

## The Order of the Resurrection – Part 1 1 Corinthians 15:23

### Introduction:

1. Paul declares in verse 20 that *"Now is Christ risen from the dead."*
2. This means that all those who are in Christ will also live. We have the hope of future resurrection. vs. 22
3. But then Paul says in verse 23, *"But every man in his own order..."*
4. So there will be an **order** to the resurrection of believers. Our God is a God of structure and order. He doesn't do things haphazardly. He doesn't just "wing it." This is why He has commanded local churches to do all things *"decently and in order."*
  - He told Titus to *"set in order"* the churches on the island of Crete. **Titus 1:5**
5. Tonight we will study God's orderly system in which the resurrection will take place. We will have to examine several other passages in order to do this.
  - **1 Corinthians 15:23** lets us know that there is an order and gives us a very general statement about it.
  - Paul anticipates a series of events taking place, but his purpose in this passage wasn't to give details concerning these events. He is simply referencing the future hope of resurrection and that there will be an order to it.

### What is the order of the resurrection?

### Christ is first!

1. There are two different times in this passage that Paul calls Christ the *"firstfruits"* in reference to the resurrection. vs. 20, 23
2. What is a firstfruit? A firstfruit is the first fruit harvested or reaped.  
**Deuteronomy 26:10**
3. What does the very word "firstfruit" infer and anticipate? - **More fruit.**
4. So if Christ is the **firstfruits** in resurrection, this simply means that He is **first** in a line of people who will also experience a resurrection.
  - If He is the firstfruit, then this means that there will be more just like him.
5. A person may say, "But weren't there people resurrected before Christ?" What about Lazarus? What about the widow of Nain's son?
  - They had their physical bodies revived, but their bodies were the same fleshly, corruptible bodies that they had **before** they died. They died again.
6. Christ is the only man that ever died and then resurrected with a body of immortality, never to die again. He is *"the firstborn from the dead."*  
**Colossians 1:18**
  - Paul declares that Christ **only** hath immortality (**1 Timothy 6:16**). Christ *"abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light."*  
**2 Timothy 1:10**
7. Christ is the first in a line of people that will be resurrected with immortal, incorruptible bodies.

### **Next will be members of the body of Christ.**

1. During this time period God is forming a new organism called the church, the body of Christ. This time period will end with the resurrection of all members of Christ's body.
2. Notice in verse 23 Paul says, "...*afterward they that are Christ's at his coming.*"
3. Christ's Second Coming actually happens in two phases.
4. The first phase is when Christ descends out of the third heaven and enters into our universe and catches up the dead in Christ and the living believers.  
**1 Thessalonians 4:15-18**
5. At that moment, all believers in Christ will receive glorious new bodies like the resurrected body of Jesus Christ. **Philippians 3:20-21**
6. Our resurrected bodies will have two characteristics that will make them glorious:
  - They will be incorruptible - **1 Corinthians 15:51-52**
  - They will be immortal - **1 Corinthians 15:53-54**
7. This means that when our resurrection takes place, sin (which is corruption) and death (which is mortality) will be things of the past. We will have bodies that sin nor death can touch in any way!
8. We will have resurrected bodies that will be like Christ's, in that they will be able to function with total ability and mobility in the heavenly realm. **Colossians 3:4**
9. Satan never thought a son of Adam would be able to do this. Psalm 115 declares that "*the earth hath he given to the children of men.*" Mankind wasn't created to function in the heavenlies. **Illustration:** Try jumping up and see how far you get.
10. So Satan and his demonic host base their operations in the heavenly places of the first and second heavens (not the third heaven - New Jerusalem). **Ephesians 6:12**
11. This is why the body of Christ is said to be a new creation, a new species of humanity, **created** by the resurrection of the dead.
12. This is why Satan hates the church so much today. He knows that God's Word predicts that one day he and his minions will be cast out of the heavens and we will occupy those heavenly positions. **Revelation 12:7-10; cf. Ephesians 2:6-7**