

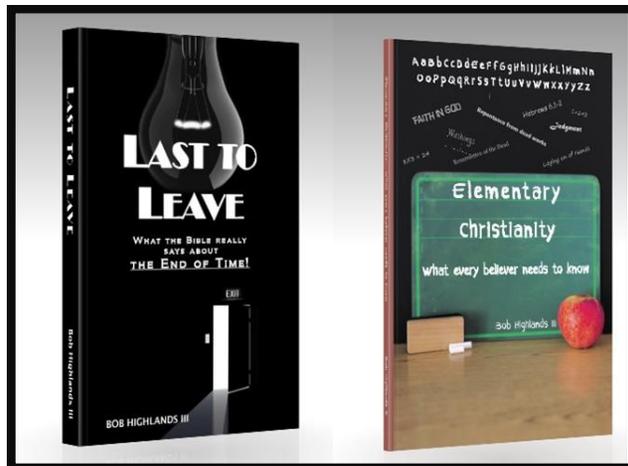
1 Corinthians Study Guide

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THE TENTH PROBLEM IN THE CHURCH AT CORINTH

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THE QUESTION OF THE RESURRECTION

1 Corinthians 15.1-58 ^{NASB}

Word had been sent to Paul that some in the church at Corinth were saying "that there is not [a] resurrection of the dead." ^{1 Cor. 15.12} They may have also believed that the person had to be alive when Jesus came back or they would not get to go to heaven. In order to deal with these teachings Paul uses a simple approach/outline in 1 Corinthians chapter 15 to show them the truth about the resurrection, eternal life and the transition.

1. He establishes his authority to teach them. Vss. 1-2
2. The history of the resurrection. Vss. 3-11
3. The folly of Christianity without the resurrection. Vss. 12-19
4. The purpose of the resurrection. Vss. 20-28
5. The reason for suffering and sacrifice. Vss. 29-34
6. The two types of bodies. Vss. 35-41
7. The resurrection changes everything! Vss. 42-49
8. Everyone will be resurrected. Vss. 50-57
9. Keeping victory in sight. Vs. 58

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1. AUTHORITY to Teach 1 Cor. 15.1-2

- ◆ Vss. 1-2 Who was the person who preached the message of Christ to them?
- ◆ What was the results of this preaching?
- ◆ How does this establish Paul's authority to teach and preach to the church at Corinth?

2. HISTORY of the Resurrection 1 Cor. 15.3-11

- ◆ Vs. 3 What does Paul establish as the foundation of what Christ did for us?
- ◆ Vs. 4a What key fact does Paul start with to establish the resurrection?

- ◆ What will happen to everyone (both believers and non-believers) when they die?
- ◆ What can the believer expect after death?
- ◆ Why is the resurrection so important to the Christian faith?
- ◆ Is there any reason to follow Jesus if there is no resurrection from the dead? (Does Paul agree with your answer?)
- ◆ How would you describe what happens to a person's body when they die?

- ◆ Vs. 56 What two burdens does sin bring into the life of the individual?

- ◆ Vs. 57 What is the alternative to these?

- ◆ Why does this make the resurrection important to the believer?

9. VICTORY in Sight 1 Cor. 15.58

- ◆ Vs. 58 What is the way the believer should respond to the world?

10. Key QUESTIONS

- ◆ What would you say is the key argument for the resurrection?

- ◆ Vss. 4.b-8 How does Paul establish the validity of the resurrection of Christ.

- ◆ List in order those who Paul says saw Christ after he resurrected from the dead.

- ◆ Vs. 9-10 How does Paul view his own relationship to Christ?

- ◆ Vs. 11 How does Paul try and remind them of how they received the message of Christ.

- ◆ Why would Paul's personal experience with Christ be so important as part of the discussion about the resurrection with the church at Corinth?

3. FOLLY without the Resurrection 1 Cor. 15.12-19

- ◆ Vs. 12a What do we learn about the early message to the church in the first century?

 - ◆ Vss. 12.b What are some teaching about the resurrection in the church at Corinth?

 - ◆ Vs. 13 What is Paul's first argument to those who want to say there is not a resurrection?

 - ◆ Vs. 14 If Christ did not resurrect what two facts would they have to accept because of it?

 - ◆ Vs. 15 If Christ did not raise what does that do to the believers relationship to God the Father?
- ◆ Vs. 51 Whether a person dies (sleeps) or is still alive at the end of time when Jesus returns what one fact is true of everyone?

 - ◆ Vs. 52 How quickly will it happen when time comes to an end?

 - ◆ What will happen to the bodies of the dead?

 - ◆ Vs. 53 What requirements are there to transition from the physical world to the spiritual world?

 - ◆ Vs. 54 What is the greatest fact we can learn about this change when it happens?

 - ◆ Vs. 55 When most people die there is mourning for their loss. How is death viewed differently from the spiritual side?

- ◆ Vs. 46 Why does Paul again make an emphasis about the physical preceding the spiritual?

- ◆ Vs. 47-48 How does Paul show the difference between Adam and Christ?

- ◆ Vs. 49 How will those who die be different?

- ◆ What is required of a person to qualify for a physical death?

8. EVERYONE Resurrected 1 Cor. 15.50-57

- ◆ Vs. 50 What key fact do we learn about spiritual matters when it comes to dying?

- ◆ Vs. 16 How does Paul expand the thought of how devastating the lack of a resurrection would be?

- ◆ Vs. 17 What would the effect of Christ not being resurrected have on the believer?

- ◆ Vs. 18 What would this mean for those who have already died?

- ◆ Vs. 19 How does this help us understand what was being said about Christ and the limitations of His ability to help the sinner?

4. PURPOSE of the Resurrection 1 Cor. 15.20-28

- ◆ Vs. 20 What is the foundation of Paul's argument for the resurrection of all who die?

- ◆ Vs. 21 What is Paul argument about the need for the resurrection?

- ◆ Vs. 22 What is Paul's argument about the power of the resurrection?

- ◆ Vs. 23 Why would there need to be an order to the resurrection?

- ◆ Vs. 23-24 Why is the final resurrection so important?

- ◆ Vs. 25 What is happening leading up to the final resurrection?

- ◆ Vs. 26 When the end of time comes what will never happen again? Why is this true?

Body that is Sown at death is:	Raised with body that is:

- ◆ Why does Paul believe there is a different type of body after the resurrection?

- ◆ Vs. 45 What was unique about Adam when he was created by God?

- ◆ Why is this fact important to the resurrection?

- ◆ What does Christ (the last Adam) have to do with the soul God has given to man?

- ◆ Vs. 39 How does Paul see the way God has created all the different types of bodies?

- ◆ Vs. 40 As Paul changes his discussion, how does he draw a difference between earthly and heavenly bodies?

- ◆ Vs. 41 Why does Paul want the believer to see that there are different types of glory with different types of bodies?

- ◆ Why does he use the examples of stars to illustrate his point?

7. Resurrection CHANGES everything. 1 Cor. 15.42-49

- ◆ Vs. 42-44 On the chart on the next page, how does Paul contrast the different types of bodies between before we die and after the resurrection?

- ◆ Vs. 27 What is the key to understanding who was resurrected first in order and why this is important against the argument that there is no resurrection?

- ◆ Vs. 28 What will happen at the final resurrection that proves it is all part of God's plan?

5. REASON for suffering & sacrifice. 1 Cor. 15.29-34

- ◆ Vs.29 There are several good or possible answers to the question Paul asked here.
 1. Could be referring to a pagan custom from the city of Eleusis where members of a persons family would be baptized in the sea for the dead. This was supposed to gain eternal life for the dead family member. It should be noted Paul is not saying that those in the church do this but it is a custom practiced outside of the church. His point is even the worst pagans believe in life after death, how can the church not believe in it when following Christ?
 2. It could be referring to the believers when they are baptized and the language used to describe what is happening spiritually to them. Colossians 2.12 and Romans 6.4 both make reference to this. The 'they' in this case would be believers who are baptized and pass through death into new life. Paul's main point is that they believe in the after life and the resurrection. If people did not believe than they have no reason to be baptized.

