



# The Resurrection Gospel

*A Study of I Corinthians 15:1-28*



# What is “Resurrection”

“Bodily raising of a person from the dead to a qualitatively different type of life in which death and decay no longer have any effect. It is a transformation of the whole person – body and soul – into being fit for God’s eternal presence.”



# What is “Resurrection”

- *Figurative resurrection of a cause (Rev. 20:4-6; Ezekiel 37)*
- *Spiritual resurrection, i.e. conversion to Christ (Rom. 6:3-4; Col. 2:11-13)*
- *Physical or bodily resurrection (1 Cor. 15:1-58; 2 Cor. 5:1-4; Phil. 3:20-21)*



# The Resurrection Gospel: *Jesus Christ's Resurrection – Foundation of our Hope (15:1-11)*

- Their Own Saving Faith *Demanded*  
*Resurrection of Christ (15:1-2).*
- Testimony of the Scriptures *Demands the*  
*Resurrection of Christ (15:3, 4).*
- Testimony of Eye-Witnesses *Demands the*  
*Resurrection of Christ (15:5-8).*



# *Consequences of the Denial of a Future Bodily Resurrection*

- If there is no resurrection, then Christ is not risen (15:12).
- If Christ has not been raised:
  - Our preaching is vain (15:14, 17).
  - Your faith is worthless or useless (15:14, 17).
  - Apostles were liars (15:15).
  - Sin's Power has not been broken (15:17).
  - Dead in Christ have perished (15:18).
  - Christians are pitiful people (15:19).



## The Truth:

“But now Christ has been  
raised from the dead, the  
first fruits of those who are  
asleep”

(15:20)



# The Resurrection Gospel:

## Essential to the Fulfillment of God's Plan of Redemption

### Redeemer (15:20)


- Jesus serves as the “first-fruits” of those that have died (Revelation 1:18).
- *Just as the first fruits are the earnest of later harvesting, so the resurrection of Christ is the guarantee of our resurrection”* (Dictionary of the Apostolic Church 1:411; see TDNT 1:484-486).



# The Resurrection Gospel:

Essential to the Fulfillment of God's Plan of Redemption

## Redeemer (15:20)

- The term “asleep” refers to a condition of the body as a result of the departure of the spirit (2 Corinthians 5:6, 8).
  - Jesus's resurrection is our guarantee of our own bodily resurrection.
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# The Resurrection Gospel:

Essential to the Fulfillment of  
God's Plan of Redemption

## Redeemed (15:23)

- Christ's resurrection came first, then those that are Christ's will be raised "*at his coming,*" which will be the "*end.*"
- Both 15:23 and 15:51 speak of the Second and Final Coming of the Lord.



# The Resurrection gospel:

## Essential to the Fulfillment of God's Plan of Redemption

- **Redemption (15:24-28)**
  - Christ will present through the resurrection - the glorified saints to the Father – so that the Father's divine purpose might be consummated – “victory over death” and Jesus will in eternity “be subject” to His Father so that all may acknowledge His work as the Redeemer to the glory of His God” (15:28).





# The Resurrection Gospel:

## Reviewing Paul's Line of Argumentation

- The Resurrection of Christ is an essential belief of the gospel (15:1-11).
- If there is no resurrection – Christ could not have been raised and this would have tragic consequences (15:12-19).
- God's Sovereign Redemptive Plan Demands a Future Resurrection (15:20-28).



# The Resurrection Gospel:

## *The Resurrection Body – Questions & Answers*

**“How are the dead raised after their bodies  
have decomposed? (15:35-44)**

- Natural Analogy (15:36-38)**
- Divinely Designed Form (15:38-41)**
- Contrast: Difference in our pre-resurrection body  
and our post-resurrection body (15:42-44)**



# The Resurrection Gospel:

## *The Resurrection Body – Questions & Answers*

### What Kind of Body Will We Have? (15:45-49)

Jesus Christ glorified body is the prototype of the resurrected body we will receive according to the scriptures (I John 3:1-2; Philippians 3:20-21).



# The Resurrection Gospel:

## *The Resurrection Body – Questions & Answers*

### What Happens To Those Living on the Earth When the Lord Returns? (15:51-58)

- We will not all die, but we must all be changed (15:51; I Thessalonians 4:13-18)
- The change will occur in the “twinkling of an eye” (15:52)
- There will be a change in our attributes, not our essence or person (15:53-54).
- Spiritual victory will be ours (15:57-58)