

Text: 1 Corinthians 15.1-34**I. Introduction (1.1-9)****II. Conditions reported to Paul (1.10-6.20)****III. Questions asked of Paul (7.1-16.4)**

¹ Cor 7.1 ¶ Now concerning the things about which you wrote...

“The remainder of the body of this epistle deals with questions that the Corinthians had asked Paul in a letter. Paul introduced each of these with the phrase *peri de* (‘now concerning,’ 7:1, 25; 8:1; 12:1; 16:1, 12).”¹

- A. Questions about marriage (7.1-40)
- B. Questions about things sacrificed to idols (8.1-11.1)
- C. Questions about worship services
 - 1. Head coverings (11.2-16)
 - 2. Communion practices (11.17-34)
 - 3. Spiritual Gifts (12-14)
 - a. Introducing Spiritual Gifts (12)
 - b. Prioritizing Spiritual Fruit (13)
 - c. Regulating Spiritual Gifts [esp. Tongues and Prophecy] (14)
- D. Questions about the Resurrection (15)

The NAS gives three headers for 1 Corinthians 15:

The Fact of Christ’s Resurrection (1-19)

The Order of Resurrection (20-49)

The Mystery of Resurrection (50-58)

¹ Tom Constable, *Tom Constable’s Expository Notes on the Bible* (Galaxie Software, 2003), 1 Co 7.1.

The Fact of Christ's Resurrection (1-19)

In verses 1-2, Paul begins his discussion of the resurrection by reminding them of the gospel.

Paul notes that the gospel saved them unless they believed in vain. (2) What is believing in vain?

It is making a profession of faith, but not really possessing faith.

Paul sums up his gospel by naming three facts. (3-4) What are they?

1. death of Christ
2. burial of Christ
3. resurrection of Christ

What does Paul mean by "according to the Scriptures" in v. 4?

The facts of Christ's death, burial, and resurrection fulfilled OT Scriptures

Paul substantiates his gospel claim by eyewitness testimony. How many witnesses does Paul cite in vv. 5-8? [an arithmetic question!]

At least 513 people in all

Paul seems to go off track talking about his apostleship. What is his point about his apostleship and the resurrection? (9-11)

The work of all apostles is by the grace of God, which produces apostolic preaching, including the resurrection – which the Corinthians believed.

By these words, Paul establishes the fact of the resurrection. In verse 12, he changes course and challenges some of the Corinthians. What was their error?

Some taught that there was no resurrection of the dead

"Based on the content of Paul's argument in 15:35–49, it appears that the problem for some in Corinth was not postmortem existence per se, but rather the bodily nature of resurrection."²

² Mark Edward Taylor, *1 Corinthians*, vol. 28, The New American Commentary (Nashville, Tennessee: Broadman & Holman, 2014), 379.

This would be in keeping with Pagan beliefs that denied a bodily resurrection.

(Jehovah's Witnesses hold a form of this belief, denying that our present bodies are resurrected, the new body is a new creation, according to them.)

Paul devastates the "no resurrection" argument, by three main assertions:

1. No resurrection means **Jesus** is not raised (13)
2. No resurrection means **apostolic preaching** is empty (14) and **faith** is empty (14)
3. No resurrection means the apostles are **false** witnesses (15)
4. No resurrection means you are still in your **sins** (16-17)
5. No resurrection means believers who already died have no **hope** (18)

What does Paul mean in v. 19? Aren't there some good things that result from the Christian life apart from the resurrection?

No resurrection reduces Christianity to mere religion, keeping rules for social good: any religion can do this.

The Order of Resurrection (20-49) [Part 1]

What does Christ as first fruits of the resurrection mean? (20)

There are many more to come, Jesus is the first

The resurrection is a fitting victory over death. How many men brought death into the world? (21) **one man**

Since in Christ all men are made alive, what does that mean about historical Adam? (22)

There was indeed an historical Adam: one man brought life because one man brought death

There are two steps to the resurrection, when does the resurrection of the believers occur? (23)

When Jesus comes back to the earth

Several items are mentioned in connection with “the end” (24-26) when the Son hands the kingdom to the Father. Can you pick out what these items are?

1. **Abolishing all rule and all authority and power [defeats antichrist and the nations]**
2. **Putting all enemies under his feet, including death [after great white throne, Rev 22.15]**

When the Son puts all things in subjection, what will he then do? (27-28)

Subject himself (voluntarily) to the Father

In verses 29-34, Paul offers some final arguments for the resurrection.

What is the argument in v. 29?

Baptism for the dead

What is the argument in vv. 30-32?

Paul risking his life for the sake of the resurrection

What is Paul warning about in vv. 33-34?

Bad companions (with bad theology) can hurt your spiritual life, stop it!