

Messy

Part Seventeen: *the resurrection*

August 28, 2022

The Greeks did not believe in the resurrection of the dead, which is why they laughed at Paul when he declared Jesus had risen from the dead (Acts 17:32). Most Greek philosophers considered the human body a prison, and they welcomed death as deliverance from bondage. This skeptical attitude had somehow invaded the Corinthian church. When Paul learned this, he knew he had to teach the Corinthians the truth.

- **In Chapter Fifteen, Paul explains that every Christian will rise from the dead and be given a new glorified body.**

1st – Paul gives two testimonies that Jesus rose from the dead.

Testimony #1: The Old Testament gave testimony Jesus would rise from the dead. Vs. 1-4

Testimony #2: Hundreds of eyewitnesses gave testimony Jesus rose from the dead. Vs. 5-11

2nd – Paul gives a logical argument for the resurrection. Vs. 12-19

3rd – Paul says Jesus was the first of the resurrection harvest. Vs. 20-28

Everyone who has died will be raised, but there is an order to the resurrection of the dead. First, Jesus was raised as the firstfruits of the harvest. Then, all those who have trusted Him as Lord and Savior during the Church Age will be resurrected at the Rapture (1 Thess. 4:16). The Tribulation Christians (and probably the Old Testament saints) will be raised at the end of that seven-year period (Rev. 20:4). We don't know when the Christians that die during the 1,000-year Millennium will be raised. The unsaved will be raised to be judged and sentenced to eternal death after the Millennium (Rev. 21).

4th – Paul says it makes no sense to serve Christ if there is no resurrection. Vs. 29-34

Paul was not saying in these verses that a dead person can be saved through proxy baptism. Baptism cannot save anyone, and no one can be saved after death. I believe Paul was saying to the Corinthians, *“If there is no life after death, why are people being saved then submitting to Christian baptism because of the testimonies of Christians that have already died?”*

5th – Paul answers two questions for the Corinthians, *“How will the dead be raised?”* and *“What kind of body will we have in the afterlife?”* Vs. 35-57

When Jesus returns for His Bride – the Church, He will call up those who have died during the Church Age, which began on the Day of Pentecost. Then, Jesus will call up the Christians that are alive at the time of the Rapture, and He will change our physical bodies to spiritual bodies. In a millisecond, all Church Age believers will be instantly equipped for eternal life in Heaven!

6th - Paul concludes his teaching on the resurrection with an exhortation to all Christians. Vs. 58

“So, my dear brothers and sisters, be strong and immovable. Always work enthusiastically for the Lord, for you know that nothing you do for the Lord is ever useless.” (1 Cor. 15:58, NLT)

Here is the lesson for today...

Christians should eagerly work for Jesus because He is going to return and take them to Heaven.

Paul's lessons from 1 Corinthians:

1. Christians must think and act like Jesus to live in harmony and accomplish their church's mission.
2. Christians owe everything to Christ, so they should only boast about the Lord Jesus!
3. Christians need to build their church with works that glorify God!
4. Christians need to constantly evaluate their life to make sure their walk matches their talk!
5. Christians need to keep sin out of their church so it can glorify God and accomplish its mission.
6. Christians should not resemble non-Christians; Christians should resemble Christ!
7. A Christian's body has one supreme purpose – to honor God!
8. Christian singles are to remain celibate until they get married.
9. Christians need to work at solving the problems in their marriage so they can stay married.
10. A Christian is never to do anything that could cause another Christian to sin.
11. Christians must exercise self-control to accomplish what God wants them to accomplish.
12. Christians are to imitate Christ and do what is best for others.
13. Christians need to worship properly to bless others and be blessed by God!
14. Christians need to use their God given spiritual gift(s) to help others.
15. Christians need to exercise their spiritual gift(s) with love.
16. Christians should use their spiritual gift(s) to strengthen their entire church.
17. Christians should eagerly work for Jesus because He is going to return and take them to Heaven.