

1 Corinthians 1:20–28

²⁰ Now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

²¹ For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead.

²² For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive.

²³ But each one in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those who are Christ's at His coming.

²⁴ Then comes the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power.

²⁵ For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet.

²⁶ The last enemy that will be destroyed is death.

²⁷ For 'He has put all things under His feet.' But when He says 'all things are put under Him,' it is evident that He who put all things under Him is excepted.

²⁸ Now when all things are made subject to Him, then the Son Himself will also be subject to Him who put all things under Him [in order that] God may be all in all.

Because He Lives **1 Corinthians 15:20–28**

INTRO:

Having discussed the consequences that come with doubting Christ's resurrection in **verses 12-19**, Paul used **verses 20-28** to display the realities which flow from the resurrection. He did this by proclaiming the truth of the resurrection. Then he laid out the realities which flow from the resurrection. Finally, he sketched the end. That comes from the resurrection.

I. The Fact of the Resurrection (v. 20)

II. The Consequences of the Resurrection (v.21-23)

III. The End of All Things Created and the Beginning of Eternity (v.24-28)

I. The Fact of the Resurrection (v. 20)

1 Corinthians 15:20 ***“Now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.”***

A. In the last paragraph of this chapter (**verses 12-19**), Paul took the premise some of the Corinthians embraced, the idea that there is no resurrection from the dead

and teased out the logical conclusions. These conclusions cut the heart out of our faith. A Savior who never rose from the grave is no savior at all and we too are lost.

B. However, Paul did not leave us there in our misery. He unequivocally declared in **verse 20**.

“Now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.”

The fact is, Christ did rise from the dead. Paul already demonstrated this fact earlier in this chapter (**verses 3-11**). The Lord Jesus did rise from the dead that first resurrection morning just as He said. Because He lives He is the **“first fruits”** of those who are dead. Because He rose from the dead we who believed upon the Lord Jesus as our Savior will also someday rise from the dead. There are two thoughts we need to discuss here.

1. First fruits were the first things harvested which represent the promise of a full harvest. Here the emphasis is NOT that Jesus was the first to be resurrected. We read of many people who were raised from the dead. Remember the two sons of widows, whom Elijah and Elisha raised from the dead [the LORD did the miracle through them]? Even Christ brought people back from the dead, the best known example is Lazarus. Yet, all these rose to die again. The Lord Jesus rose to never die again.

2. Jesus, the first fruits is the assurance we too shall rise. The last eight verses of this text shows how this will happen.

II. The Consequences of the Resurrection (v.21-23)

1 Corinthians 15:21-23 ***“For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive. But each one in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those who are Christ’s at His coming.”***

A. Paul outlined the consequences, which flow from the fact that Christ rose from the dead, first by reasoning from our union with Adam and Christ.

“For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive.”

1. Paul wrote about our union with Adam in **Romans 5:12**.

“Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned.”

In **Romans 5**, the Apostle’s burden was to prove all humans are sinners because we are in union with Adam as the father of our race. To say we are in Adam means we are all sinners and we shall all die. Yet, because we have trusted Christ as Savior, we have a union with the Lord Jesus Christ. Thus, we are ***“in Him.”***

2. Paul uses these same categories in describing resurrection from the dead. Through Adam's sin we all die. This is how read the union with Adam is. Our Union with Christ is just as real. Through Adam we die. Through Christ we will rise from the dead. I need to say something about the statement the Apostle made so we do not find universalism here. If Paul wrote, all who were born will die, and all who are saved shall rise, we would have no difficulty. In effect, this is what he wrote.

B. Because we are curious and want to know when and how this will happen, the Apostle wrote in **verse 23**.

“But each one in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those who are Christ’s at His coming.”

Christ rose first, we know that took place in history, but our resurrection is future. We who are His will rise again when He comes. We must not read too much into this statement. Paul did not give us all the details of our Lord's coming.

1. The Lord Jesus Himself in **John 5:26-29** spoke of two resurrections, one of the righteous and one for those who do not have the Lord Jesus as their savior.

“Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice and come forth—those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation.”

Paul does not write about the resurrection to judgment for the unrighteous in this place.

2. In the last paragraph of this **15th chapter**, Paul will detail what the resurrection of the just in Christ will look like. Only one cross reference to think about this resurrection which is coming, **1 Thessalonians 4:14-18**.

“But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus. For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words.”

III. The End of All Things Created and the Beginning of Eternity (v.24-28)

1 Corinthians 15:24-28 ***“Then comes the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power. For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet. The last enemy that will be destroyed is death. For ‘He has put all things under His feet.’ But when He says ‘all things are put under Him,’ it is evident that He who put all things under***

Him is excepted. Now when all things are made subject to Him, then the Son Himself will also be subject to Him who put all things under Him [in order that] God may be all in all."

A. The time will come when everything will be put in submission to Christ Who will in turn submit Himself to the Father. Then everything will be as it should be.

B. Someday the Lord Jesus will return and everything will be made right.

Revelation 21:1-5 "Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea. Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, 'Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.' Then He who sat on the throne said, 'Behold, I make all things new.'"

How do we know this will happen? We know it because the Lord Jesus Christ rose from the dead. Someday He is coming again for us, if we put our faith in Him to save us!

Hymn #237 We Shall Behold Him