

1 Corinthians 15

1. What are the two resurrections for the Christian?

-One is the resurrection of the spirit, and the other is the resurrection of the body.

2. When we Christians die, what happens to our spirit?

-Because our belief in Christ has resurrected our spirit in Christ, our spirit remains completely one with Christ.

-Because our belief in Christ has resurrected our spirit in Christ, there is no change for our spirit.

3. How does planting seed teach us about resurrection of our bodies?

-For a plant to grow, the seed must first die.

-It is the death of the seed that gives life to the plant.

4. What happens to the body of a Christian when we die?

-Our bodies will be buried, waiting for the resurrection of the bodies of all Christians.

5. When will our bodies be resurrected?

-When Christ returns to earth.

6. Will our resurrected bodies be the bodies that we have here on earth?

-Yes.

7. How do we know that our resurrected body will be the body that we have here on earth?

-Because when Christ was resurrected, His disciples

recognized Him.

8. How will our resurrected bodies be changed?

-Our resurrected bodies will be like the resurrected body of Christ.

9. How is the resurrected body of Christ?

-The resurrected body of Christ is both physical and spiritual, perfect, glorious, powerful, eternal, and clothed with light.

10. What is the mystery that God through Paul speaks of in 1 Corinthians 15:51?

-For Christians who are alive when Christ returns, they will go straight to heaven without dying.

-For Christians whose bodies have died, their spirits are already in heaven, yet their bodies will be raised to heaven.

11. Why is sin called the “sting of death”?

-As a bee stings people and they die, sin stings people and they die.

12. Which power is stronger—the power of sin or the power of Christ?

-The power of Christ.

13. If we understand and believe that we will not die, but be resurrected to heaven with our God, what should this do to our faith?

-That our faith in Christ will be like a giant rock, unable

to be moved.

-That our problems and the problems of this world will also not be able to move our faith in Christ.

-In this lesson, we will study the last chapter of 1 Corinthians.

Let's read 1 Corinthians 16:1

1-Now about the collection for the Lord's people: Do what I told the Galatian churches to do.

-From this verse, it seems as if the Corinthian Christians had also written to Paul concerning their giving (7:1).

-When the church began, after Pentecost, Christians would sell property and possessions to give to anyone who had need (Acts 2:45).

-After this time, however, Christians would bring gifts to the apostles who would then give these gifts to those in need (Acts 4:35).

-This teaches us that from the beginning of the church, Christians were giving gifts to the church to be given to those in need.

-Why is it important for Christians to give?

-First, we give to thank the Lord Jesus for giving us eternal life.

-Secondly, we give to help others in need.

Let's read 1 Corinthians 16:2

2-On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with your income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made.

-Because Christ rose from the dead on the first day of the week, the church would meet on the first day of the week.

-As the Word of God writes that we should give on first day of week, this teaches us that giving is a part of our worship of God.

-We worship God through prayer and song and His Word, but also through giving.

-How much should Christians give to God and to the church?

-In the Old Testament, Abraham gave a tithe to Melchizedek, a priest of God, and Jacob promised to give a tenth if God would bless him, but God did not command either one to do so.

-Abraham's and Jacob's giving came from their heart alone.

-During the time of Moses, God commanded Israel to support the Levites and the yearly feasts, yet these tithes were taxes, and not giving from the heart.

-In the New Testament, God never commands Christians to give a certain amount or percentage as a tithe.

-In the verse above, the Word of God simply says that we are to set aside a sum of money in keeping with our income.

-As with Abraham and Jacob, we should give that which our heart alone would decide.

-In Luke 6:38, Jesus said this:

-“Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.”

Let's read 1 Corinthians 16:3

3-Then, when I arrive, I will give letters of introduction to the men you approve and send them with your gift to Jerusalem.

-Paul wanted to send these gifts to the poor Christians in Jerusalem.

-Even though Jerusalem was a big city, the Christians

were very poor.

-The offerings were to be taken to Jerusalem by men who were approved by the church in Corinth.

-All gifts from any church should be collected and distributed by Christians in the church who are completely honest.

-Why is it important to choose Christians who will make sure that the offerings will be used as the church decides?

-Because Satan tempts people to misuse the offerings or lie about how the money was spent.

Let's read 1 Corinthians 16:10-11

10-When Timothy comes, see to it that he has nothing to fear while he is with you, for he is carrying on the work of the Lord, just as I am.

11-No one, then, should treat him with contempt. Send him on his way in peace so that he may return to me. I am expecting him along with the brothers.

-As Jesus sent out the disciples two by two, Paul always had another brother in Christ working with him.

-We read of Paul and Barnabas, Paul and Silas, Paul and Luke, Paul and Aristarchus, Paul and Mark, and Paul and Timothy.

-We must share the work of God with other Christians so that the work will go well.

-When two brothers or two sisters in Christ work together, they can encourage one another, and it will be more difficult for Satan to hurt them.

-Even though Timothy was younger than Paul, Paul did not think that he was better than Timothy.

-Rather, Paul considered Timothy as an equal.

-Young or old, man or woman, we should never think that we are better than others.

-In verses 13-20 of chapter 16, we come to the final verses in 1 Corinthians.

Let's read 1 Corinthians 16:13-14

13-Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong.

14-Do everything in love.

-God wants us to be on our guard against Satan and false teachers.

-We should also be on our guard against temptation as well as not praying or reading the Word of God.

-We must ask God, however, to help us to be on guard.

-While the world, the flesh, and Satan cannot take away our faith in Christ, if our faith is not unmoveable like a large rock, our lives here on earth will not bear much fruit.

-To bear fruit for Christ, our faith in Him must be unmoveable.

-We must ask Christ, however, to help our faith be unmoveable.

-Rather than being children in our faith, we should be mature in our faith.

-A child is easily deceived, but an adult is not.

-Instead of being weak Christians, we must be strong in the Lord.

-Weak Christians will try to live a life on their own strength, but we must ask God to be our strength.

-As verse 14 teaches: All that we do should be done in love.

-We are able to love others because our God first loved us (1 John 4:19).

Let's read 1 Corinthians 16:15-16

15-You know that the household of Stephanas

were the first converts in Achaia, and they have devoted themselves to the service of the Lord's people. I urge you, brothers and sisters,

16-to submit to such people and to everyone who joins in the work and labors at it.

-Stephanas and his family were the first to believe in Christ in the province of Achaia.

-Achaia is a province in southern Greece where the cities of Athens and Corinth are located.

-How are Stephanas and his family an example to us all?

-They devoted themselves to serve God's people.

-Like Stephanas, all Christians should be devoted to serve the family of Christ.

-Like Stephanas, we would also do well to submit ourselves to one another in the family of Christ.

-While our flesh does not want to submit to anyone, the Lord Jesus said this:

-“Whoever wants to be first must be your slave, just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many” (Mt 20:27-28).

Let's read 1 Corinthians 16:17-18

17-I was glad when Stephanas, Fortunatus and Achaicus arrived, because they have supplied what was lacking from you.

18-For they refreshed my spirit and yours also. Such men deserve recognition.

-Stephanas, Fortunatus, and Achaicus had come from Corinth to visit Paul in Ephesus, and to encourage him.

-While God encourages us on His own, He mostly encourages us through our family in Jesus.

Let's read 1 Corinthians 16:19-20

19-The churches in the province of Asia send you greetings. Aquila and Priscilla greet you warmly in the Lord, and so does the church that meets at their house.

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

-Paul met Aquila and Priscilla in Corinth, and now, they were working together again in Ephesus.

-In fact, the church in Ephesus met at the house of Aquila and Priscilla.

-Although the Christians in Ephesus did not know the Christians in Corinth, they were brothers and sisters in Christ.

-Christians throughout the world are brothers and sisters

in Christ, as the Lord Jesus has made us one family.

-In the early church, Christians would greet one another with a holy kiss.

-Today, most Christians shake hands or hug one another.

-It is important, however, to love one another for we are all brothers and sisters in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Let's read 1 Corinthians 16:21

21-I, Paul, write this greeting in my own hand.

-While someone else wrote down these words that God gave to Paul, it was Paul who wrote down this greeting with his own hand.

-This was to help us to know that the letter was from God through Paul.

Let's read 1 Corinthians 16:22

22-If anyone does not love the Lord, let that person be cursed! Come, Lord!

-We have learned that the church in Corinth had many problems, and that there were people in the church who were causing these problems.

-We also know that if problems in the church are not

resolved, the fellowship can be destroyed.

-Therefore, if there are people in the church who do not love God and are causing problems, it would be better for these people to be put out of the church.

-When Jesus returns, the church will finally be pure and without problems.

Let's read 1 Corinthians 16:23-24

23-The grace of the Lord Jesus be with you.

24-My love to all of you in Christ Jesus. Amen.

-God through Paul wrote some strong words to the Corinthians as well as to all of us Christians.

-This is because we need strong words in order to help us to call on our God to live His life through us.

-Yet, the strong words are founded on God's love for us all.

-If God did not love us, He would not correct us for that which we are doing wrong.

-Because God loves us, He does not want us to be controlled by sin and Satan.

-Because God loves us, He wants the very best for us.