

1 Corinthians Study 23

Read Chapter 15:1-28

KEY VERSES—

“For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures.” (15:3-4)

SUMMARY—

Paul next turns to the most basic gospel teachings to dispel the influence of some who were teaching that there is no resurrection from the dead. He introduces the heart of the gospel—the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ (15:1-4). He establishes the resurrection by appealing to the witness of Scripture (15:3-4), of eye-witnesses (15:5-7), and finally, of himself (15:8-11). Such witnesses were sufficient to establish the veracity of Jesus' resurrection. Some were denying the reality of the bodily resurrection (15:12). Paul begins by listing the consequences if there was no bodily resurrection (15:13-19). Then he explains the hope and purpose of our resurrection—Christ's resurrection is the assurance of ours (15:20-22) and is the beginning of God's plan for subduing all power and authority, and ultimately the final enemy of mankind (15:23-26). Then God will be glorified fully (15:27-28).

QUESTIONS—

- 1) What was the relationship of the Corinthians to the gospel (15:1-2)?
⇒ 15:1a--
⇒ 15:1b--
⇒ 15:2a--
- 2) What was the condition for maintaining their salvation (15:2a)? What was the consequence if they rejected faith in the resurrection (15:2b)?
- 3) What proof does Paul offer to establish the resurrection of Christ (15:1-10)?
⇒ 15:1-2--
⇒ 15:3-4--
⇒ 15:5-7--
⇒ 15:8-10--
- 4) Offer a possible explanation why Jesus appeared to Simon Peter before appearing to the rest of the apostles (15:5; cf. Luke 24:34). Consider also the fact that Paul uses the name which Jesus gave him—“Cephas”—which means “rock” (cf. John 1:42).

5) Where did Jesus likely meet with the 500 disciples (15:6; Matthew 26:32; 28:7,10)?

6) What kind of impact did the appearance of Jesus have on His brother James (15:7)? How did he view Jesus at first (John 7:1-5)? How did he change after Jesus' resurrection (cf. Acts 1:12-14; 12:17; 15:13; 21:18; 1 Corinthians 9:5; Galatians 1:19; 2:9)?

7) Why did Jesus appear to Paul on the road to Damascus (15:8; Acts 9:3-9; 26:16-18)?

8) What does Paul mean by using an abortion illustration to describe himself as an apostle of Christ (15:8-9)?

9) What made Paul feel like he was the least of all the apostles (15:9; Galatians 1:13; 1 Timothy 1:13)?

10) Who does Paul praise for his position (15:10; Romans 15:15)? Why did he labor more abundantly than all the other apostles (15:10)?

11) What consequences does Paul identify in denying the resurrection (15:13-19)?

⇒ 15:13--

⇒ 15:14a--

⇒ 15:14b--

⇒ 15:15--

⇒ 15:17b--

⇒ 15:18--

⇒ 15:19--

12) What are "firstfruits" (15:20; cf. Leviticus 23:9-14)?

13) What is the significance for us of Jesus being the "firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep" (15:20; cf. Acts 26:23; Colossians 1:18; Revelation 1:5)?

14) What is the contrast between Adam and Christ (15:21-22; cf. 15:45-49)?

15) Since Christ lives, what does He assure us about ourselves (15:23; cf. Colossians 3:4; John 5:21,26,40; 6:57; 14:19)?

16) What will be accomplished at Christ's coming (15:23-28)?

⇒ 15:24a--

⇒ 15:24b--

⇒ 15:24c--

⇒ 15:25--

⇒ 15:26--

⇒ 15:28--

17) Is Jesus reigning now or will His reign begin in the near future (15:24-25)?

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18) What is the ultimate purpose for Jesus' victory over death, evil, sin, and all those other powers (15:28)?