**1 CORINTHIANS 15**

**THE RESURRECTION CHAPTER**

**1 Corinthians 15:1** Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel
**(Good news)** which I preached to you, which also you received and in which **you stand,** 2 by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.

* SOME of the Corinthians were beginning to believe in vain… Doubting the hope of resurrection… Questioning the veracity of the word of God… AND listening to the critics of the Gospel that Paul had preached.
* The Gospel was too narrow… Not tolerant enough… Out of touch with their enlightened society… They had become “fault finders…”
* Chuck Smith says, “Fault finders are really useless to the church.”

**12 EYEWITNESSES**

3 For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures, 5 and that He was seen by Cephas, **(aka Peter)** then by the twelve.

* From Genesis to Revelation the Scriptures tell the story of the Lamb of God who came to take away the sins of the world!
* The Old Testament called Jesus, The Root, The Rock, The Seed, The Son, The Prince of Peace, The Lamb, God with US, Messiah, and on and on. There are over 300 prophecies about the Coming Son of God and ALL of them except the future prophecies have been fulfilled. **And those ones are ABOUT to be!**

**500 EYEWITNESSES**

6 After that He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once, of whom the greater part remain to the present, but some have fallen asleep. 7 After that He was seen by James, then by all the apostles.

**I’M A WITNESS**

8 Then last of all He was seen by me also, as by one born out of due time. ***(IE, better late than never)*** 9 For I am the least of the apostles, who am 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, ***(Us too CCSV)*** and His grace toward me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God *which was* with me.

11 Therefore, whether *it was* I or they, so we preach and so you believed. **(Paul is aware that he had a longer way to come to the Lord than others)**

**THE RESURRECTION OF THE DEAD**

12 Now if Christ is preached that He has been raised from the dead, how do some among you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? **(IE – Soul sleep)** 13 But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ is not risen. 14 And if Christ is not risen, then our preaching *is* empty and your faith *is* also empty. 15 Yes, and we are found false witnesses of God, because we have testified of God that He raised up Christ, whom He did not raise up—if in fact the dead do not rise. 16 For if *the* dead do not rise, then Christ is not risen. 17 And if Christ is not risen, your faith *is* futile; you are still in your sins!

18 Then also those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished.

19 If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable.

* Paul is running the false teaching to its illogical conclusion… He had just told them, “I saw the resurrected Jesus with my own eyes!” Am I a liar? NO!
* Are the other Apostles lying? Did the 500 eyewitnesses lie? NO! Here is what happened….

**ONE MAN JOB**

20 But now Christ is risen from the dead, *and* has become the first-fruit **(NLT - first of a great harvest)** of those who have fallen asleep. 21 For since by man *came* death, by Man also *came* the resurrection of the dead. **(Aw, here is hope for those who grieve)** 22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive. **(This is good Theology)**

23 But each one in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those *who are* Christ's at His coming. **CEV - But there is an order to this resurrection: Christ was raised as the first of the harvest; then all who belong to Christ will be raised when He comes back.** **V52!!!**

**THE END IS NEAR**

24 Then *comes* the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power.

25 For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet. 26 The last enemy *that* will be destroyed *is* death.

27 For "HE HAS PUT ALL THINGS UNDER HIS FEET." **PSALM 8:6** But when He says, "all things are put under *Him,*" *it is* evident that He who put all things under Him is excepted. 28 Now when all things are made subject to Him, then the Son Himself will also be subject to Him who put all things under Him, that God may be all in all.

* Submitting to Jesus IS submitting to the Father! Nobody gets to the Father except through the Son! **JOHN 14:6**
* “Jesus said to him, **THOMAS** "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.”

**EVEN PAGANS BELIEVE IN RESURRECTION**

29 Otherwise, what will they **(NOT we)** do who are baptized for the dead, if the dead do not rise at all? Why then are they baptized for the dead? ***Paul IS NOT teaching baptism for the dead! Neither does the Bible!***

**RISKS FOR RESURRECTION**

30 And why do we stand in jeopardy every hour? 31 I affirm, by the boasting in you which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die daily. **SUFFER**

32 If, in the manner of men, I have fought with beasts at Ephesus, **(The Ephesians)** what advantage *is it* to me? If *the* dead do not rise, "LET US EAT AND DRINK, FOR TOMORROW WE DIE!" **ISAIAH 22:13**

**BIRDS OF A FEATHER…**

33 Do not be deceived: "Evil company corrupts good habits."

34 Awake to righteousness, and do not sin; for some do not have the knowledge of God. I speak *this* to your shame.

* **Be careful who you befriend! Hang with people with GOOD habits.**

**THE RESURRECTION BODY**

35 But someone will say, "How are the dead raised up? And with what body do they come?" 36 Foolish one, what you sow **(Seed)** is not made alive unless it dies. 37 And what you sow, you do not sow that body that shall be, but mere grain—perhaps wheat or some other *grain.* 38 But God gives it a body as He pleases, and to each seed its own body.

* God will give us a new body someday! I’m counting on mine NOT having diabetes!
* I KNOW it won’t have sinful stuff… I am very excited about that!

**ALL ABOUT BODIES**

39 All flesh *is* not the same flesh, but *there is* one *kind of* **flesh of men**, another flesh of **animals**, another of **fish**, *and* another of **birds**.

40 There are also **celestial** bodies and **terrestrial** bodies; but the glory of the celestial *is* one, and the *glory* of the terrestrial *is* another. 41 There is one glory of the **sun**, another glory of the **moon**, and another glory of the **stars**; for *one* star differs from *another* star in glory.

42 So also *is* the resurrection of the dead. *The body* is sown in corruption, it is raised in incorruption. 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. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body.

**CEV** – 42 That's how it will be when our bodies are raised to life. These bodies will die, but the bodies that are raised will live forever. 43 These ugly and weak bodies will become beautiful and strong. 44 As surely as there are physical bodies, there are spiritual bodies. And our physical bodies will be changed into spiritual bodies.

45 And so it is written, "THE FIRST MAN ADAM BECAME A LIVING BEING." **GENESIS 2:7** The last Adam **(Jesus)** *became* a life-giving **(Quickening)** spirit.

**ADAM’S BODY vs JESUS’ BODY**

46 However, the spiritual is not first, but the natural, and afterward the spiritual. 47 The first man *was* of the earth, *made* of dust; the second Man *is* the Lord **(God)** from heaven.

48 As *was* the *man* of dust, so also *are* those *who are made* of dust; and as *is* the heavenly *Man,* so also *are* those *who are* heavenly.

49 And as we have borne the image of the *man* of dust, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly *Man.* **What a great promise!**

**MYSTERY AND VICTORY**

50 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption.

51 **Behold, I tell you a mystery**: We shall not all sleep, **(Die)** but we shall all be changed—52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. **See 1 THES. 4:16-18**

53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal *must* put on immortality. 54 So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "DEATH IS SWALLOWED UP IN VICTORY." **ISAIAH 25:8** 55 "O DEATH, WHERE IS YOUR STING? O HADES, WHERE IS YOUR VICTORY?" **HOSEA 13:14**

* Imagine with me the day that we mock death and the grave…

56 The sting of death *is* sin, and the strength of sin *is* the law. 57 But thanks *be* to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

**IN CONCLUSION…**

58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

Amen!