**CRAWFORD BIBLE COMMENTARY**

# BIBLE STUDY

# 1 Corinthians Chapter 15 — The Resurrection of Christ and Our Hope

**A Verse-by-Verse Bible Study from the Crawford Standard Bible**

## Introduction

1 Corinthians Chapter 15 is the longest chapter in the letter.

And it may be the most important.

It is the Bible's greatest chapter on the resurrection.

Some in Corinth were saying there is no resurrection of the dead.

This was not surprising in a Greek city.

Many Greeks believed the body was a prison for the soul.

They hoped to escape the body at death, not to receive it back.

The idea of dead bodies being raised seemed foolish to them.

Some believers in Corinth may have kept that way of thinking.

They believed in Jesus.

But they did not believe their own bodies would be raised.

Paul shows that this is no small mistake.

It strikes at the heart of the gospel.

He begins by reminding them of the gospel itself.

Christ died for our sins.

He was buried.

He rose on the third day.

He was seen by Peter, by the Twelve, by more than five hundred at once, by James, by all the apostles, and finally by Paul.

Then Paul shows what would follow if there were no resurrection.

Christ would not be risen.

Preaching would be useless.

Faith would be empty.

Believers would still be in their sins.

Those who died in Christ would be lost.

**“But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead.”**

He is the firstfruits—the first part of a great harvest that will include all who belong to Him.

Paul then answers the question, **“What kind of body will we have?”**

He uses the picture of a seed.

What is planted is weak and perishable.

What is raised is glorious and imperishable.

And he ends with a shout of victory.

**“O death, where is your sting? O grave, where is your victory?”**

Because Christ is risen, our labor in the Lord is never in vain.

The chapter moves through eight movements:

- The Gospel of Christ's Death and Resurrection (verses 1–11).
- The Resurrection of the Dead (verses 12–20).
- Death Defeated in Christ (verses 21–28).
- The Reality of the Resurrection (verses 29–34).
- The Nature of the Resurrection Body (verses 35–44).
- The First Adam and the Last Adam (verses 45–49).
- Victory over Death (verses 50–57).
- Stand Firm in the Work of the Lord (verse 58).

The central truth of 1 Corinthians 15 is:

**Jesus Christ truly rose from the dead, and because He lives, all who belong to Him will be raised with glorious, imperishable bodies, so death is defeated and our labor in the Lord is never in vain.**

# I. THE GOSPEL I PREACHED

## 1 Corinthians 15:1 — In Which You Stand

**“Brothers and sisters, I remind you of the gospel which I preached to you, which you also received, and in which you stand,”**

Paul begins by going back to the basics.

**“I remind you of the gospel.”**

The Corinthians did not need a new message.

They needed to remember the old one.

Paul describes their relationship with the gospel in three ways.

**He preached it.**

**They received it.**

**They stand in it.**

The gospel is not only where the Christian life begins.

It is where the Christian stands every day.

### Cross References

**Galatians 1:11**

> I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that the good news I preached is not something people made up.

**Romans 1:16**

> I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is God's power to save everyone who believes—first the Jew, and also the Gentile.

**2 Timothy 1:13**

> Hold on to the pattern of sound teaching you heard from me, with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.

### Spiritual Principle

**Believers never outgrow the gospel; they stand in it every day.**

# II. BY WHICH YOU ARE SAVED

## 1 Corinthians 15:2 — Hold Firmly

**“by which you are saved—if you hold firmly to the message I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.”**

Paul continues.

**“By which you are saved.”**

The gospel is the message that saves.

**“If you hold firmly to the message I preached to you.”**

True faith holds on.

It does not let go of the gospel when new ideas come along.

**“Unless you believed in vain.”**

Paul is warning them.

If they gave up the resurrection, their faith would be empty.

Faith in a Christ who did not rise would be faith in nothing.

### Cross References

**Colossians 1:23**

> as long as you continue in your faith, firmly established and steady, not moving away from the hope of the good news you heard.

**Hebrews 3:14**

> For we share in Christ if we hold firmly to the end the confidence we had at the beginning.

**2 Corinthians 6:1**

> As God's co-workers, we urge you not to receive God's grace and then let it go to waste.

### Spiritual Principle

**Saving faith holds firmly to the gospel.**

### Application

Are you holding firmly to the gospel, or are you being moved by new ideas?

# III. CHRIST DIED FOR OUR SINS

## 1 Corinthians 15:3 — Of First Importance

**“For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures,”**

Now Paul states the gospel.

**“As of first importance.”**

Of everything Paul taught, this was the most important.

**“What I also received.”**

Paul did not invent the gospel.

He received it and passed it on.

Many Bible students believe verses 3–5 contain one of the earliest Christian statements of faith, taught within a few years of Jesus' resurrection.

The first truth:

**“Christ died for our sins.”**

Jesus did not die merely as a good example or a martyr.

He died **for our sins**—in our place, taking the punishment we deserved.

**“According to the Scriptures.”**

His death fulfilled what the Old Testament had promised.

Isaiah 53 described a Servant who would be pierced for our sins.

## Cross References

**Isaiah 53:5**

> But He was pierced for our rebellion and crushed for our sins. He was punished so that we could have peace, and by His wounds we are healed.

**Romans 5:8**

> But God shows His love for us in this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

**1 Peter 3:18**

> For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive by the Spirit.

## Spiritual Principle

**At the heart of the gospel is Christ dying in our place for our sins.**

### Key Truth

The death of Christ was not an accident.

It was God's plan, foretold in Scripture.

# IV. BURIED AND RAISED

## 1 Corinthians 15:4 — On the Third Day

**“that He was buried, and that He rose again on the third day according to the Scriptures,”**

Paul continues the gospel.

**“That He was buried.”**

Jesus truly died.

His body was placed in a tomb.

The burial proves the reality of His death.

**“And that He rose again on the third day.”**

His body did not stay in the grave.

On the third day, He rose.

The tomb was empty.

**“According to the Scriptures.”**

The Old Testament pointed to this.

David wrote that God would not let His Holy One see decay.

Jesus Himself pointed to Jonah's three days in the fish.

### Cross References

**Psalm 16:10**

> because You will not abandon me to the grave, and You will not let Your faithful one see decay.

**Hosea 6:2**

> After two days He will revive us. On the third day He will raise us up, so that we may live in His presence.

**Matthew 12:40**

> Just as Jonah was in the belly of the great fish for three days and three nights, so the Son of Man will be in the heart of the earth for three days and three nights.

### Spiritual Principle

**The gospel rests on real events: Christ truly died, was truly buried, and truly rose.**

### Crawford Bible Study Principle

**Christianity is built on an empty tomb.**

# V. SEEN BY PETER AND THE TWELVE

## 1 Corinthians 15:5 — The First Witnesses

**“and that He was seen by Peter, then by the twelve.”**

Paul now lists the witnesses of the resurrection.

**“He was seen by Peter.”**

Peter had denied Jesus three times.

Yet the risen Lord appeared to him personally.

What grace!

**“Then by the twelve.”**

**“The twelve”** was the name for the group of apostles, even though Judas was gone.

Jesus appeared to them together.

The resurrection was not a private vision.

It was seen by many.

### Cross References

**Luke 24:34**

> saying, “It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon!”

**John 20:19**

> On the evening of that first day of the week, the disciples were together with the doors locked because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders. Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!"

**Mark 16:14**

> Later Jesus appeared to the Eleven as they were eating. He rebuked them for their lack of faith and their stubborn refusal to believe those who had seen Him after He had risen.

### Spiritual Principle

**The risen Christ appeared to real people who could testify to what they saw.**

### Key Truth

The first person named is the one who had failed Jesus most publicly.

The risen Lord restores the fallen.

# VI. MORE THAN FIVE HUNDRED

## 1 Corinthians 15:6 — Most Still Alive

**"After that, He appeared to more than five hundred brothers at once, most of whom remain alive until now, though some have fallen asleep."**

This is a remarkable statement.

**"He appeared to more than five hundred brothers at once."**

Not one or two people.

Over five hundred at the same time.

This was not a dream or a hallucination.

**"Most of whom remain alive until now."**

Paul is inviting the Corinthians to check.

**"If you doubt me, go ask them."**

Many eyewitnesses were still living when Paul wrote.

**"Though some have fallen asleep."**

**Fallen asleep** is a gentle way of saying they had died.

For believers, death is like sleep, because they will wake up in the resurrection.

### Cross References

**Acts 1:3**

> After His suffering, He showed Himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that He was alive. He appeared to them over forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God.

**Matthew 28:17**

> When they saw Him, they worshiped Him, but some doubted.

**Luke 24:36**

> While they were still talking about this, Jesus Himself stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.”

### Spiritual Principle

**The resurrection is supported by many living witnesses.**

### Key Truth

Christian faith is not blind faith.

It rests on the testimony of many who saw the risen Lord.

# VII. JAMES AND ALL THE APOSTLES

## 1 Corinthians 15:7 — More Appearances

**“Then He appeared to James, then to all the apostles.”**

**“Then He appeared to James.”**

This is James, the brother of Jesus.

During Jesus' earthly ministry, His brothers did not believe in Him.

But after the resurrection, James became a believer and a leader of the church in Jerusalem.

What changed him?

He saw his brother risen from the dead.

**“Then to all the apostles.”**

Jesus appeared again to the wider group of apostles.

### Cross References

**Acts 1:14**

> All of them joined together and kept praying, along with the women, Mary the mother of Jesus, and His brothers.

**Galatians 1:19**

> I did not see any of the other apostles except James, the Lord's brother.

**Acts 1:3**

> After His suffering, He showed Himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that He was alive. He appeared to them over forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God.

### Spiritual Principle

**The resurrection transformed even those who once doubted.**

### Key Truth

It takes a lot to convince a man that his own brother is the Son of God.

The resurrection did it.

# VIII. LAST OF ALL, TO ME

## 1 Corinthians 15:8 — As to One Abnormally Born

**“And last of all, He appeared also to me, as to one abnormally born.”**

Paul adds himself to the list.

**“Last of all, He appeared also to me.”**

On the road to Damascus, the risen Jesus appeared to Paul.

**“As to one abnormally born.”**

Paul uses a word for a child born too early or in an unusual way.

He means that his calling was unexpected and out of the normal order.

He did not walk with Jesus during His earthly ministry.

He was an enemy of the church.

Yet Jesus appeared to him and made him an apostle.

### Cross References

**Acts 9:3**

> As he came near Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him.

**Acts 9:17**

> So Ananias went to the house and placed his hands on Saul. He said, “Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here, has sent me so that you can see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit.”

**1 Timothy 1:16**

> But I was shown mercy for this reason: so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus could show His complete patience as an example for those who would believe in Him and receive eternal life.

### Spiritual Principle

**Christ can reach and transform even His fiercest enemies.**

# IX. THE LEAST OF THE APOSTLES

## 1 Corinthians 15:9 — Not Worthy

**“For I am the least of the apostles, not worthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.”**

Paul speaks humbly.

**“I am the least of the apostles.”**

**“Not worthy to be called an apostle.”**

Why?

**“Because I persecuted the church of God.”**

Paul never forgot what he had been.

He had arrested believers.

He had approved of their deaths.

He had tried to destroy the church.

His past did not disqualify him from God's grace.

But it kept him humble.

### Cross References

**Acts 8:3**

> But Saul was trying to destroy the church. He went from house to house, dragged off men and women, and put them in prison.

**1 Timothy 1:15**

> Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves to be fully accepted: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—and I am the worst of them.

**Ephesians 3:8**

> Although I am less than the least of all God's people, this grace was given to me: to preach to the Gentiles the endless riches of Christ.

### Spiritual Principle

**Remembering what we were keeps us humble before God's grace.**

# X. BY THE GRACE OF GOD

## 1 Corinthians 15:10 — I Am What I Am

**“But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain; on the contrary, I worked harder than all of them—yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me.”**

This is one of the great statements of grace in the Bible.

**“By the grace of God I am what I am.”**

Paul's salvation, calling, and ministry were all gifts of grace.

**“His grace toward me was not in vain.”**

Grace did not make Paul lazy.

It made him work.

**“I worked harder than all of them.”**

Then he quickly adds:

**“Yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me.”**

Even his hard work was the work of grace.

Grace saves us.

Grace changes us.

Grace works through us.

## Cross References

**Ephesians 2:8**

> For you are saved by grace through faith. This is not from yourselves; it is God's gift.

**2 Corinthians 12:9**

> But He told me, “My grace is all you need, because My power works best in weakness.” So I will gladly brag even more about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power can rest on me.

**Galatians 2:20**

> I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

## Spiritual Principle

**Grace does not make us lazy; it makes us work hard for God.**

## Crawford Bible Study Principle

**Whatever I am in Christ, I am by the grace of God.**

# XI. SO WE PREACH, SO YOU BELIEVED

## 1 Corinthians 15:11 — One Message

**“Whether then it was I or they, so we preach, and so you believed.”**

Paul sums up.

It does not matter whether the message came from Paul or from the other apostles.

**“So we preach.”**

They all preached the same gospel.

Christ died, was buried, and rose again.

**“And so you believed.”**

This is the gospel the Corinthians had received.

The apostles were united in this message.

The Corinthians were divided over leaders.

But all their leaders preached the same risen Christ.

### Cross References

**1 Corinthians 3:5**

> What, after all, is Apollos? What is Paul? We are only servants through whom you came to believe, as the Lord gave each of us our work.

**Romans 10:17**

> So faith comes from hearing the message, and the message comes through the word about Christ.

**Philippians 1:18**

> But what does it matter? The important thing is that in every way, whether from false motives or true, Christ is preached. And because of this I rejoice.

### Spiritual Principle

**All true preachers proclaim the same gospel of the risen Christ.**

# XII. HOW CAN SOME SAY?

## 1 Corinthians 15:12 — No Resurrection of the Dead

**“Now if Christ is preached that He has been raised from the dead, how can some among you say that there is no resurrection of the dead?”**

Now Paul addresses the problem.

**“How can some among you say that there is no resurrection of the dead?”**

Some in the church denied that believers would be raised.

They did not deny that Jesus rose.

But they did not believe in a bodily resurrection for themselves.

Paul asks how that makes any sense.

If Christ was raised, then resurrection is possible.

If resurrection is impossible, then Christ was not raised.

You cannot have one without the other.

### Cross References

**Acts 17:32**

> When they heard about the resurrection of the dead, some of them laughed, but others said, “We want to hear you speak about this again.”

**Acts 23:8**

> The Sadducees say there is no resurrection, no angels, and no spirits, but the Pharisees believe in all of these.

**Matthew 22:23**

> That same day the Sadducees, who say there is no resurrection, came to Jesus with a question.

### Spiritual Principle

**Christ's resurrection and ours stand or fall together.**

# XIII. THEN CHRIST IS NOT RISEN

## 1 Corinthians 15:13 — The Logic of Denial

**“If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ is not risen.”**

Paul now follows the logic.

If dead people cannot be raised, then Jesus, who died, could not have been raised.

To deny our resurrection is to deny His.

Paul is about to show what that would mean.

### Cross References

**Acts 4:2**

> They were very upset because the apostles were teaching the people and announcing that in Jesus there is resurrection from the dead.

**Romans 6:5**

> If we have been united with Him in a death like His, we will certainly also be united with Him in a resurrection like His.

**1 Thessalonians 4:14**

> For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, we also believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in Him.

### Spiritual Principle

**Denying the resurrection of believers is denying the resurrection of Christ.**

# XIV. PREACHING AND FAITH USELESS

## 1 Corinthians 15:14 — Empty

**“And if Christ is not risen, then our preaching is useless, and your faith is also useless.”**

Here is the first result.

**“Our preaching is useless.”**

The apostles would be preaching an empty message.

**“And your faith is also useless.”**

The Corinthians' faith would be empty.

Christianity is not just a set of good moral ideas.

It stands or falls on one event.

If Christ did not rise, the whole thing collapses.

### Cross References

**Galatians 2:21**

> I do not set aside the grace of God. For if righteousness could be gained through the law, then Christ died for nothing.

**Romans 4:25**

> He was handed over to die because of our sins and was raised to life so that we could be made right with God.

**1 Peter 1:21**

> Through Him you believe in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

### Spiritual Principle

**The Christian faith rests entirely on the resurrection of Christ.**

# XV. FALSE WITNESSES

## 1 Corinthians 15:15 — Lying About God

**“Moreover, we are found to be false witnesses about God, because we testified that God raised Christ from the dead—if in fact the dead are not raised.”**

Here is the second result.

If there is no resurrection, the apostles were liars.

Worse, they were lying about God.

They said God raised Jesus.

If He did not, they were false witnesses.

But the apostles suffered and died for this message.

People do not die for what they know is a lie.

### Cross References

**Acts 2:32**

> God raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of it.

**Acts 3:15**

> You killed the Author of life, but God raised Him from the dead. We are witnesses of this.

**Acts 4:33**

> With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and God's grace was powerfully at work in all of them.

### Spiritual Principle

**The apostles staked their lives on the truth of the resurrection.**

# XVI. IF THE DEAD ARE NOT RAISED

## 1 Corinthians 15:16 — Christ Has Not Been Raised

**“For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised.”**

Paul repeats the logic to drive it home.

The two truths cannot be separated.

Either the dead are raised and Christ is risen.

Or the dead are not raised and Christ is still in the grave.

There is no middle ground.

### Cross References

**Acts 26:8**

> Why do any of you think it is impossible for God to raise the dead?

**Romans 8:11**

> If the Spirit of the One who raised Jesus from the dead lives in you, then the One who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit, who lives in you.

**Job 19:25**

> But I know that my Redeemer lives, and in the end He will stand on the earth.

### Spiritual Principle

**God, who raised Jesus, has the power to raise the dead.**

# XVII. STILL IN YOUR SINS

## 1 Corinthians 15:17 — Futile Faith

**“And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins.”**

Here is the third result, and it is devastating.

**“Your faith is futile.”**

Your faith would accomplish nothing.

**“You are still in your sins.”**

Why?

Because the resurrection is God's proof that Christ's sacrifice was accepted.

If Jesus stayed dead, we would have no proof that His death paid for our sins.

The cross would have been a defeat.

But the resurrection shows that the payment was complete.

### Cross References

**Romans 5:1**

> Since we have been made right with God by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Colossians 2:13**

> When you were dead in your sins and in your sinful nature, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins.

**1 Peter 1:3**

> Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In His great mercy He has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

### Spiritual Principle

**The resurrection is God's proof that Christ's payment for sin was accepted.**

### Key Truth

The cross paid for our sins.

The empty tomb proves it.

# XVIII. THOSE WHO HAVE FALLEN ASLEEP

## 1 Corinthians 15:18 — Perished

**“Then those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished.”**

Here is the fourth result.

If Christ is not raised, then believers who have died are gone forever.

No reunion.

No hope.

Every Christian funeral would be a final goodbye.

This would be heartbreaking.

But because Christ is risen, those who die in Him are only sleeping.

### Cross References

**1 Thessalonians 4:13**

> Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who have fallen asleep in death, so that you will not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope.

**1 Thessalonians 4:14**

> For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, we also believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in Him.

**John 11:25**

> Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in Me will live, even though he dies.”

### Spiritual Principle

**Because Christ is risen, believers who die are not lost.**

### Application

If you have lost a believing loved one, take comfort.

They are not gone forever.

# XIX. MOST TO BE PITIED

## 1 Corinthians 15:19 — Hope in This Life Only

**“If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.”**

Here is the fifth result.

If Christianity only helps us in this life, it is not worth it.

Believers give up much for Christ.

They suffer persecution.

They deny themselves.

If there is nothing beyond the grave, they have wasted their lives.

Christianity is not just a better way to live.

It is the hope of eternal life.

### Cross References

**Philippians 3:20**

> But our citizenship is in heaven, and we eagerly wait for a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ.

**Hebrews 11:13**

> All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive what was promised, but they saw it from far away and welcomed it. They admitted that they were foreigners and strangers on earth.

**2 Timothy 3:12**

> In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.

### Spiritual Principle

**The Christian hope reaches beyond this life into eternity.**

# XX. BUT CHRIST HAS BEEN RAISED

## 1 Corinthians 15:20 — The Firstfruits

**"But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep."**

After all the **"ifs,"** Paul declares the truth.

**"But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead."**

This is not a theory.

It is a fact.

**"The firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep."**

In Israel, the firstfruits were the first part of the harvest.

They were offered to God as a promise that the rest of the harvest would follow.

Christ's resurrection is the firstfruits.

It guarantees that all who belong to Him will also be raised.

Many Bible students also note the timing.

Jesus rose on the Sunday after Passover, the day Israel offered the firstfruits of the harvest to God.

### Cross References

**Acts 26:23**

> that the Messiah would suffer and, as the first to rise from the dead, would bring the message of light to His own people and to the Gentiles.

**Colossians 1:18**

> He is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything He might have first place.

**Romans 8:29**

> For those God knew ahead of time, He also chose to become like His Son, so that His Son would be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters.

### Spiritual Principle

**Christ's resurrection is the guarantee of ours.**

### Crawford Bible Study Principle

**The firstfruits have been gathered; the full harvest is coming.**

# XXI. DEATH THROUGH A MAN

## 1 Corinthians 15:21 — Resurrection Through a Man

**“For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead also came through a man.”**

Paul now explains how this works.

**“Death came through a man.”**

Adam sinned, and death entered the world.

**“The resurrection of the dead also came through a man.”**

Jesus, fully human, rose from the dead.

One man brought death.

Another Man brought life.

This is why Jesus had to become fully human.

Only a man could undo what a man had done.

### Cross References

**Romans 5:12**

> So sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin. In this way death spread to everyone, because everyone sinned.

**Romans 5:17**

> Death ruled because of one man's sin. But how much more will those who receive God's overflowing grace and the gift of righteousness rule in life through the one man, Jesus Christ!

**Genesis 3:19**

> You will sweat to get food to eat until you return to the ground, because you were taken from it. You are dust, and to dust you will return.

### Spiritual Principle

**Through one man came death; through one Man comes life.**

# XXII. IN ADAM, IN CHRIST

## 1 Corinthians 15:22 — All Made Alive

**“For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive.”**

This is one of the great verses of the Bible.

**“In Adam all die.”**

Everyone connected to Adam shares his death.

That is all of humanity.

**“So in Christ all will be made alive.”**

Everyone connected to Christ shares His life.

The key words are **“in Adam”** and **“in Christ.”**

Everyone is born in Adam.

Only those who trust in Christ are in Christ.

The question every person must answer is this:

**Am I only in Adam, or am I in Christ?**

### Cross References

**Romans 5:18**

> So just as one man's sin brought condemnation to all people, one righteous act brought the right standing with God that leads to life for all people.

**Romans 5:19**

> Just as many were made sinners through one man's disobedience, so many will be made righteous through one man's obedience.

**Genesis 2:17**

> but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, because on the day you eat from it, you will surely die.

### Spiritual Principle

**Everyone is in Adam by birth, but life is found only in Christ.**

### Application

Are you in Christ?

# XXIII. EACH IN HIS OWN ORDER

## 1 Corinthians 15:23 — Christ, Then Those Who Belong to Him

**“But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those who belong to Christ at His coming.”**

Paul explains the order of the resurrection.

**“Christ the firstfruits.”**

Jesus rose first.

**“Afterward those who belong to Christ at His coming.”**

When Jesus returns, all who belong to Him will be raised.

There is a time gap between the firstfruits and the harvest.

We live in that gap now.

But the harvest is certain.

### Cross References

**1 Thessalonians 4:16**

> For the Lord Himself will come down from heaven with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet call of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

**1 Thessalonians 4:17**

> After that, we who are still alive will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever.

**Revelation 20:6**

> Blessed and holy are those who share in the first resurrection. The second death has no power over them. They will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with Him for a thousand years.

### Spiritual Principle

**The resurrection of believers will happen when Christ returns.**

# XXIV. THEN COMES THE END

## 1 Corinthians 15:24 — The Kingdom Handed Over

**“Then comes the end, when He hands over the kingdom to God the Father, after He has destroyed all rule, authority, and power.”**

Paul looks to the very end of history.

**“Then comes the end.”**

God's plan will reach its goal.

**“After He has destroyed all rule, authority, and power.”**

Every power that opposes God will be defeated.

Evil rulers.

Spiritual forces of darkness.

Every rebellion against God.

**“When He hands over the kingdom to God the Father.”**

Christ will present His finished work to the Father.

The victory will be complete.

### Cross References

**Daniel 7:14**

> He was given authority, glory, and a kingdom, so that people of every nation and language would serve Him. His rule is an everlasting rule that will never pass away, and His kingdom will never be destroyed.

**Ephesians 1:21**

> far above every ruler, authority, power, and lord, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come.

**Revelation 11:15**

> Then the seventh angel blew his trumpet, and loud voices in heaven said: “The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Messiah, and He will reign forever and ever.”

### Spiritual Principle

**History is moving toward Christ's complete victory over every enemy.**

# XXV. HE MUST REIGN

## 1 Corinthians 15:25 — Until All Enemies Are Under His Feet

**“For He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet.”**

Christ is reigning now.

**“He must reign.”**

This is God's decree.

**“Until He has put all His enemies under His feet.”**

Paul echoes Psalm 110.

In the ancient world, a conquering king put his foot on the neck of a defeated enemy.

Christ will defeat every enemy.

Not one will remain.

### Cross References

**Psalm 110:1**

> The LORD said to my Lord: “Sit at My right hand until I make Your enemies a footstool for Your feet.”

**Hebrews 10:13**

> Since that time He waits for His enemies to be made a footstool for His feet.

**Ephesians 1:22**

> God placed everything under His feet and made Him head over everything for the good of the church,

### Spiritual Principle

**Christ reigns now and will reign until every enemy is defeated.**

### Key Truth

The world may look out of control.

But Jesus is reigning.

# XXVI. THE LAST ENEMY

## 1 Corinthians 15:26 — Death Destroyed

**“The last enemy that will be destroyed is death.”**

Here is one of the most hopeful verses in the Bible.

**“The last enemy.”**

Death is an enemy.

It was not part of God's original good creation.

It entered through sin.

It tears families apart.

It brings grief and fear.

**“That will be destroyed is death.”**

Death itself will die.

One day there will be no more graves, no more funerals, no more goodbyes.

### Cross References

**Revelation 20:14**

> Then death and the grave were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death.

**Revelation 21:4**

> He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death, sorrow, crying, or pain, because the old things have passed away.

**Hosea 13:14**

> I will rescue them from the power of the grave. I will redeem them from death. Death, where are your plagues? Grave, where is your destruction?

### Spiritual Principle

**Death is an enemy, and Christ will destroy it forever.**

### Crawford Bible Study Principle

**The last enemy will be the last to fall—and it will fall.**

# XXVII. EVERYTHING UNDER HIS FEET

## 1 Corinthians 15:27 — Except God Himself

**“For “He has put everything under His feet.” But when it says “everything,” it is clear that this does not include God Himself, who put everything under Christ.”**

Paul quotes Psalm 8.

**“He has put everything under His feet.”**

God has given Christ authority over all things.

Then Paul adds a clarification.

**“It is clear that this does not include God Himself.”**

The Father is the One who gave Christ this authority.

So the Father is not under Christ.

Paul is careful to show the relationship between the Father and the Son.

### Cross References

**Psalm 8:6**

> You made him ruler over the works of Your hands. You put everything under his feet:

**Hebrews 2:8**

> and put everything under his feet. In putting everything under him, God left nothing that is not under him. Yet right now we do not see everything under him.

**Ephesians 1:22**

> God placed everything under His feet and made Him head over everything for the good of the church,

### Spiritual Principle

**The Father has given the Son authority over all creation.**

# XXVIII. THAT GOD MAY BE ALL IN ALL

## 1 Corinthians 15:28 — The Son Subject to the Father

**“When all things have been subjected to Him, then the Son Himself will be made subject to the One who put everything under Him, so that God may be all in all.”**

Paul describes the final moment of history.

**“When all things have been subjected to Him.”**

Every enemy defeated.

Every knee bowed.

**“Then the Son Himself will be made subject to the One who put everything under Him.”**

This does not mean the Son is less than the Father in His nature.

The Son is fully God.

It means that in His role as Savior and King, the Son will joyfully present everything to the Father.

The Son has always delighted to honor the Father.

**“So that God may be all in all.”**

God will be everything to everyone.

His presence will fill everything.

This is the goal of all history.

### Cross References

**Philippians 2:10**

> so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow—in heaven, on earth, and under the earth—

**Colossians 3:11**

> In this new life, there is no Greek or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, foreigner, uncivilized person, slave, or free person. Christ is all, and He is in all.

**Ephesians 4:6**

> There is one God and Father of all, who is over all, through all, and in all.

### Spiritual Principle

**The goal of all history is that God will be all in all.**

### Key Truth

The Son is equal with the Father in nature, yet He delights to honor the Father in His work.

# XXIX. BAPTIZED FOR THE DEAD

## 1 Corinthians 15:29 — A Hard Verse

**“Otherwise, what will those do who are baptized for the dead, if the dead are not raised at all? Why then are they baptized for them?”**

Paul now gives another argument for the resurrection.

This verse is one of the hardest in the Bible.

Bible students have offered many explanations.

**Some believe** that some people in Corinth were being baptized on behalf of believers who had died without being baptized.

Paul does not approve of it.

He simply points out that even their practice assumes the dead will rise.

**Some believe** it refers to people who were baptized because of the testimony of believers who had died, hoping to be reunited with them.

**Some believe** it refers to being baptized with a view to one's own death and resurrection.

Whatever the exact meaning, Paul's point is clear.

Without the resurrection, the practice makes no sense.

The Bible nowhere else teaches baptism for the dead, and no doctrine should be built on this one unclear verse.

## Cross References

**Romans 6:3**

> Don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death?

**Colossians 2:12**

> You were buried with Him in baptism and raised with Him through your faith in the power of God, who raised Him from the dead.

**1 Peter 3:21**

> And this water pictures baptism, which now saves you—not by washing dirt from the body, but as the pledge of a clear conscience toward God. It saves you through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

## Spiritual Principle

**Hard verses should be interpreted by clear ones.**

**Key Truth**

Baptism points to death and resurrection with Christ.

# XXX. IN DANGER EVERY HOUR

## 1 Corinthians 15:30 — Why Take Risks?

**“And why are we in danger every hour?”**

Paul gives a personal argument.

The apostles lived in constant danger.

Beatings.

Prison.

Shipwrecks.

Mobs.

Why would they risk their lives every hour if there was no resurrection?

Their willingness to suffer shows how certain they were of the risen Christ.

### Cross References

**2 Corinthians 11:26**

> I have been on many journeys. I have faced danger from rivers, from robbers, from my own people, from the Gentiles, in the city, in the wilderness, at sea, and from false believers.

**2 Corinthians 4:11**

> For we who are alive are always being handed over to death for Jesus' sake, so that His life may also be seen in our mortal bodies.

**Romans 8:36**

> As Scripture says: “For Your sake we face death all day long. We are treated like sheep led to be slaughtered.”

### Spiritual Principle

**The hope of resurrection gives courage to face danger.**

# XXXI. I DIE DAILY

## 1 Corinthians 15:31 — Paul's Solemn Affirmation

**“I affirm, by the boasting in you which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die daily.”**

Paul makes a solemn statement.

**“I die daily.”**

Every day, Paul faced the possibility of death.

Every day, he gave up his life for Christ.

He swears by his joy in the Corinthians that this is true.

A man does not live this way for a lie.

He lives this way because he knows death is not the end.

### Cross References

**2 Corinthians 4:10**

> We always carry in our bodies the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be seen in our bodies.

**2 Corinthians 1:9**

> In fact, we felt we had received the sentence of death. But this happened so that we would not trust in ourselves, but in God, who raises the dead.

**Galatians 2:20**

> I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

### Spiritual Principle

**Following Christ means dying to self every day.**

### Application

What do you need to give up to Christ today?

# XXXII. LET US EAT AND DRINK

## 1 Corinthians 15:32 — If the Dead Are Not Raised

**“If I fought wild beasts at Ephesus with merely human motives, what did I gain? If the dead are not raised, “Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die.””**

Paul gives an example.

**“If I fought wild beasts at Ephesus.”**

This may describe a real fight with animals.

More likely, it describes the fierce opposition Paul faced from people in Ephesus who acted like wild beasts.

**“What did I gain?”**

If there is no resurrection, nothing.

Then Paul quotes Isaiah:

**“Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die.”**

If there is no life after death, why not just live for pleasure?

Without the resurrection, there is no reason to live for anything beyond this life.

### Cross References

**Isaiah 22:13**

> But instead there was joy and celebration, killing cattle and sheep, eating meat and drinking wine. “Let us eat and drink,” you said, “for tomorrow we die!”

**Acts 19:29**

> Soon the whole city was in an uproar. The people rushed into the theater, dragging along Gaius and Aristarchus, Paul's traveling companions from Macedonia.

**Luke 12:19**

> And I will say to myself, “You have plenty of good things stored up for many years. Relax. Eat, drink, and enjoy yourself.”

### Spiritual Principle

**What we believe about the future shapes how we live today.**

# XXXIII. BAD COMPANY

## 1 Corinthians 15:33 — Corrupts Good Morals

**“Do not be deceived: “Bad company corrupts good morals.””**

Paul quotes a well-known saying from a Greek poet.

**“Bad company corrupts good morals.”**

The people who denied the resurrection were having a bad influence on the church.

Their wrong beliefs were leading to wrong living.

The company we keep shapes the way we think and live.

### Cross References

**Proverbs 13:20**

> Walk with the wise and become wise, but a companion of fools will suffer harm.

**1 Corinthians 5:6**

> Your bragging is not good. Don't you know that a little yeast works its way through the whole batch of dough?

**Galatians 6:7**

> Do not be fooled: God cannot be mocked. A person harvests what he plants.

### Spiritual Principle

**The people we spend time with shape what we believe and how we live.**

### Application

Who is shaping your thinking?

# XXXIV. WAKE UP

## 1 Corinthians 15:34 — Do Not Sin

**“Wake up to righteousness, and do not sin; for some do not have the knowledge of God—I say this to your shame.”**

Paul gives a wake-up call.

**“Wake up to righteousness.”**

Like a person shaking off a drunken sleep.

**“And do not sin.”**

Wrong beliefs about the resurrection were leading to sinful living.

**“For some do not have the knowledge of God.”**

Some in the church did not truly know God.

**“I say this to your shame.”**

The Corinthians boasted of their knowledge.

Yet some among them did not even know God.

### Cross References

**Romans 13:11**

> Do this because you know what time it is. It is time to wake up from sleep, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed.

**Ephesians 5:14**

> This is why it is said: “Wake up, sleeper! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”

**Hosea 4:6**

> My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also reject you as My priests. Because you have forgotten the law of your God, I will also forget your children.

### Spiritual Principle

**Right belief about the resurrection leads to right living.**

# XXXV. HOW ARE THE DEAD RAISED?

## 1 Corinthians 15:35 — With What Kind of Body?

**“But someone will ask, “How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?””**

Paul now answers the objections.

Someone asks two questions.

**“How are the dead raised?”**

How is it even possible?

Bodies decay.

Some are burned.

Some are lost at sea.

**“With what kind of body do they come?”**

Will we have the same body?

A sick body?

An old body?

These were real questions.

And Paul answers them.

## Cross References

**Ezekiel 37:3**

> He asked me, “Son of man, can these bones live?” I answered, “Sovereign LORD, only You know.”

**John 11:24**

> Martha answered, “I know he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.”

**Acts 26:8**

> Why do any of you think it is impossible for God to raise the dead?

## Spiritual Principle

**Honest questions about the resurrection have answers in God's word.**

# XXXVI. WHAT YOU SOW MUST DIE

## 1 Corinthians 15:36 — The Picture of a Seed

**“Foolish one! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies.”**

Paul answers sharply.

**“Foolish one!”**

The answer is all around you in nature.

**“What you sow does not come to life unless it dies.”**

A farmer plants a seed.

The seed goes into the ground and seems to die.

But from that seed comes new life.

Death is not the end of the seed.

It is the doorway to a new kind of life.

Jesus used the same picture to describe His own death and resurrection.

### Cross References

**John 12:24**

> I tell you the truth, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it stays only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds.

**Galatians 6:8**

> Whoever plants to please his sinful nature will harvest destruction from that nature. But whoever plants to please the Spirit will harvest eternal life from the Spirit.

**1 Peter 1:23**

> For you have been born again, not from a seed that perishes, but from one that cannot perish—through the living and lasting word of God.

### Spiritual Principle

**In God's design, death can be the doorway to new life.**

# XXXVII. A BARE GRAIN

## 1 Corinthians 15:37 — Not the Body That Is to Be

**“What you sow is not the body that is to be, but a bare grain, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain.”**

Paul continues the picture.

**“What you sow is not the body that is to be.”**

When you plant a seed, you do not plant the full-grown plant.

You plant something small and plain.

**“But a bare grain.”**

A tiny seed of wheat looks nothing like a field of golden grain.

Yet the plant comes from the seed.

There is both connection and change.

The resurrection body will be connected to our present body.

But it will be far more glorious.

### Cross References

**Mark 4:26**

> He also said, “God's kingdom is like a man who scatters seed on the ground.

**Mark 4:27**

> He sleeps and gets up, night and day, and the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how.

**Matthew 13:31**

> He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that a man took and planted in his field.”

### Spiritual Principle

**Our resurrection body will be connected to our present body, yet far more glorious.**

# XXXVIII. GOD GIVES IT A BODY

## 1 Corinthians 15:38 — As He Has Determined

**“But God gives it a body as He has determined, and to each kind of seed its own body.”**

Who makes the seed grow into a plant?

**“God gives it a body.”**

God does it.

**“As He has determined.”**

God decides what kind of body each seed will have.

**“And to each kind of seed its own body.”**

Wheat produces wheat.

Barley produces barley.

God, who does this in nature every season, can certainly raise the dead.

### Cross References

**Genesis 1:11**

> Then God said, “Let the earth produce plants: plants that make seeds, and fruit trees on the earth that bear fruit with seeds in it, each according to its kind.” And it was so.

**Genesis 1:12**

> The earth produced plants: plants making seeds according to their kinds, and trees bearing fruit with seeds in it according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good.

**Matthew 6:30**

> If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and thrown into the fire tomorrow, won't He clothe you even more, you people of little faith?

### Spiritual Principle

**The God who gives life to every seed can give resurrection life to His people.**

# XXXIX. NOT ALL FLESH IS THE SAME

## 1 Corinthians 15:39 — People, Animals, Birds, Fish

**“Not all flesh is the same: people have one kind of flesh, animals another, birds another, and fish another.”**

Paul gives another example.

God has made many different kinds of bodies.

**People.**

**Animals.**

**Birds.**

**Fish.**

Each one is suited to its own life.

If God can create so many kinds of bodies, He can create a resurrection body suited to eternal life.

### Cross References

**Genesis 1:24**

> Then God said, “Let the earth produce living creatures according to their kinds: livestock, creatures that crawl on the ground, and wild animals, each according to its kind.” And it was so.

**Genesis 1:25**

> God made the wild animals according to their kinds, the livestock according to their kinds, and all the creatures that crawl on the ground according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good.

**Genesis 1:20**

> Then God said, “Let the waters swarm with living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the open sky.”

### Spiritual Principle

**God's creativity has no limits.**

# XL. HEAVENLY AND EARTHLY BODIES

## 1 Corinthians 15:40 — Different Kinds of Glory

**“There are also heavenly bodies and earthly bodies; but the glory of the heavenly is one kind, and the glory of the earthly is another.”**

Paul widens the picture.

There are **earthly bodies**—people, animals, plants.

There are **heavenly bodies**—the sun, the moon, the stars.

Each has its own kind of glory.

The point is that God gives different kinds of glory to different kinds of bodies.

Our resurrection bodies will have a glory suited to heaven.

### Cross References

**2 Corinthians 5:1**

> We know that if the earthly tent we live in is torn down, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands.

**Philippians 3:21**

> By the power that lets Him bring everything under His control, He will change our weak earthly bodies to be like His glorious body.

**Psalm 19:1**

> The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky shows the work of His hands.

### Spiritual Principle

**God gives each kind of body its own kind of glory.**

# XLI. STAR DIFFERS FROM STAR

## 1 Corinthians 15:41 — The Sun, Moon, and Stars

**“The sun has one kind of glory, the moon another, and the stars another; and star differs from star in glory.”**

Paul looks up at the sky.

**The sun** shines brightly.

**The moon** glows softly.

**The stars** sparkle.

And even each star is different.

God loves variety.

His creation is full of different kinds of beauty.

### Cross References

**Genesis 1:16**

> God made two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night. He also made the stars.

**Psalm 19:1**

> The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky shows the work of His hands.

**Daniel 12:3**

> Those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the sky, and those who lead many to righteousness will shine like the stars forever and ever.

### Spiritual Principle

**God's creation shows endless variety of glory.**

### Key Truth

Daniel says those who lead many to righteousness will shine like the stars forever.

# XLII. PERISHABLE AND IMPERISHABLE

## 1 Corinthians 15:42 — So It Is with the Resurrection

**“So it is with the resurrection of the dead: what is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable.”**

Now Paul applies his examples.

**“So it is with the resurrection of the dead.”**

He gives four contrasts in verses 42–44.

The first:

**“What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable.”**

Our present bodies grow old, get sick, and die.

They decay.

But our resurrection bodies will never decay.

They will never wear out.

They will last forever.

### Cross References

**1 Peter 1:4**

> and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil, or fade. It is kept in heaven for you,

**1 Peter 1:23**

> For you have been born again, not from a seed that perishes, but from one that cannot perish—through the living and lasting word of God.

**2 Corinthians 5:1**

> We know that if the earthly tent we live in is torn down, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands.

### Spiritual Principle

**Our resurrection bodies will never decay.**

# XLIII. DISHONOR AND GLORY, WEAKNESS AND POWER

## 1 Corinthians 15:43 — Raised in Glory and Power

**“It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power.”**

Paul gives the next two contrasts.

**“It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory.”**

There is nothing glorious about death.

A body in a grave is a picture of humiliation.

But it will be raised in glory, shining with God's beauty.

**“It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power.”**

A dead body is completely weak.

It cannot move.

But it will be raised in power, full of strength and life.

## Cross References

**Philippians 3:21**

> By the power that lets Him bring everything under His control, He will change our weak earthly bodies to be like His glorious body.

**2 Corinthians 13:4**

> It is true that He was crucified in weakness, but He lives by God's power. We also are weak in Him, but by God's power we will live with Him in order to serve you.

**Daniel 12:3**

> Those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the sky, and those who lead many to righteousness will shine like the stars forever and ever.

## Spiritual Principle

**What is buried in weakness and dishonor will be raised in power and glory.**

## Application

If you struggle with weakness, illness, or age, remember that God has promised you a body of glory and power.

# XLIV. A SPIRITUAL BODY

## 1 Corinthians 15:44 — Natural and Spiritual

**“It is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body.”**

The fourth contrast.

**“It is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body.”**

What is a **spiritual body?**

It does not mean a body made of spirit, like a ghost.

Jesus' resurrection body could be touched.

He ate food.

A **spiritual body** is a real body, fully empowered and directed by the Holy Spirit.

Our natural bodies are suited for life in this world.

Our spiritual bodies will be suited for life in God's eternal kingdom.

**“If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body.”**

Just as surely as we have these bodies now, we will have resurrection bodies then.

### Cross References

**1 Corinthians 2:14**

> The person without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from God's Spirit. They seem foolish to him, and he cannot understand them, because they can only be understood with the Spirit's help.

**John 3:6**

> Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit.

**Romans 8:11**

> If the Spirit of the One who raised Jesus from the dead lives in you, then the One who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit, who lives in you.

### Spiritual Principle

**A spiritual body is a real body fully empowered by God's Spirit.**

### Key Truth

Heaven is not a place of floating spirits.

It is a place of glorified, resurrected people.

# XLV. THE FIRST ADAM AND THE LAST ADAM

## 1 Corinthians 15:45 — A Life-Giving Spirit

**"So it is written: "The first man Adam became a living being." The last Adam became a life-giving spirit."**

Paul compares Adam and Christ.

**"The first man Adam became a living being."**

God breathed life into Adam, and he became alive.

He received life.

**"The last Adam became a life-giving spirit."**

Jesus is the **last Adam.**

He is the head of a new humanity.

And He does more than receive life.

He **gives** life.

Through His resurrection, He gives resurrection life to all who belong to Him.

### Cross References

**Genesis 2:7**

> Then the LORD God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.

**Romans 5:14**

> Yet death ruled from the time of Adam to the time of Moses, even over those who did not sin by breaking a command as Adam did. Adam was a picture of the One who was to come.

**John 5:21**

> For just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, so the Son gives life to whomever He wants.

### Spiritual Principle

**Adam received life; Christ gives life.**

### Crawford Bible Study Principle

**The first Adam brought us into a dying world; the last Adam brings us into eternal life.**

# XLVI. FIRST THE NATURAL

## 1 Corinthians 15:46 — Then the Spiritual

**“However, the spiritual did not come first, but the natural, and after that the spiritual.”**

Paul explains God's order.

**“The spiritual did not come first, but the natural.”**

We begin with natural bodies.

**“And after that the spiritual.”**

We will end with spiritual bodies.

God's plan moves from good to better.

From earthly to heavenly.

From what is temporary to what is eternal.

### Cross References

**1 Corinthians 2:14**

> The person without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from God's Spirit. They seem foolish to him, and he cannot understand them, because they can only be understood with the Spirit's help.

**Romans 8:5**

> Those who live by their sinful nature set their minds on what that nature wants. But those who live by the Spirit set their minds on what the Spirit wants.

**Genesis 2:7**

> Then the LORD God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.

### Spiritual Principle

**God's plan moves His people from the natural to the spiritual, from the temporary to the eternal.**

# XLVII. THE LORD FROM HEAVEN

## 1 Corinthians 15:47 — Dust and Heaven

**“The first man was of the earth, made of dust; the second man is the Lord from heaven.”**

Paul continues the contrast.

**“The first man was of the earth, made of dust.”**

Adam was formed from the ground.

**“The second man is the Lord from heaven.”**

Jesus came down from heaven.

He is truly man.

But He is also the Lord who came from heaven.

This is a clear statement of who Jesus is.

### Cross References

**Genesis 2:7**

> Then the LORD God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.

**John 3:13**

> No one has gone up into heaven except the One who came down from heaven—the Son of Man.

**John 6:38**

> For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but to do the will of the One who sent Me.

### Spiritual Principle

**Jesus is the Lord from heaven who became man to save us.**

# XLVIII. THOSE WHO ARE OF HEAVEN

## 1 Corinthians 15:48 — Like Their Head

**“As was the man of dust, so are those who are of the dust; and as is the heavenly man, so also are those who are of heaven.”**

Paul shows how we are connected to Adam and to Christ.

**“As was the man of dust, so are those who are of the dust.”**

Everyone born of Adam shares his earthly, mortal nature.

**“As is the heavenly man, so also are those who are of heaven.”**

Everyone who belongs to Christ will share His heavenly nature.

We become like the one we belong to.

### Cross References

**Philippians 3:20**

> But our citizenship is in heaven, and we eagerly wait for a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ.

**1 John 3:2**

> Dear friends, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet been shown. But we know that when Christ appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him as He really is.

**Romans 8:29**

> For those God knew ahead of time, He also chose to become like His Son, so that His Son would be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters.

**Spiritual Principle**

**Those who belong to Christ will become like Him.**

# XLIX. THE IMAGE OF THE HEAVENLY MAN

## 1 Corinthians 15:49 — We Will Bear His Image

**“And just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we will also bear the image of the heavenly man.”**

This is a wonderful promise.

**“Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust.”**

We look like Adam.

We share his weakness, his sin, and his death.

**“We will also bear the image of the heavenly man.”**

One day we will look like Jesus.

We will share His glory, His holiness, and His life.

God's goal is to make us like His Son.

### Cross References

**Romans 8:29**

> For those God knew ahead of time, He also chose to become like His Son, so that His Son would be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters.

**1 John 3:2**

> Dear friends, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet been shown. But we know that when Christ appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him as He really is.

**2 Corinthians 3:18**

> And all of us, with unveiled faces, see the Lord's glory as if in a mirror, and we are being changed into His likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

### Spiritual Principle

**God's goal is to make His people like Jesus.**

### Key Truth

You look like Adam now.

You will look like Jesus forever.

# L. FLESH AND BLOOD CANNOT INHERIT

## 1 Corinthians 15:50 — Perishable Cannot Inherit the Imperishable

**“Now this I say, brothers and sisters, flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does perishable inherit imperishable.”**

Paul explains why we must be changed.

**“Flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God.”**

**Flesh and blood** means our present, mortal human nature.

Our bodies as they are now are not fit for God's eternal kingdom.

**“Nor does perishable inherit imperishable.”**

What decays cannot inherit what lasts forever.

We must be transformed.

### Cross References

**John 3:6**

> Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit.

**Galatians 5:21**

> envy, drunkenness, wild parties, and other things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.

**1 Peter 1:4**

> and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil, or fade. It is kept in heaven for you,

**Spiritual Principle**

**Our mortal bodies must be transformed to enter God's eternal kingdom.**

# LI. A MYSTERY

## 1 Corinthians 15:51 — We Shall All Be Changed

**“Behold, I tell you a mystery: we shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,”**

Paul reveals something new.

**“Behold, I tell you a mystery.”**

A truth that was hidden but is now revealed.

**“We shall not all sleep.”**

Not every believer will die.

Some will still be alive when Jesus returns.

**“But we shall all be changed.”**

Whether dead or alive, every believer will be transformed.

The dead will be raised.

The living will be changed.

All will receive glorious, imperishable bodies.

### Cross References

**1 Thessalonians 4:15**

> According to the Lord's own word, we tell you this: we who are still alive and remain until the Lord comes will certainly not go ahead of those who have fallen asleep.

**1 Thessalonians 4:17**

> After that, we who are still alive will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever.

**Romans 11:25**

> I do not want you to be unaware of this secret truth, brothers and sisters, so that you will not think you are wiser than you are: part of Israel has been hardened until the full number of Gentiles has come in.

### Spiritual Principle

**Every believer, living or dead, will be changed when Christ returns.**

# LII. IN THE TWINKLING OF AN EYE

## 1 Corinthians 15:52 — At the Last Trumpet

**“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 shall be changed.”**

Paul describes how fast this will happen.

**“In a moment.”**

The word is the source of our word **atom**—something so small it cannot be divided.

An instant.

**“In the twinkling of an eye.”**

Faster than a blink.

**“At the last trumpet.”**

In the Bible, trumpets announced God's great acts.

This final trumpet will announce Christ's return.

**“The dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed.”**

In a single instant, every believer will be transformed.

### Cross References

**1 Thessalonians 4:16**

> For the Lord Himself will come down from heaven with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet call of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

**Matthew 24:31**

> He will send His angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather His chosen people from the four winds, from one end of the sky to the other.

**Revelation 11:15**

> Then the seventh angel blew his trumpet, and loud voices in heaven said: “The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Messiah, and He will reign forever and ever.”

### Spiritual Principle

**Christ's return and our transformation will happen in an instant.**

### Application

Live ready.

It could happen in the twinkling of an eye.

# LIII. PUTTING ON IMMORTALITY

## 1 Corinthians 15:53 — Corruptible and Mortal

**“For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.”**

Paul uses the picture of putting on new clothes.

**“This corruptible must put on incorruption.”**

Our decaying bodies will be clothed with bodies that never decay.

**“This mortal must put on immortality.”**

Our dying bodies will be clothed with bodies that never die.

Notice the word **“this.”**

It is **this** body that will be changed.

God will not throw our bodies away.

He will transform them.

### Cross References

**2 Corinthians 5:4**

> While we live in this tent, we groan under our burden. We do not want to take it off, but to put on our heavenly body, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life.

**Romans 2:7**

> To those who keep on doing good and seek glory, honor, and immortality, He will give eternal life.

**1 Peter 1:4**

> and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil, or fade. It is kept in heaven for you,

### Spiritual Principle

**God will not discard our bodies; He will transform them.**

# LIV. DEATH IS SWALLOWED UP

## 1 Corinthians 15:54 — In Victory

**“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.””**

When the transformation happens, God's promise will be fulfilled.

Paul quotes Isaiah:

**“Death is swallowed up in victory.”**

Death has swallowed every human being since Adam.

But one day, death itself will be swallowed.

Completely.

Forever.

Victory will swallow death.

### Cross References

**Isaiah 25:8**

> He will swallow up death forever. The Sovereign LORD will wipe away the tears from every face and remove His people's disgrace from all the earth. The LORD has spoken.

**Revelation 21:4**

> He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death, sorrow, crying, or pain, because the old things have passed away.

**Revelation 20:14**

> Then death and the grave were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death.

### Spiritual Principle

**Death, which has swallowed all people, will itself be swallowed up in victory.**

# LV. O DEATH, WHERE IS YOUR STING?

## 1 Corinthians 15:55 — O Grave, Where Is Your Victory?

**“O death, where is your sting? O grave, where is your victory?”**

Paul bursts into a song of triumph.

He quotes Hosea and taunts death itself.

**“O death, where is your sting?”**

Death once had a deadly sting, like a scorpion or a bee.

But Jesus took the sting.

**“O grave, where is your victory?”**

The grave once seemed to win every battle.

But Jesus walked out of the grave.

Death has lost.

The grave has lost.

For the believer, death is no longer something to fear.

### Cross References

**Hosea 13:14**

> I will rescue them from the power of the grave. I will redeem them from death. Death, where are your plagues? Grave, where is your destruction?

**Revelation 21:4**

> He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death, sorrow, crying, or pain, because the old things have passed away.

**2 Timothy 1:10**

> and now it has been revealed through the appearing of our Savior, Christ Jesus. He has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the good news.

### Spiritual Principle

**For those in Christ, death has lost its sting and the grave has lost its victory.**

### Crawford Bible Study Principle

**Believers can look death in the face and say, "You have already lost."**

# LVI. THE STING OF DEATH IS SIN

## 1 Corinthians 15:56 — The Power of Sin Is the Law

**"The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law."**

Paul explains what makes death so terrible.

**"The sting of death is sin."**

Death hurts because of sin.

Sin brings guilt.

Sin brings judgment.

Death is the doorway to facing God with our sin.

**"And the power of sin is the law."**

God's law is good.

But it exposes our sin and condemns us.

It shows how far we fall short.

Without Christ, the law gives sin its power to condemn.

### Cross References

**Romans 6:23**

> For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**Romans 7:7**

> What should we say then? Is the law sin? Absolutely not! But I would not have known what sin was except through the law. I would not have known what it is to covet if the law had not said, “Do not covet.”

**1 John 3:4**

> Everyone who sins breaks the law, because sin is breaking the law.

### Spiritual Principle

**Death stings because of sin, and the law shows sin's guilt.**

# LVII. THANKS BE TO GOD

## 1 Corinthians 15:57 — The Victory Through Our Lord Jesus Christ

**“But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”**

Here is the answer.

**“But thanks be to God.”**

Paul cannot help but give thanks.

**“Who gives us the victory.”**

Victory over sin.

Victory over the law's condemnation.

Victory over death.

And it is a **gift.**

We do not win it.

God gives it.

**“Through our Lord Jesus Christ.”**

Jesus took the sting of death by dying for our sins.

He satisfied the law by fulfilling it.

He defeated death by rising from the grave.

His victory becomes ours.

### Cross References

**Romans 7:25**

> Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

**1 John 5:4**

> because everyone born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world: our faith.

**2 Corinthians 2:14**

> But thanks be to God, who always leads us in victory in Christ and through us spreads the knowledge of Him everywhere like a sweet fragrance.

### Spiritual Principle

**Victory over sin and death is God's gift through Jesus Christ.**

### Application

Give thanks to God today for the victory you have in Christ.

# LVIII. STEADFAST AND IMMOVABLE

## 1 Corinthians 15:58 — Your Labor Is Not in Vain

**“Therefore, my beloved brothers and sisters, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.”**

Paul ends this great chapter with a practical command.

**“Therefore.”**

Because Christ is risen.

Because we will be raised.

Because death is defeated.

**“Be steadfast.”**

Stand firm in your faith.

**“Immovable.”**

Do not let anything shake you.

**“Always abounding in the work of the Lord.”**

Give yourself fully and generously to serving Him.

**“Knowing that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.”**

Nothing done for Christ is wasted.

Every prayer.

Every act of service.

Every word of witness.

Every sacrifice.

The resurrection guarantees that it all matters forever.

## Cross References

**Galatians 6:9**

> So let us not grow tired of doing good, because at the right time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.

**Hebrews 6:10**

> God is not unfair. He will not forget your work and the love you have shown for His name as you have helped His people and continue to help them.

**Colossians 1:23**

> as long as you continue in your faith, firmly established and steady, not moving away from the hope of the good news you heard.

**Spiritual Principle**

**Because Christ is risen, nothing done for Him is ever wasted.**

**Crawford Bible Study Principle**

**The empty tomb guarantees that faithful work for Christ will last forever.**

# LIX. SIX GREAT LESSONS FROM 1 CORINTHIANS 15

## 1. The Resurrection Is Central

**“If Christ is not risen, then our preaching is useless, and your faith is also useless.”**

**Principle:**

**Without Christ's resurrection, faith and preaching are empty.**

## 2. Christ Is the Firstfruits

**“Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits.”**

**Principle:**

**His resurrection guarantees the resurrection of all believers.**

## 3. Death Is Defeated

**“The last enemy that will be destroyed is death.”**

**Principle:**

**The final enemy will be destroyed, and immortality will be given to the saints.**

## 4. Our Bodies Will Be Changed

**“It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power.”**

**Principle:**

**The resurrection body is spiritual, glorious, and incorruptible.**

## 5. Victory Is in Christ

**“O death, where is your sting?”**

### Principle:

**Through Christ, death loses its sting, and the grave loses its power.**

## 6. Steadfast Labor

**“Your labor in the Lord is not in vain.”**

### Principle:

**Since the resurrection is true, every effort for Christ matters eternally.**

# LX. THE WITNESSES OF THE RESURRECTION

Paul lists those who saw the risen Christ.

- Peter (Cephas).
- The Twelve.
- More than five hundred believers at one time.
- James, the brother of Jesus.
- All the apostles.
- Paul himself.

The Gospels add others.

- Mary Magdalene and the other women at the tomb.
- Two disciples on the road to Emmaus.
- Thomas, who doubted until he saw.
- Seven disciples by the Sea of Galilee.

### Key Truth

**The resurrection was seen by many people, on many occasions, in many places.**

# LXI. IF CHRIST IS NOT RISEN

In verses 13–19, Paul lists what would be true if Christ had not risen.

- Our preaching would be useless.
- Our faith would be useless.
- The apostles would be false witnesses about God.
- Our faith would be futile.
- We would still be in our sins.
- Those who died in Christ would be lost.
- We would be the most pitiful people of all.

## But Christ Has Been Raised

Because He is risen, every one of these is reversed.

- Our preaching has power.
- Our faith has meaning.
- The apostles told the truth.
- Our sins are forgiven.
- Those who died in Christ will rise.
- Our hope reaches beyond this life.

### Crawford Bible Study Principle

**Everything hangs on the empty tomb, and the tomb is empty.**

# LXII. OUR PRESENT BODY AND OUR RESURRECTION BODY

Verses 42–44 give four great contrasts.

## Our Present Body

- Perishable.

- Sown in dishonor.
- Sown in weakness.
- A natural body.
- Bears the image of Adam.

## Our Resurrection Body

- Imperishable.
- Raised in glory.
- Raised in power.
- A spiritual body.
- Bears the image of Christ.

### Key Truth

**Our resurrection bodies will be truly ours, yet transformed beyond anything we can imagine.**

# LXIII. ADAM AND CHRIST

## Adam

- The first man.
- Made from the dust.
- Became a living being.
- Through him came death.
- In him all die.

## Christ

- The last Adam and the second man.
- The Lord from heaven.
- Became a life-giving spirit.

- Through Him came the resurrection.
- In Him all will be made alive.

**Key Truth**

**Every person is in Adam by birth, but only those in Christ will share His resurrection life.**

# LXIV. WHAT 1 CORINTHIANS 15 TEACHES ABOUT JESUS

## He Died for Our Sins

**“Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures.”**

## He Rose on the Third Day

**“He rose again on the third day.”**

## He Is the Firstfruits

His resurrection guarantees ours.

## He Is the Last Adam

He gives life to all who belong to Him.

## He Is the Lord from Heaven

He came from heaven to save us.

## He Reigns Until Every Enemy Is Defeated

**“He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet.”**

## He Gives Us the Victory

**“Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”**

**Crawford Bible Study Principle**

**The Christ who died for us now lives for us, and because He lives, we will live too.**

# LXV. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FOR PERSONAL STUDY

## Question 1

**What are the main truths of the gospel in verses 3–4?**

Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures.

He was buried.

He rose again on the third day according to the Scriptures.

## Question 2

**Why does Paul list so many witnesses?**

To show that the resurrection was a real event seen by many people.

Many of the witnesses were still alive and could be asked.

## Question 3

**Why were some in Corinth denying the resurrection?**

Many Greeks believed the body was unimportant or even a prison for the soul.

They did not expect dead bodies to be raised.

## Question 4

**What would be true if Christ had not risen?**

Preaching and faith would be useless.

We would still be in our sins.

Those who died in Christ would be lost.

We would be most to be pitied.

## Question 5

**What does it mean that Christ is the “firstfruits”?**

He is the first part of the harvest.

His resurrection guarantees that all who belong to Him will also be raised.

## Question 6

**What is the difference between being “in Adam” and “in Christ”?**

Everyone is born in Adam and shares his death.

Those who trust Christ are in Christ and will share His life.

## Question 7

**Does verse 28 mean the Son is less than the Father?**

No.

The Son is fully God.

In His role as Savior and King, He joyfully presents everything to the Father so that God may be all in all.

## Question 8

**What does “baptized for the dead” mean?**

It is one of the hardest verses in the Bible, and Bible students explain it in different ways.

Paul's point is that the practice assumes a resurrection.

No doctrine should be built on this one unclear verse.

## Question 9

**How does a seed help us understand the resurrection?**

A seed is planted and seems to die, but it produces a new plant.

The plant is connected to the seed, yet far more glorious.

Our resurrection bodies will be connected to our present bodies, yet far more glorious.

## Question 10

**What is a “spiritual body”?**

A real body fully empowered by the Holy Spirit.

It is not a ghost or a spirit without a body.

Jesus' resurrection body could be touched, and He ate food.

## Question 11

**What will happen to believers who are alive when Jesus returns?**

They will be changed in an instant, in the twinkling of an eye.

They will receive imperishable bodies along with the believers who are raised.

## Question 12

**What should 1 Corinthians 15 change about the way Christians live today?**

1 Corinthians 15 should cause believers to live:

- Standing firmly on the gospel.
- Confident that Christ truly rose.
- Free from the fear of death.
- Comforted when believing loved ones die.
- Living for eternity, not just this life.
- Waking up to righteousness.
- Giving thanks for the victory in Christ.
- Steadfast, immovable, and abounding in the Lord's work.

# LXVI. PERSONAL APPLICATION

1 Corinthians 15 asks several important questions.

## Am I Standing on the Gospel?

Do I hold firmly to the message of Christ's death and resurrection?

### Do I Believe Jesus Truly Rose?

Is the resurrection a fact I am staking my life on?

### Am I in Adam or in Christ?

Have I trusted Christ for life?

### Am I Afraid of Death?

Do I believe that death has lost its sting?

### How Do I Grieve?

Do I grieve with hope for believers who have died?

### Am I Living for This Life Only?

Or am I living with eternity in view?

### Who Is Influencing Me?

Is bad company corrupting my thinking?

### Am I Steadfast in the Lord's Work?

Do I believe my labor in the Lord is not in vain?

# LXVII. A CRAWFORD BIBLE STUDY PRINCIPLE

### “The Empty Tomb Changes Everything”

If Jesus stayed in the grave, nothing would matter.

Our faith would be empty.

Our sins would remain.

Our loved ones would be gone forever.

Our work for God would be wasted.

And death would have the final word.

But Jesus did not stay in the grave.

On the third day, He rose.

He was seen by Peter, by the Twelve, by more than five hundred, by James, by all the apostles, and by Paul.

And because He rose, everything changes.

Our faith is real.

Our sins are forgiven.

Our loved ones in Christ will rise.

Our bodies will be made new.

Our work for God will last forever.

And death does not have the final word.

Jesus does.

This creates a powerful principle.

Every Christian hope rests on the empty tomb.

And the tomb is empty.

**Principle:**

**Because Christ is risen, death is defeated, and nothing done for Him is ever wasted.**

# LXVIII. FINAL APPLICATION

1 Corinthians Chapter 15 was written to a church that was losing its grip on the resurrection.

Some thought the body did not matter.

Some thought the dead would not rise.

And their wrong beliefs were leading to wrong living.

Paul brought them back to the heart of the gospel.

Christ died for our sins.

He was buried.

He rose on the third day.

He was seen by many.

And because He lives, we will live too.

1 Corinthians 15 therefore reminds us:

Never let go of the gospel.

Never doubt that Christ is risen.

Never grieve without hope.

Never fear death as the final word.

Never think your work for Christ is wasted.

The church does not need a new message.

It needs:

**A risen Savior.**

**A living hope.**

**A victory over death.**

**And believers who stand firm in the work of the Lord.**

The same gospel still saves:

Tell people that Christ died for their sins.

Tell people that He rose from the dead.

Tell people that He is the firstfruits of a great harvest.

Tell people that death has lost its sting.

And until the trumpet sounds:

**Stand firm.**

**Be immovable.**

**Abound in the work of the Lord.**

**Know that your labor is not in vain.**

# Closing Prayer

**Heavenly Father,**

Thank You for the gospel by which we are saved and in which we stand.

Thank You that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures.

Thank You that He was buried, and that He rose again on the third day.

Thank You for the many witnesses who saw Him alive.

Thank You that by Your grace we are what we are.

Thank You that Christ is the firstfruits, and that all who belong to Him will be raised.

Thank You that in Adam all die, but in Christ all will be made alive.

Thank You that He reigns, and that the last enemy, death, will be destroyed.

Thank You for the promise of bodies that are imperishable, glorious, powerful, and spiritual.

Thank You that we will bear the image of the heavenly Man.

Thank You that in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet, we will be changed.

Thank You that death is swallowed up in victory.

Forgive us when we have lived as if this life were all there is.

Forgive us when we have feared death more than we have trusted You.

Forgive us when we have grown tired in Your work.

Comfort those who grieve the loss of believing loved ones with the hope of the resurrection.

Wake us up to righteousness.

Make us steadfast and immovable.

Help us abound in the work of the Lord, knowing that our labor in You is not in vain.

And keep us ready for the day the trumpet sounds.

**“O death, where is your sting? O grave, where is your victory?”**

**“Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”**

**In Jesus' name, Amen.**

# Key Verse

**“But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.” — 1 Corinthians 15:57**

## Central Truth

**Jesus Christ truly rose from the dead, and because He lives, all who belong to Him will be raised with glorious, imperishable bodies, so death is defeated and our labor in the Lord is never in vain.**

## 1 Corinthians 15 in One Sentence

**Paul declares that Christ died for our sins, was buried, rose on the third day, and was seen by many witnesses, shows that without the resurrection our faith is empty, explains that Christ is the firstfruits of a harvest in which believers will receive imperishable, glorious bodies, and celebrates the victory over death that calls us to stand firm in the Lord's work.**