

Chapter 15

THE ISSUE: verse 12 — “*But if it is preached that Christ has been raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead?*”

PAUL’S RESPONSE: Part I: Verses 1-11 — Paul reestablishes the “common ground” facts from his gospel proclamation: Christ has been raised from the dead.
Part II: Verses 12-34 — Paul takes on a contradiction: “*you cannot believe in Christ’s resurrection and deny your own.*”
Part III: Verses 35-58 — How are the dead *bodily* raised in the new conditions of eternity?

Review Game: *Where’s That passage?*

The Word of the Cross is the Basis

...for the Church’s *Unity* (chapters 1-4)
...for the Church’s *Holiness* (chapters 5-7)
...for the Church’s *Freedom* (chapters 8-10)
...for the Church’s *Worship* (chapters 11-14)
...for the Congregation’s *Hope* (chapters 15-16)

Verses 20-34 – *Consequences of Denial*

- 1) The “first fruits” concept is O.T. believer’s shorthand for a way God’s people expressed their confidence in God’s ability to provide, i.e., “*You take the guaranteed stuff, God, I know there’s more to come.*” Explain how Jesus is “the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.” (v20)
- 2) Verse 29 is one of the hardest passages in the New Testament to understand. What might Paul’s point be?
- 3) If there is no resurrection and Christianity is a hoax, then what is the purpose of life?

Since there *is* a resurrection of the body and Christianity *is not* a hoax, what is the purpose of life?

Verses 35-58 – *The Nature of the Resurrected Body*

- 4) **Thought Experiment:** “*I believe...in the resurrection of the dead.*” What will it feel like to have a resurrected, yet still physical, body?
- 5) Paul argues that just because our bodies appear humble now does not mean they will always be that way. How does he make that point through the following:

Lesson 18

- a. a seed – (v37-38)
 - b. different kinds of animals (v39)
 - c. different kinds of celestial objects (40-41)
 - d. natural v. spiritual body (42-49)
- 6) Paul encourages believers to "stand firm" and give themselves "fully to the work of the Lord" (v58). How does the sure promise of resurrection and victory over death serve as a foundation for this encouragement?

Chapter 16

- 7) At the time of writing, Paul was in Ephesus (spring, 56AD). What reasons does he give for having to remain away from the Corinthians? (v8-9)

Identify the following people:

Timothy (10-11) =

Apollos (12) =

Stephanas, Fortunatus, & Achaicus (15-18) =

Aquila & Priscilla (19-20) =

- 8) The final greetings in this chapter paint a picture of Christians who were separated by miles and yet cherished their fellowship. What opportunities do we have to do the same thing in our synod?