

The Resurrection and New Life 1 Corinthians 15

Introduction:

1. This is such an incredibly important chapter in God's Word.
2. Every person that is born one day dies. Despite the advances in medical science and new medicines and vaccinations, the death rate is still one per person. This is a fact, but then what? This chapter answers that question.
3. The entire chapter has one main theme - resurrection. Right away Paul establishes the fact that Jesus Christ rose again (vs. 3-4). This is a documented, indisputable, historical fact!
4. Notice the eyewitnesses (vs. 5-8). Over 500 people saw him, with detailed historical accounts. Many of these eyewitnesses ended up dying martyr's deaths because they refused to deny that they had seen the resurrected Christ.
5. There were many enemies that wanted to stomp out Christianity. All they had to do was produce the dead body of Jesus Christ and this would have done it. They couldn't.
6. It is the resurrection of Christ that separates Christianity from the dead religious systems that this world offers.
7. But here is a valid question, "What does the resurrection of Christ really mean to me? What was the real purpose and how does it affect my life?" Paul answers that question.

Because of the resurrection, my life has new meaning. vs. 12-19

1. Paul is hypothetically imagining what life would be like if there were no risen Savior. Paul's conclusion is that life would be vain and miserable. vs. 14, 17, 19
 - The word "vain" means "empty, without content."
 - **Illustration:** ice cold can of soda and you are hot and thirsty and it's empty.
 - Life is empty, hopeless, without real meaning and content if Christ be not risen.
2. But notice in verse 20, Paul cries out, "*But now is Christ risen from the dead...*"
 - Our faith in Christ is not in vain (my salvation story).
 - The sin issue has been dealt with by our risen Savior. vs. 3; **Galatians 1:4; 1 Peter 3:18**
 - We have a hope that extends beyond this brief life. vs. 19
3. The world says, "Live it up, get all you can, look out for number one and then die." What a miserable way to live, and an even more miserable way to die.
4. But when you place your faith and trust in Christ to save you, you soon discover that life has new meaning.

Because of the resurrection, my life has new responsibility. vs. 20-22

1. Christ's resurrection gives us a great privilege. We can now live eternally. Because He lives, we too can live. But with great privilege comes great responsibility.
2. Every person in this room belongs to one of two families - either the first man's, Adam's family, or Jesus Christ's family. vs. 21-22
3. According to verse 22, what do those in Adam's family do? They die. What do those in Christ's family do? They are made alive.

4. Adam was the first man, and when he chose to sin against God, He died spiritually and was separated from God by his sin. Where does that leave Adam's descendants? **Romans 5:12** - if we die in our sins we will spend eternity separated from God.
5. There is only way to get out of Adam's family, and that is to get in Christ's family. How does that happen? Is it something mystical or spooky? Do I have to go through some religious rites and rituals? Must I have a religious experience?
6. Religion is always very complicated, but salvation from Adams' family and your sin is not complicated. **Galatians 3:26; Romans 5:1**
7. Christ had done it all. It is a finished and completed work. He has done **everything** necessary for you to be completely forgiven and justified before God. God simply asks that you choose to believe and rest in what Christ has done. Believe on Christ. **1 Timothy 4:10**
8. Nobody can believe for you. It is a choice that **you** must make in the depths and privacy of your own heart (People say, "I was born a Christian...").

Because of the resurrection, my life has new hope.

1. In the Bible the word "hope" doesn't mean a fanciful wish. The word "hope" means a sure, steadfast confidence. Paul said that if our hope, our confidence **only** extends to this earthly life, we are most miserable. vs. 19
2. But he goes on to explain that the person who has trusted Christ has a confidence that extends beyond what we see here on this earth. Just as Christ rose from the dead, we have confidence that our mortal bodies will also be made alive and we will receive a body that is able to function in the eternal, heavenly realm. vs. 42-44; **Titus 1:2**
3. Our risen Savior will one day return for all those that have trusted in Him alone for their salvation. vs. 51-53
4. Our spirit and soul in heaven will be reunited with our new, incorruptible, eternal body, and we will be fit to live and function in eternity with our Savior.
5. This will be our final victory. How does this victory come? By doing religious rituals, going to church, trying to keep the Ten Commandments, getting baptized?? **Ephesians 2:8-9**
6. Verse 57 - It comes through faith in the risen Savior, Jesus Christ.

In Conclusion:

1. There is nothing you can **do** to wash away your sins and bring eternal life to your soul.
2. But here is the good news - you don't have to do anything. Christ has done it all. But, He will not force you believe on Him and trust Him. This is your decision.
3. But the moment you trust this resurrected Savior, your life will have new hope and new meaning beyond your wildest imaginations.