Kingdom.

- There believers will reign with Him, and afterward there will be one final rebellion against God as Satan is loosed for a season and many will rebel until our Lord Jesus extinguishes with His Power, and afterward the lost will then be raised, judged, and cast into the lake of fire, then death itself the last enemy shall be destroyed, as He has put all things under His feet, then turning the Kingdom over to His Father.
- People don't always agree on the details of God's prophetic program, but the major truths seem to be clear. Jesus Christ reigns in heaven today, and all authority is under His feet, Satan and man are still able to exercise choice, but God is sovereignly in control. The uncertainty comes when trying to figure out when Jesus is going to return for His Church, and how will it take place? In a twinkling of an eye, in a moment, we only know this, we are encouraged to be ready.
- One thing I do want to clear up is if Jesus is the first fruits of our resurrection does that mean He was the first one raised from the dead? As we read in the OT the widow's son in the days of Elijah 1Kings 17, and Lazarus in the NT in Jn 11, among others. But what we must remember is everyone until Jesus that was raised up were only resuscitated from death none were resurrected, what do you mean?
- Each of them were raised up in the same body they died in, being raised from the dead only to die again. Resurrection isn't just living again, it is living again, and never having to die, for that to happen we will need our new resurrected bodies. So Jesus being the first fruits doesn't mean He was the first One brought back from the dead, but He was the first One resurrected, to never have to die again!
- **V29-30** this verse is a controversial verse and is used by Mormons to teach that a person can be baptized in place of relatives who died generations ago, which is why they place such an importance upon genealogies.
- There more than two hundred interpretations concerning the verse, but the simple explanation is right in front of us at this time there was a fierce persecution going on where professing believers were dying regularly and loved ones fearing their salvation was in jeopardy began to be baptized in their place, Paul is not condoning the practice, he's only pointing it out by saying why would anyone do such a thing if they didn't believe their loved one would be resurrected?

- **V31-32** then he brings up himself, that “he dies daily” his sacrifice of his fleshly desires everyday is proof that he believes that he will be resurrected. Since he is preaching Jesus he puts himself in harms way calling the people after him “beasts” who only want to kill him, why would he put himself in such peril if the resurrection doesn’t exist? So these two examples of people doing extreme practices and himself is his attempt to convince the readers the resurrection is that important.