

## 1 Corinthians Study 24

Read Chapter 15:29-58

### KEY VERSE—

“So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: ‘Death is swallowed up in victory.’” (15:54)

### SUMMARY—

Paul continues making his case for a bodily resurrection of the dead. He asks why Christians would do anything which relies on the resurrection if there is none (15:29-32), then he warns them about keeping company with those who deny the resurrection (15:33-34). He moves on to address objections which some are sure to make (15:35). He answers with four points—seeds sown must die first before sprouting to life (15:36), a seed sown in the ground grows into something which looks totally different from it (15:37-38), they already observe differences in various bodies (15:39), and there is a difference in the glory of heavenly and earthly bodies (15:40-41). He stresses the order of the natural and then the spiritual, as seen in the resurrection of the dead and the order of Adam first then Jesus (15:42-49). A change in nature is necessary, even for those who are alive at Jesus’ coming (15:50-53). Then death will be swallowed up in victory, with our hope being in Christ (15:54-58).

### QUESTIONS—

1) Is Paul arguing to justify others being “baptized for the dead,” or could he just be using this practice as an argument for the resurrection, without necessarily endorsing it (15:29)? [In related examples, was Paul claiming men could speak “tongues of angels” (13:1), that everyone would speak tongues in an assembly (14:23), or was Jesus endorsing the practice of the religious leaders’ sons (Matthew 12:27)?]

2) Does Paul speak of being “baptized for the dead” as something he did, the Corinthians did, or someone else did (15:29b)?

3) What were Paul’s additional arguments that affirmed the resurrection of the dead (15:29-32)?

⇒ 15:29—

⇒ 15:30-31—

⇒ 15:32a—

⇒ 15:32b—

4) When Paul refers to “fighting with beasts,” is he simply speaking metaphorically (cf. Luke 3:7; Philippians 3:2; 2 Timothy 4:17) or literally (15:32)? Is there any way to know for certain?

- 5) Who is the “evil company” Paul warns them about (15:33)?
- 6) How should some of them respond to their own inconsistency of rejecting the resurrection while embracing a religion based on it (15:34)?
- 7) Does Paul give a specific answer to the questions they will raise (15:35)? Is it possible to know exactly what we will be like in the resurrection (1 John 3:2)?
- 8) What is Paul’s point in using all of these illustrations to answer their questions (15:36-49)?
- 9) What is true about the nature of the resurrection body (15:36-54)?  
⇒ 15:38—  
⇒ 15:42—  
⇒ 15:43a—  
⇒ 15:43b—  
⇒ 15:44—  
⇒ 15:47-49—  
⇒ 15:53-54—
- 10) Who else had a body sown in weakness and raised in power (15:43b; 2 Corinthians 13:4)? Who will empower us with this spiritual life (Romans 8:11)?
- 11) What part of our existence came from Adam (15:45)? What part came from Christ (15:45)?
- 12) Describe what will happen on the resurrection day based on the following verses (15:51-57).  
⇒ 15:51a—  
⇒ 15:51b—  
⇒ 15:52b—  
⇒ 15:54—

13) Why must this change occur for both the living and the dead (15:50-51)?

14) What will happen to death at the resurrection day (15:54; Revelation 20:14; 21:4)?

15) How is sin the sting of death (15:55-56)? Where does sin derive its power (15:56)? Where is the sting of death defeated (15:57)?

16) Why is there no sting in death for the Christian (15:57; Hebrews 2:14-15; Philippians 1:21)?

17) What does Paul mean with each of his admonitions for us to be faithful (15:58)?