

12. What is the outworking in practice of what Paul writes in verse 33

13. What are the dangers and how should we avoid them (without becoming hermits)?

Pray

Pray for our various groups, particularly the children's groups, and that the building work would not be too disruptive to their programmes.

As we approach our Church annual meeting give thanks for the healthy finances of the church and pray that the repayment of loans for the building work would be easily met, that we would be able to fund the families worker ourselves or find external funding, and that it wouldn't be too long before we can look at a longer term solution to our lack of space for small groups.

Pray that we would have confidence in the gospel and be shaped in our lives by our hope for the future because Christ has been raised from the dead.

*David Phillips,
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1 Corinthians 15

Week 2 : "We look for the resurrection of the dead"



"To win people for Christ and to build them up in Christ."
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Christ is Risen

Read 1 Corinthians 15.12-19

1. There were evidently people in Corinth who said that this life is all there is, the dead will not be raised. How do we see from Mark 12.18 and Acts 23.8, that this was no new idea?

2. Why do you think some people refuse to believe that the dead will be raised?

3. There is a simple logic to 1Cor 15.12-13 and it is important because some people in churches today still claim there is no resurrection. From these two verses how does the resurrection of Jesus show they are wrong?

4. If these people were to be right right, what would that mean for the resurrection of Jesus?

5. In verses 14 to 16 what is Paul asserting about the importance of the resurrection of Jesus for the true gospel message?

Do you agree that someone who rejects the resurrection of Jesus is preaching a different gospel that is no gospel at all?

6. What do verses 16-19 say about a faith and life built on such a false gospel?

Christ the First-fruits

Read 1 Corinthians 15.20-28

Paul has shown in verses 12 to 19 that Christ has risen, but that it was not an isolated event.

7. How does the idea of “first-fruits” point to the fact that others besides Christ will be raised?

8. What is the hope that is referred to in verse 19 and why is it tied in to the resurrection of Jesus?

9. How are the following events described in these verses?

- Death entered the world.
- Jesus was raised.
- He is reigning until all enemies are put under His feet.

- He will come again, ushering in “the end”.

- Those who belong to Jesus will be raised.

- All will be raised.

- There will be no more death.

(There are other things that could be mentioned, such as those who are alive when Christ returns, but it would have confused the point of the argument in this chapter.)

Supporting arguments

Read 1 Corinthians 29-34

In these verses Paul makes a few extra points to support the facts of the resurrection of Jesus and the general resurrection to come.

Verse 29 says that some were being baptised on behalf of the dead without comment as to whether that was right or wrong. The practice became quickly identified with various heresies and was followed by any mainstream historic churches. Mormonism reintroduced it on based on the writings of Joseph Smith.

10. What things had Paul gone through for the sake of the gospel? Why would he have done that if his only hope was for this present life?

11. Jesus spoke about counting the cost and being ready to share in his sufferings. Would you do that if your hope was only for this life? If you have a true hope for the future, are you truly willing to bear the cost of following Christ whatever its consequences in this life?