

## **THE RESURRECTION: DEATH IS SWALLOWED UP IN VICTORY**

1 Corinthians 15:1-20, 50-58 (pages 138-39 in the black Bibles)

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### **INTRODUCTION**

Death is one of the very things all mankind holds in common. It is the great equalizer. It is not a respecter of persons.

Job asked, "If a man dies will he live again?" (Job 14:14).

David asked, "What man can live and not see death or save himself from the power of the grave?" (Psalm 89:48).

The Bible holds the answers to questions like these.

Our text today show us that Jesus conquered death and the grave and those who have put their trust in Him do not need not fear death and the grave because we will also, one day be raised from the dead.

### **THE PREACHING OF THE GOSPEL AND ITS EFFECTS (15:1-2)**

Now I make known to you brethren, the gospel, [i.e., the good news]

which I preached to you

which also you received

in which also you stand

by which also you are saved

if you hold fast the word which I preached to you

unless you have believed in vain

### **THE GOSPEL'S PRIORITY (V. 3A)**

For I delivered to you of first importance what I also received,

### **THE GOSPEL'S PRINCIPAL SUBSTANCE AND AUTHORITY (V. 3B-4)**

that Christ died for our sins

according to the Scriptures, and

that He was buried, and

that He was raised on the third day

according to the Scriptures, and

**JESUS' POST-RESURRECTION APPEARANCES (VV. 5-8)**

that He appeared to Cephas [Gal. 1:18, 2:9, 11, 14; Simon, Peter]

then to the twelve

after that He appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time, most of whom remain until now, but some have fallen asleep.

Then He appeared to James, then to all the apostles;

and last of all, as to one untimely born,

He appeared to me also.

(Excursus in vv.9-10)

**Summary of the Preaching of the Gospel (v. 11)**

Whether then it was I or they, so we preached and so you believed.

**The Main Issue:** 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? (v. 12)

**THE IMPLICATIONS OF NO RESURRECTION OF THE DEAD (15:13-19)**

If there is no resurrection of the dead,  
not even Christ has been raised (v. 13)

If Christ has not been raised, then  
our preaching is in vain,  
your faith is in vain. (v. 14)

we are found to be false witnesses of God,... (v. 15)

If the dead are not raised,  
not even Christ has been raised; (v. 16)

If Christ has not been raised,  
your faith is worthless,  
you are still in your sins (v. 17)  
those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished (v. 18)

If we have hoped in Christ in this life only, we are of all men most to be pitied. (v. 19)

**CHRIST HAS INDEED BEEN RISEN FROM THE DEAD (15:20)**

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

In the OT, Leviticus 23:9-14 (also Deut. 26:1-10) describes the first fruits offering. The people were to bring a sheaf of grain to the priest, who would wave it before the LORD. A burnt offering, a meal offering, and a drink offering were also required at that time. No grain was to be harvested until the first fruits offering was made.

In the NT, the first fruits offering is mentioned symbolically in Rom. 16:5; 1 Cor. 16:15 of the first converts which represented a greater spiritual harvest of others from Asia and Achaia respectively, who would trust in Christ for their salvation.

In our text, Paul refers to Jesus as the “first fruits of those who are asleep” because He is the guarantee for all those who belong to Him that they also will share in His resurrection when He returns.

## THE CONCLUSION (15:50-57)

Now I say this brethren,  
that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God;  
nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. (v. 50)

Behold, I tell you a mystery [a truth that was once veiled or hidden but now has been revealed];

We will not all sleep,  
but we will all be changed, (v. 51)

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 (v. 52)  
for this perishable must put on the imperishable,  
and this mortal must put on immortality. (v. 53)

But when this perishable will have put on the imperishable,  
And this mortal will have put on immortality,

Then will come about the saying that is written,

Death is swallowed up in victory. (v. 54)

O Death, where is your victory?  
O Death, where is your sting? (v.55)

The sting of death is sin, and

The power of sin is the law; (v. 56)

But thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. (v. 57) (Romans 7:24-25a)

## **THE APPLICATION (15:58)**

Therefore, my beloved brethren,

Be steadfast

Immovable

Always abounding in the work of the Lord

Knowing that your toil in the Lord is not in vain.