

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 want to make clear for you, brothers and sisters, the gospel that I preached to you, that you received and on which you stand,

2 and by which you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.

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 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 of the brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep.

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

8 Last of all, as though to one born at the wrong time, he appeared to me also.

9 For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy 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. In fact, I worked harder than all of them—yet not I, but the grace of God with me.

11 Whether then it was I or they, this is the way we preach and this is the way you believed.

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

12 Now if Christ is being preached as raised from the dead, how can some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead?

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

14 And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is futile and your faith is empty.

15 Also, we are found to be false witnesses about God, because we have testified against God that he raised Christ from the dead, when in reality he did not raise him, if indeed the dead are not raised.

16 For if the dead are not raised, then not even Christ has been raised.

17 And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is useless; you are still in your sins.

18 Furthermore, those who have fallen asleep in Christ have also perished.

19 For if only in this life we have hope in Christ, we should be pitied more than anyone.

The Consequences of Christ's Resurrection

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

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

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

23 But each in his own order: Christ, the firstfruits; then when Christ comes, those who belong to him.

24 Then comes the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father, when he has brought to an end all rule and all authority and power.

25 For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet.

26 The last enemy to be eliminated is death.

27 For *he has put everything in subjection under his feet*. [[Ps 8:6](#); cf. [Heb 2:8–10](#)] But when it says “everything” has been put in subjection, it is clear that this does not include the one who put everything in subjection to him.

28 And when all things are subjected to him, then the Son himself will be subjected to the one who subjected everything to him, so that God may be all in all.

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

29 Otherwise, what will those do who are baptized for the dead? If the dead are not raised at all, then why are they baptized for them?

30 Why too are we in danger every hour?

31 Every day I am in danger of death! This is as sure as my boasting in you, which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord.

32 If from a human point of view I fought with wild beasts at Ephesus, what did it benefit 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 as you should, 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? With what kind of body will they come?”

36 Fool! What you sow will not come to life unless it dies.

37 And what you sow is not the body that is to be, but a bare seed—perhaps of wheat or something else.

38 But God gives it a body just as he planned, and to each of the seeds a body of its own.
 39 All flesh is not the same: People have one flesh, animals have another, birds and fish another.
 40 And there are heavenly bodies and earthly bodies. The glory of the heavenly body is one sort and the earthly another.
 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 It is the same with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable.
 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 So also it is written, “*The first man, Adam, became a living person*” [[Gen 2:7](#)]; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit.
 46 However, the spiritual did not come first, but the natural, and then the spiritual.
 47 The first man is from the earth, made of dust; the second man is from heaven.
 48 Like the one made of dust, so too are those made of dust, and like the one from heaven, so too those who are heavenly.
 49 And just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, let us also bear the image of the man of heaven.

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

50 Now this is what I am saying, brothers and sisters: Flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.
 51 Listen, I will tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed—
 52 in a moment, in the blinking 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 this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality.
 54 Now when this perishable puts on the imperishable, and this mortal puts on immortality, then the saying that is written will happen,

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

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

56 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, dear brothers and sisters, be firm. Do not be moved! Always be outstanding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

The Collection for the Saints in Jerusalem

16:1 With regard to the collection for the saints, please follow the directions that I gave to the churches of Galatia:
 2 On the first day of the week, each of you should set aside some income and save it to the extent that God has blessed you, so that a collection will not have to be made when I come.
 3 Then, when I arrive, I will send those whom you approve with letters of explanation to carry your gift to Jerusalem.
 4 And if it seems advisable that I should go also, they will go with me.
 5 But I will come to you after I have gone through Macedonia—for I will be going through Macedonia—
 6 and perhaps I will stay with you, or even spend the winter, so that you can send me on my journey, wherever I go.
 7 For I do not want to see you now in passing, since I hope to spend some time with you, if the Lord allows.
 8 But I will stay in Ephesus until Pentecost,
 9 because a door of great opportunity stands wide open for me, but there are many opponents.
 10 Now if Timothy comes, see that he has nothing to fear among you, for he is doing the Lord’s work, as I am too.
 11 So then, let no one treat him with contempt. But send him on his way in peace so that he may come to me. For I am expecting him with the brothers.
 12 With regard to our brother Apollos: I strongly encouraged him to visit you with the other brothers, but it was simply not his intention to come now. He will come when he has the opportunity.

Closing Remarks

13 Stay alert, stand firm in the faith, show courage, be strong.
 14 Everything you do should be done in love.
 15 Now, brothers and sisters, you know about the household of Stephanus, that as the first converts of Achaia, they devoted themselves to ministry for the saints. I urge you
 16 also to submit to people like this, and to everyone who cooperates in the work and labors hard.
 17 I was glad about the arrival of Stephanus, Fortunatus, and Achaicus because they have supplied the fellowship with you that I lacked.

18 For they refreshed my spirit and yours. So then, recognize people like this.

19 The churches in the province of Asia send greetings to you. Aquila and Prisca greet you warmly in the Lord, with the church that meets in their house.

20 All the brothers and sisters send greetings. Greet one another with a holy kiss.

21 I, Paul, send this greeting with my own hand.

22 Let anyone who has no love for the Lord be accursed. Our Lord, come!

23 The grace of the Lord Jesus be with you.

24 My love be with all of you in Christ Jesus.

Scripture quoted by permission. All scripture quotations, unless otherwise indicated, are taken from the NET Bible® copyright ©1996–2006 by Biblical Studies Press, L.L.C. <http://bible.org> All rights reserved. This material is available in its entirety as a free download or online web use at <http://netbible.org/>.