

The Royal Route to Heaven

1 Corinthians Chapter 15

Paul is now coming to the end of his letter and he has one more correction to make in the Corinthian's doctrine. It seems they question the truth of the resurrection. Paul gives the evidence of this truth, and the importance of believing in the resurrection as it applies to the truth of the gospel and to our basic Christian doctrine.

Pray that this study will challenge and encourage you as you walk the Royal Route and look ahead to the hope of eternal life.

Key Word(s)

Read through the entire chapter, looking for words or themes that are repeated. You might want to underline them in your Bible.

1. A word we find that is used several times is "resurrection".
 - a. How many times did you find this word?

 - b. Write a definition below.

2. A word found more often in this chapter than any other in 1 Corinthians is "rise/risen".
 - a. How many times did you find this word?

 - b. Write a definition that applies to this context below.

3. Make note of any other words that are repeated or that you feel are significant here and include a definition.

Read 1 Corinthians 15:1-11.

Consider verse 1: "*Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you...*" Paul reminds the Corinthians of his relationship to them in the Lord with *brethren* and of the truth he first brought them, *the gospel*.

1. From 1 Corinthians 15:1-2 complete the following statements that describe what the gospel has been to the Corinthians and to us.

“I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you...”

- a. which you also _____
- b. in which you _____
- c. by which you also _____
- d. if you _____

2. In the next two verses we read the simple truth of the resurrection. From 1 Corinthians 15:3-4 write out these three statements.

- a. that Christ _____
- b. that He _____
- c. and that He _____

3. Notice twice in the midst of these verses we see the phrase *“according to the scriptures”*. What do the following Old Testament scriptures say that applies here?

- a. Psalms 16:10

- b. Jonah 1:17

- c. Matthew 12:40

4. Paul presented the truth, referenced the Old Testament, and then he gave concrete evidence. From 1 Corinthians 15:5-8, what evidence did he give?

5. Paul described himself with *“as by one born out of due time”* in 1 Corinthians 15:8.

- a. What more did he say about himself in verse 9?

b. In 1 Corinthians 15:10, what does Paul say made him the man he became in Christ?

6. We have just read the details of the gospel Paul preached and his supporting evidence.

a. Write the result of his preaching in the last three words of verse 11 below.

b. Looking back at 1 Corinthians 15:3-4, what did the Corinthians believe?

Read 1 Corinthians 15:12-19.

It is important for us to understand that the resurrection of Jesus Christ points directly to our hope of resurrection. From 1 Corinthians 15:12 we see that the Corinthians had believed in the resurrection of Jesus but may be questioning that belief, and it seems they did not believe in the resurrection of every believer.

1. What relationship is presented in 1 Corinthians 15:13 between the resurrection of Jesus and the resurrection of the believer?

2. Complete the phrases below as you consider the problems presented in the following verses.

a. 1 Corinthians 15:14 *“And if Christ is not risen...”*

then our _____

and your _____

b. 1 Corinthians 15:15

Yes, and we are:

3. What is the conclusion of this argument found in 1 Corinthians 15:16-18?

4. Paul further concludes his argument with his statement in verse 19, *“If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable.”* What “hope” do you find in the following?

a. Romans 8:11

b. 1 Peter 1:3-4

Read 1 Corinthians 15:20-28.

Aren't you glad he doesn't leave us with verse 19! In this section Paul leaves the doubt of the resurrection and moves to the blessings of the resurrection.

1. Write the statement of truth given in 1 Corinthians 15:20.

2. Complete the following table from verses 21-22.

	by man (in Adam)	by Man (in Christ)
verse 21		
verse 22		

For further study: Christ is called the “first fruits” in both 1 Corinthians 15:20 and 23. What does this mean?

3. 1 Corinthians 15:24 begins with the words, “*Then comes the end...*”

a. How does Ephesians 1:10 describe this time?

b. How does 1 Corinthians 15:24 describe it?

4. Explain what will happen in this time from 1 Corinthians 15:25-28.

Read 1 Corinthians 15:29-34.

You may find 1 Corinthians 15:29 confusing but some think this may refer to a pagan practice of baptizing for the dead.

1. After reminding the Corinthians, and us, of the blessing that comes to us through the resurrection, Paul now presents several points to those who may still question it.

- a. What question is posed in 1 Corinthians 15:30?

- b. What do you think this refers to?

- c. How does this apply to a belief of the resurrection?

2. In verse 31 Paul says, “*I affirm, by the boasting in you which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die daily.*”

- a. What does *I die daily* mean?

- b. If Paul *dies daily in Christ*, what is the contrasting behavior he presents in the second half of verse 32? ...*if the dead do not rise* – what do they say?

3. 1 Corinthians 15:33 seems almost to be out of place, but it does apply here. If Paul preached the truth of the gospel, the truth of the resurrection, where did the Corinthians get their doubts and disbelief about the resurrection? It could certainly be from those they were in company with, perhaps the Greeks or the Sadducees, who both taught against the resurrection.

- a. Write Paul’s warning in this verse below.

- b. How does this apply to us today?

- c. What is the further instruction given in verse 34?

Read 1 Corinthians 15:35-49.

1. In 1 Corinthians 15:35 Paul now seems to be trying to answer questions that might come up: “*How are the dead raised up? And with what body do they come?*”

- a. In answer to these questions, what principal is presented in 1 Corinthians 15:36-38?

b. What does John 12:23-25 have to say about this?

1 Corinthians 15:39-41 talks about the different types of bodies, of celestial and terrestrial bodies, and the glory of each. The celestial body will be different but connected to the terrestrial body, as a seed is to the plant that grows from that seed. In verses 42-44 Paul's focus is on the difference between our earthly bodies and the heavenly bodies we will get in the resurrection.

2. Read through 1 Corinthians 15:45-49. The basic points you should walk away with from this section are found in the verses below. Consider the meaning of each as you write out.

a. 1 Corinthians 15:45

b. 1 Corinthians 15:49

c. So here on earth we bear a likeness to Adam, but we will then bear the likeness of Christ. How does this make you feel?

Read 1 Corinthians 15:50-58.

1. "*Behold, I shall tell you a mystery...*" This *mystery* refers to something once hidden that is now revealed.

a. What is the mystery of 1 Corinthians 15:51-52?

b. What is the *change* in verse 53?

2. 1 Corinthians 15:54 sums up the sentiment of what is accomplished in the bodily resurrection of believers with the statement, "*Death is swallowed up in victory.*"

a. What does this mean to you?

b. Write the two questions from verse 55 that further describe this victory.

3. After the quotes above, in 1 Corinthians 15:56-57 Paul adds more on the *death* and *victory* mentioned.

- a. What do you find about death in verse 56?
- b. What does it say about the source of our victory in verse 57?
- c. How was this victory accomplished?

4. As we come to the end of this chapter, we also are coming to the end of this letter to the Corinthians. In light of this, consider the words chosen for 1 Corinthians 15:58. This verse begins with “*Therefore...*”, which means it applies to all that precedes it, including the truth of the resurrection Paul has just explained. Write the three things the Corinthians are encouraged to “be”.

Be encouraged with these final words – *...knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.*

In closing...

1. In 1 Corinthians 15:31 Paul said, in light of the truth of the resurrection, I die daily.

- a. What are some ways that Paul walked out this dying daily?
- b. What are some ways we can walk this out in our lives today?

2. What do the following scriptures have to say about the resurrection?

- a. John 11:25
- b. Revelation 21:4

3. Take time before you leave this lesson to write your praise and thanks to God for all that He accomplished for you on the cross.