

1 Corinthians 15 New American Standard Bible

The Fact of Christ's Resurrection

Now I make known to you, brothers *and sisters*, the gospel which I preached to you, which you also received, in which you also stand, ² by which you also are saved, if you hold firmly to the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain.

³ For I handed down to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴ and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, ⁵ and that He appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. ⁶ After that He appeared to more than five hundred brothers *and sisters* at one time, most of whom remain until now, but some have fallen asleep; ⁷ then He appeared to James, then to all the apostles; ⁸ and last of all, as to one untimely born, He appeared to me also. ⁹ For I am the least of the apostles, and not fit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. ¹⁰ But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me did not prove vain; but I labored even more than all of them, yet not I, but the grace of God with me. ¹¹ Whether then *it was* I or they, so we preach and so you believed. ¹² Now if Christ is preached, that He has been raised from the dead, how do some among you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? ¹³ But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised; ¹⁴ and if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain, your faith also is in vain. ¹⁵ Moreover, we are even found *to be* false witnesses of God, because we testified against God that He raised Christ, whom He did not raise, if in fact the dead are not raised. ¹⁶ For if the dead are not raised, then not even Christ has been raised; ¹⁷ and if Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins. ¹⁸ Then also those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. ¹⁹ If we have hoped in Christ only in this life, we are of all people most to be pitied.

The Order of Resurrection

²⁰ But the fact is, Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who are asleep. ²¹ For since by a man death *came*, by a man also *came* the resurrection of the dead. ²² For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be made alive. ²³ But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, after that those who are Christ's at His coming, ²⁴ then *comes* the end, when He hands over the kingdom to *our* God and Father, when He has abolished all rule and all authority and power. ²⁵ For He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet. ²⁶ The last enemy that will be abolished is death. ²⁷ For He has put all things in subjection under His feet. But when He says, "All things are put in subjection," it is clear that [Ⓜ]this excludes the *Father* who put all things in subjection to Him. ²⁸ When all things are subjected to Him, then the Son Himself will also be subjected to the One who subjected all things to Him, so that God may be all in all.

²⁹ For otherwise, what will those do who are baptized [Ⓚ]for the dead? If the dead are not raised at all, why then are they baptized for them? ³⁰ Why are we also in danger every hour? ³¹ I affirm, brothers *and sisters*, by the boasting in you which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, that I die daily. ³² If from human motives I fought with wild beasts at Ephesus, what good is it to me? If the dead are not raised, let's eat and drink, for tomorrow we die. ³³ Do not be deceived: "Bad company corrupts good morals." ³⁴ Sober up morally and stop sinning, for some have no knowledge of God. I say *this* to your shame.

³⁵ But someone will say, "How are the dead raised? And with what kind of body do they come?" ³⁶ You fool! That which you sow does not come to life unless it dies; ³⁷ and that which you sow, you do not sow the body which is to be, but a bare grain, perhaps of wheat or of something else. ³⁸ But God gives it a body just as He wished, and to each of the seeds a body of its own. ³⁹ All flesh is not the same flesh, but there is one *flesh* of mankind, another flesh of animals, another flesh of birds, and another of fish. ⁴⁰ There are also heavenly bodies and earthly bodies, but the glory of the heavenly is one, and the *glory* of the earthly is another. ⁴¹ There is one glory of the sun, another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for star differs from star in glory.

⁴² So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown a perishable *body*, it is raised an imperishable *body*; 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. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual *body*. ⁴⁵ So also it is written: "The first man, Adam, became a living person." The last Adam *was* a life-giving spirit. ⁴⁶ However, the spiritual is not first, but the natural; then the spiritual. ⁴⁷ The first man is from the earth, earthy; the second man is from heaven. ⁴⁸ As is the earthy one, so also are those who are earthy; and as is the heavenly one, so also are those who are heavenly. ⁴⁹ Just as we have borne the image of the earthy, we will also bear the image of the heavenly.

The Mystery of Resurrection

⁵⁰ Now I say this, brothers *and sisters*, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. ⁵¹ Behold, I am telling you a mystery; we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed, ⁵² in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. ⁵³ For this perishable must put on the imperishable, and this mortal *must* put on immortality. ⁵⁴ But when this perishable puts on the imperishable, and this mortal puts on immortality, then will come about the saying that is written: "Death has been swallowed up in victory. ⁵⁵ Where, O Death, is your victory? Where, O Death, is your sting?" ⁵⁶ The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the Law; ⁵⁷ but thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁵⁸ Therefore, my beloved brothers *and sisters*, be firm, immovable, always excelling in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not *in vain* in the Lord.

We will use five tools on our expedition that are built around five questions

What questions were provoked within you?

Did anything confuse you?

Did anything move you emotionally?

Did God instruct you to do something?

Did you gain any insight into God's character?

1. The gospel I preached, the gospel you received and the gospel you stand in.
2. This is the gospel that Jesus instructed His disciples to go into the world and preach and Paul has been faithful in his representation of the gospel.
3. So they were saved because they heard and received, and having received they needed to stand firm.
4. To believe in vain is not to have believed with faith when you heard the message preached, and, having not believed you remain outside of salvation.
5. Paul says I told you what God told me, Jesus Christ died for our sins, he was buried and raised from the dead.
6. Jesus revealed himself, Paul said, to many people after He came back from the dead.
7. He acknowledges that some of those witnesses have fallen asleep, he is referring to those who have died.
8. Paul's visitation on the Damascus Road is what led to his conversion, on his receiving of the message of the gospel.
9. Paul presents insight into his calling and confesses his role in the persecution of the Christian church.
10. He knows he has come to God by grace, he acknowledges God has invested in him, and he acknowledges he has served God well in his presentation of the gospel.
11. For grace to work in you, is to live in the love of God so as to love the world with God's love.
12. The sect of the Sadducees believed there was no resurrection of the dead, but Paul points out to them Jesus has risen.
13. If there was no resurrection of Jesus Christ then the gospel is a lie and we have all been deceived.
14. The gospel message is 'Jesus was raised from the dead and defeated death'.
15. If there was no resurrection we are all still guilty and are awaiting judgement of our sin, believers who have died in Christ have perished and are no more, but the truth is, Paul says, Jesus has risen and the gospel is true.

16. Adam is the man who bought death into the world, Jesus is God the Son who bought life.
17. Paul gives us insight into God's timeline regarding the end of the age.
18. Death is an enemy of God. God is wanting righteousness to reign through the saints in Christ and then He will come.
19. Baptism is an outward revelation of an internal reality.
20. To die daily is to surrender your soulish will to your spirit will, in order for Christ to live in you.
21. The wild beasts at Ephesus are people who contest with Paul regarding the true gospel doctrines.
22. You become like the people you spend time with.
23. To be sober minded is to think with reason about life as God thinks.
24. Our heavenly bodies will be different from our earthly bodies.
25. When we sew truth into people it grows into the truth it is.
26. There is a heavenly body coming our way, it is glorious but different.
27. We die in corruption of a sinful body but will rise with innocent bodies that cannot die.
28. Our body goes into the ground as a natural body but it will be raised as a spiritual body.
29. The first man Adam became a living soul, the last man Jesus, became a life giving spirit, the spirit comes after the natural.
30. Adam was formed from earth, Jesus came from heaven.
31. To 'bear the image of' is to look like in nature, our old nature was like Adam, but our new nature is like God.
32. The reason flesh and blood cannot enter the Kingdom of God is corruption.
33. God is spirit beyond death, beyond death is a spirit place, flesh and blood will not be there.
34. 'To not all sleep'- here Paul is saying some will not die until Jesus Christ returns to earth.
35. In a moment we all will be changed and made like Him when that trumpet blows.
36. All the dead will rise as spirit beings with spirit bodies.
37. Those who are alive will be unclothed, meaning disembodied, and begin living in their spiritual bodies.
38. Death at this stage of the judgement will lose its power to destroy, death will come to its end.
39. Death came into being because of the sin of Adam. The law is given by God as the boundary line, our victory over sin and death has come through our saviour, Jesus Christ.
40. Paul encourages the Corinthian church to never let go of these truths that he is investing in them. He instructs them to keep going for Jesus and to never lose their way.