

Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians – Part 5 (early 54)

1 Corinthians 15–16

Paul's Gospel—The Bodily Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the Dead

15:1 Now I make known to you, brothers, the gospel which I proclaimed to you, which you have also received, in which you also stand,

2 by which you are also being saved, if you hold fast to the message I proclaimed to you, unless you believed to no purpose.

3 For I passed on to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures, [cf. [Isa 53](#)]

4 and that he was buried, and that he was raised up on the third day according to the scriptures, [cf. [Ps 16:10](#); [Hos 6:2](#)]

5 and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve,

6 then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at once, the majority of whom remain until now, but some have fallen asleep.

7 Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles,

8 and last of all, as it were to one born at the wrong time, he appeared also to me.

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

10 But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me has not been in vain, but I labored even more than all of them, and not I, but the grace of God with me.

11 Therefore whether I or those, in this way we preached, and in this way you believed.

The Implications of the Claim That There is No Resurrection of the Dead

12 Now if Christ is preached as raised up from the dead, how do some among you say that *there* is no resurrection of the dead?

13 But if *there* is no resurrection of the dead, Christ has not been raised *either*.

14 But if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching *is* in vain, and your faith *is* in vain.

15 And also we are found *to be* false witnesses of God, because we testified against God that he raised Christ, whom he did not raise if after all, then, the dead are not raised.

16 For if the dead are not raised, Christ has not been raised *either*.

17 But if Christ has not been raised, your faith *is* empty; you are still in your sins.

18 And as a further result, those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished.

19 If we have put our hope in Christ in this life only, we are of all people most pitiable.

The Consequences of Christ's Resurrection

20 But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.

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

22 For just as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be made alive.

23 But each in his own group: Christ the first fruits, then those *who are* Christ's at his coming,

24 then the end, when he hands over the kingdom to the God and Father, when he has abolished all rule and all authority and power.

25 For it is necessary for him to reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet.

26 The last enemy to be abolished *is* death.

27 For "he subjected all *things* under his feet." [[Ps 8:6](#); cf. [Heb 2:8–10](#)] But when it says "all *things*" are subjected, *it is* clear that the one who subjected all *things* to him *is* not included.

28 But whenever all *things* are subjected to him, then the Son himself will be subjected to the one who subjected all *things* to him, in order that God may be all in all.

The Absurdity of the Claim That There is No Resurrection of the Dead

29 Otherwise, why do they do *it*, those who are being baptized on behalf of the dead? If the dead are not raised at all, why indeed are they being baptized on behalf of them?

30 And why are we in danger every hour?

31 I die every day—yes indeed, by my boasting in you, which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord!

32 If according to a human perspective I fought wild beasts at Ephesus, what benefit *is it* to me? If the dead are not raised, let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die.

33 Do not be deceived! "Bad company corrupts good morals."

34 Sober up correctly and stop sinning, for some have no knowledge of God—I say *this* to your shame.

The Bodily Character of the Resurrection

35 But someone will say, "How are the dead raised? And with what sort of body do they come?"

36 Foolish person! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies.

37 And what you sow *is* not the body which it will become, but you sow the bare seed, whether perhaps of wheat or of some of the

rest.
 38 But God gives to it a body just as he wishes, and to each one of the seeds its own body.
 39 Not all flesh *is* the same, but *there is* one flesh of human beings, and another flesh of animals, and another flesh of birds, and another of fish,
 40 and heavenly bodies and earthly bodies. But the glory of the heavenly *bodies is* of one kind, and the *glory* of the earthly *bodies is* of another kind.
 41 *There is* one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars, for star differs from star in glory.
 42 Thus also *is* the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption, it is raised in incorruptibility.
 43 It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power.
 44 It is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. If *there is* a natural body, *there is* also a spiritual *body*.
 45 Thus also it is written, “The first man, Adam, became a living soul” [[Gen 2:7](#)]; the last Adam *became* a life-giving spirit.
 46 But the spiritual *is* not first, but the natural; then the spiritual.
 47 The first man *is* from the earth, made of earth; the second man *is* from heaven.
 48 As the one *who is* made of earth, so also *are* those *who are* made of earth, and as the heavenly, so also *are* those *who are* heavenly.
 49 And just as we have borne the image of the *one who is* made of earth, we will also bear the image of the heavenly.

All Will Be Changed (see 1 Thess 4:13–18)

50 But I say this, brothers, that flesh and blood is not able to inherit the kingdom of God, nor can corruption inherit incorruptibility.
 51 Behold, I tell you a mystery: we will not all fall asleep, but we will all be changed,
 52 in a moment, in the blink of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.
 53 For it is necessary *for* this perishable *body* to put on incorruptibility, and this mortal *body* to put on immortality.
 54 But whenever this perishable *body* puts on incorruptibility and this mortal *body* puts on immortality, then the saying that is written will take place:

“Death is swallowed up in victory. [[Isa 25:8](#)]

55 Where, O death, *is* your victory?
 Where, O death, *is* your sting? [[Hos 13:14](#)]

56 Now the sting of death *is* sin, and the power of sin *is* the law.
 57 But thanks *be* to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ!
 58 So then, my dear brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, *because you* know that your labor is not *in vain* in the Lord.

The Collection for the Saints in Jerusalem

16:1 Now concerning the collection for the saints: just as I gave directions about *it* to the churches of Galatia, so you do also.
 2 On the first *day* of the week, each one of you put aside *something*, saving up to whatever extent he has prospered, in order that whenever I come, at that time collections do not take place.
 3 And whenever I arrive, whomever you approve by letters, I will send these to take your gift to Jerusalem.
 4 And if it is worthwhile for me to go also, they will travel with me.
 5 But I will come to you whenever I go through Macedonia (for I am going through Macedonia),
 6 and perhaps I will stay with you, or even spend the winter, so that you may send me on my way wherever I may go.
 7 For I do not want to see you now in passing, for I hope to remain some time with you, if the Lord allows *it*.
 8 But I will remain in Ephesus until Pentecost,
 9 for a great and effective door has opened for me, and *there are* many opponents.
 10 But if Timothy comes, see that he is with you without cause to fear, for he is carrying out the Lord’s work, as I also *am*.
 11 Therefore do not let anyone disdain him, but send him *on his way* in peace in order that he may come to me, for I am expecting him with the brothers.
 12 Now concerning Apollos our brother, I urged him many *times* that he should come to you with the brothers, and he was not at all willing that he should come now, but he will come whenever he has *an* opportunity.

Closing Remarks

13 Be on the alert, stand firm in the faith, act courageously, be strong.
 14 All your *actions* must be done in love.
 15 Now I urge you, brothers—you know about the household of Stephanas, that they are the first fruits of Achaia, and they have devoted themselves to the ministry for the saints—
 16 that you also be subject to such people, and to all those who work together and labor.

17 Now I rejoice over the arrival of Stephanas and Fortunatus and Achaicus, because these make up for your absence,
18 for they have refreshed my spirit and yours. Therefore recognize such people.
19 The churches of *the province of Asia* greet you. Aquila and Prisca greet you in the Lord many *times*, together with the church in their house.
20 All the brothers greet you. Greet one another with a holy kiss.
21 The greeting *is* by my hand—Paul's.
22 If anyone does not love the Lord, let him be accursed. O Lord, come!
23 The grace of the Lord Jesus *be* with you.
24 My love *be* with all of you in Christ Jesus.

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