



WHY ARE THE DEAD RAISED?

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1 Corinthians 15:29 – 34 (NKJV)

29 Otherwise, what will they do who are baptized for the dead, if the dead do not rise at all? Why then are they baptized for the dead?

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.

32 If, in the manner of men, I have fought with beasts at Ephesus, what advantage is it to me? If the dead do not rise, “Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die!”



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.



1 Corinthians 15:49 – 58 (NKJV)

49 And as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly Man.

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, 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.



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.”

55 “O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?”

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.

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.



Paul dealt with the subject by answering four basic questions:

1. **ARE** the dead raised? (1 Cor. 15:1 – 19)
2. **WHEN** are the dead raised? (1 Cor. 15:20 – 28)
3. **WHY** are the dead raised? (1 Cor. 15:29 – 34, 49 – 58)
4. **HOW** are the dead raised? (1 Cor. 15:35 – 48)



- The resurrection of the human body is a future event that has clear implications for our personal lives.
- If the resurrection is not valid, we can forget about the future and live as we please!
- **But the resurrection *is* true! Jesus *is* coming again! Even if we die before He comes, we shall be raised at His coming and stand before Him in a glorified body.**



Paul cited four areas of Christian experience that are touched by the fact of the resurrection:

- Evangelism (1 Corinthians 15:29)
- Suffering (1 Corinthians 15:30 – 32)
- Separation from Sin (1 Corinthians 15:33 – 34)
- *Death* (1 Corinthians 15:49 – 57)



EVANGELISM (v. 29)

1 Corinthians 15:29 (NKJV)

Otherwise, what will they do who are baptized for the dead, if the dead do not rise at all? Why then are they baptized for the dead?

What does it mean to be **“baptized for the dead”**?

Some take this to mean “proxy baptism,” where a believer is baptized on behalf of a dead relative, but we find no such teaching in the New Testament.



- In the second century, some heretical groups practiced ¹¹ “**secondhand baptism**”, but the church at large has never accepted the practice.
- To begin with, salvation is a **personal matter** that each must **decide for himself**, and, second, nobody needs to be baptized to be saved. The phrase probably means “baptized to take the place of those who have died.”
- In other words, if there is no resurrection, why bother to witness and win others to Christ?



- Why reach sinners who are then baptized and take the place of those who have died? If the Christian life is only a “dead-end street,” get off of it!
- Each responsible person on earth will share in either the **resurrection of life** and go to **heaven** or the **resurrection of judgment** and go to **hell**.



John 5:28 – 29 (NKJV)

28 Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice

29 and come forth—those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation.



We weep for believers who have died, but we ought also to weep for unbelievers who still have the opportunity to be saved!

The reality of the resurrection is motivation for evangelism.



SUFFERING (vv. 30 – 32)

1 Corinthians 15:30 – 32 (NKJV)

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.

32 If, in the manner of men, I have fought with beasts at Ephesus, what advantage is it to me? If the dead do not rise, “Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die!”



I die daily does not refer to “dying to self,” as in Romans 6, but to the **physical dangers Paul faced as a servant of Christ.**



2 Corinthians 11:23 – 28 (NKJV)

23 Are they ministers of Christ? —I speak as a fool—I am more: in labors more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequently, in deaths often.

24 From the Jews five times I received forty stripes minus one.

25 Three times I was beaten with rods; once I was stoned; three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I have been in the deep;



26 in journeys often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils of my own countrymen, in perils of the Gentiles, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren;

27 in weariness and toil, in sleeplessness often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness—

28 besides the other things, what comes upon me daily: my deep concern for all the churches.



- Paul was in constant jeopardy from his enemies and had been close to death on more than one occasion.
- **Why endure suffering and danger if death ends it all?**

Isaiah 22:13 (NKJV)

But instead, joy and gladness, Slaying oxen and killing sheep,
Eating meat and drinking wine: **“Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die!”**



What we do in the body in this life comes up for review at the Judgment Seat of Christ.

2 Corinthians 5:10 (NKJV)

For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.



God deals with the *whole* person, not just with the “soul”. The body shares in salvation.



Romans 8:18 – 23 (NKJV)

18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

19 For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God.

20 For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected *it* in hope;



21 because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.

22 For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now.

23 Not only that, but we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body.



The suffering endured in the body will²⁴ result in glory at the resurrection.

2 Corinthians 4:11 – 17 (NKJV)

11 For we who live are always delivered to death for Jesus' sake, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh.

12 So then death is working in us, but life in you.

13 And since we have the same spirit of faith, according to what is written, "I believed and therefore I spoke," we also believe and therefore speak,



14 knowing that He who raised up the Lord Jesus will also raise us up with Jesus, and will present us with you.

15 For all things are for your sakes, that grace, having spread through the many, may cause thanksgiving to abound to the glory of God.

16 Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day.

17 For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory,



**If there is no future for the body, then why suffer
and die for the cause of Christ?**



SEPARATION FROM SIN (vv. 33–34)

1 Corinthians 15:33 – 34 (NKJV)

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.



- If there is no resurrection, then what we do with our bodies will have no bearing on our future.
- Immorality was a way of life in Corinth, and some of the believers rejected the resurrection to rationalize their sin.
- **“Evil company corrupts good morals”** is a quotation from the Greek poet Menander and a saying no doubt familiar to Paul’s readers.
- **The believer’s body is the temple of God and must be kept separated from the world’s sins.**



2 Corinthians 6:14 – 7:1 (NKJV)

14 Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness?

15 And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever?

16 And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: “I will dwell in them And walk among them. I will be their God, And they shall be My people.”



17 Therefore “Come out from among them And be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, And I will receive you.”

18 “I will be a Father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters, says the LORD Almighty.”

7:1 Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.



Fellowship with the “unfruitful works of darkness” (Eph. 5:6 – 17) only corrupts God’s temple.



DEATH (vv. 49 – 57)

1 Corinthians 15:49 – 57 (NKJV)

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

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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.



- The heavenly kingdom is not made for the kind of bodies we now have, bodies of flesh and blood.
- So **when Jesus returns**, the bodies of **living believers** will instantly be transformed to be like His body (1 John 3:1–3), and the **dead believers** shall be raised with new glorified bodies.
- Our new bodies will not be subject to decay or death.



- Sigmund Freud, the founder of psychiatry, wrote, “And finally there is the painful riddle of death, for which no remedy at all has yet been found, nor probably ever will be.”
- **Christians have victory *in* death and *over* death!** Why? Because of the victory of Jesus Christ in His own resurrection.
- Jesus said, “Because I live, ye shall also” (John 14:19).



- **Sin, death, and the Law** go together. **The Law reveals sin**, and the “wages of sin is death” (Rom. 6:23).
- **Jesus bore our sins on the cross (1 Peter 2:24) and also bore the curse of the Law (Gal. 3:13).**
- It is through Him that we have this victory, and we share the victory *today*. The literal translation of 1 Corinthians 15:57 is, “But thanks be to God who ***keeps on giving us the victory*** through our Lord Jesus Christ.”



We experience “the power of His resurrection” in our lives as we yield to Him (Phil. 3:10).



- 1 Corinthians 15:58 is Paul's hymn of praise to the Lord as well as his closing warning to the church. Because of the assurance of Christ's victory over death, we know that nothing we do for Him will ever be wasted or lost.

**We can be steadfast in our service,
unmovable in suffering, and abounding in
ministry to others because we know our
labor is not in vain.**

