

URGENT

1st  
CENTURY  
CIRCA ROM



# 1 Corinthians





# **The Apostle Paul's Mission to the Corinthians**



# Christ Bible Church



## Adult Bible Class Calendar Spring 2023

Date			Lesson Portion of 1 Corinthians
1	February	5	Review of 1 Corinthians 1-7 & Preview of 1 Corinthians 8-11
2	February	12	1 Corinthians 8:1-6
3	February	19	1 Corinthians 8:7-13
4	February	26	1 Corinthians 9:1-14
5	March	5	1 Corinthians 9:15-27
6	March	12	1 Corinthians 10:1-13
7	March	19	1 Corinthians 10:14-22
8	March	26	1 Corinthians 10:23-11:1
9	April	2	1 Corinthians 15:1-28
10	April	9	1 Corinthians 15:29-58



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# 1 Corinthians 15:1-28

## CONCERNING THE RESURRECTION (15:1-58)

- The Gospel Affirmation of the Resurrection (15:1-11).
  - The Consequences of Denying the Resurrection (15:12-19).
  - Christ, the Firstfruits of the Resurrection (15:20-28).
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# Outline of 1 Corinthians

I. Introduction (1:1-9).

II. Responses to Received Reliable Oral Reports from the Corinthians (1:10-6:20).

III. Responses to a Letter from the Corinthians (7:1-16:4).

A. Concerning Marriage and Related Questions (7:1-40).

B. Concerning Foods Sacrificed to Idols (8:1-11:1).

C. Concerning the Christian Assembly (11:2-34).

D. Concerning the Spiritual and Gifts (12:1-14:40).

**E. Concerning the Resurrection (15:1-58).**

**1. The Gospel Affirmation of the Resurrection (15:1-11).**

**2. The Consequences of Denying the Resurrection (15:12-19).**

**3. Christ, the Firstfruits of the Resurrection (15:20-28).**

# **Disbelief in the Resurrection Calls for Correction**

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**1 CORINTHIANS 15:1-58**

## Mark 12:18-27

There were seven brothers; the first took a wife and when he died, left no offspring. And the second took her and died, leaving no offspring. And the third likewise. And the seven left no offspring. Last of all, the woman also died. In the resurrection, when they rise again, whose wife will she be? For the seven had her as a wife.”

**And Sadducees** came to him, who say that there is no resurrection. And they asked him a question, saying, “Teacher, Moses wrote for us that if a man's brother dies and leaves a wife but leaves no child, the man must take the widow and raise up offspring for his brother. There were seven brothers; the first took a wife and when he died, left no offspring. And the second took her and died, leaving no offspring. And the third likewise. And the seven left no offspring. Last of all the woman also died. **In the resurrection, when they rise again, whose wife will she be?** For the seven had her as a wife.”

Jesus asked them, “Is this not the reason you are wrong, because you know neither the Scriptures nor the power of God? For **when they rise from the dead**, they neither marry nor are given in marriage but are like angels in heaven. And as for the dead being raised, have you not read in the book of Moses, in the passage about the bush, how God spoke to him, saying, ‘I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob’? He is not God of the dead but of the living. You are quite wrong.”



# Acts 23:6-10 – Paul at the Sanhedrin



Now when Paul perceived that one part was Sadducees and the other Pharisees, he cried out in the council, “**Brothers, I am a Pharisee, a son of Pharisees. It is concerning the hope and the resurrection of the dead that I am on trial.**” And when he had said this, a dissension arose between the Pharisees and the Sadducees, and the assembly was divided. **For the Sadducees say that there is no resurrection, nor angel, nor spirit, but the Pharisees acknowledge them all.**

Then a great clamor arose, and some of the scribes of the Pharisees' party stood up and contended sharply, “**We find nothing wrong in this man. What if a spirit or an angel spoke to him?**” And when the dissension became violent, the tribune, afraid that Paul would be torn to pieces by them, commanded the soldiers to go down and take him away from among them by force and bring him into the barracks.



## Acts 17:29-33

Being then God's offspring, we ought not to think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of man. **The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this, he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.**



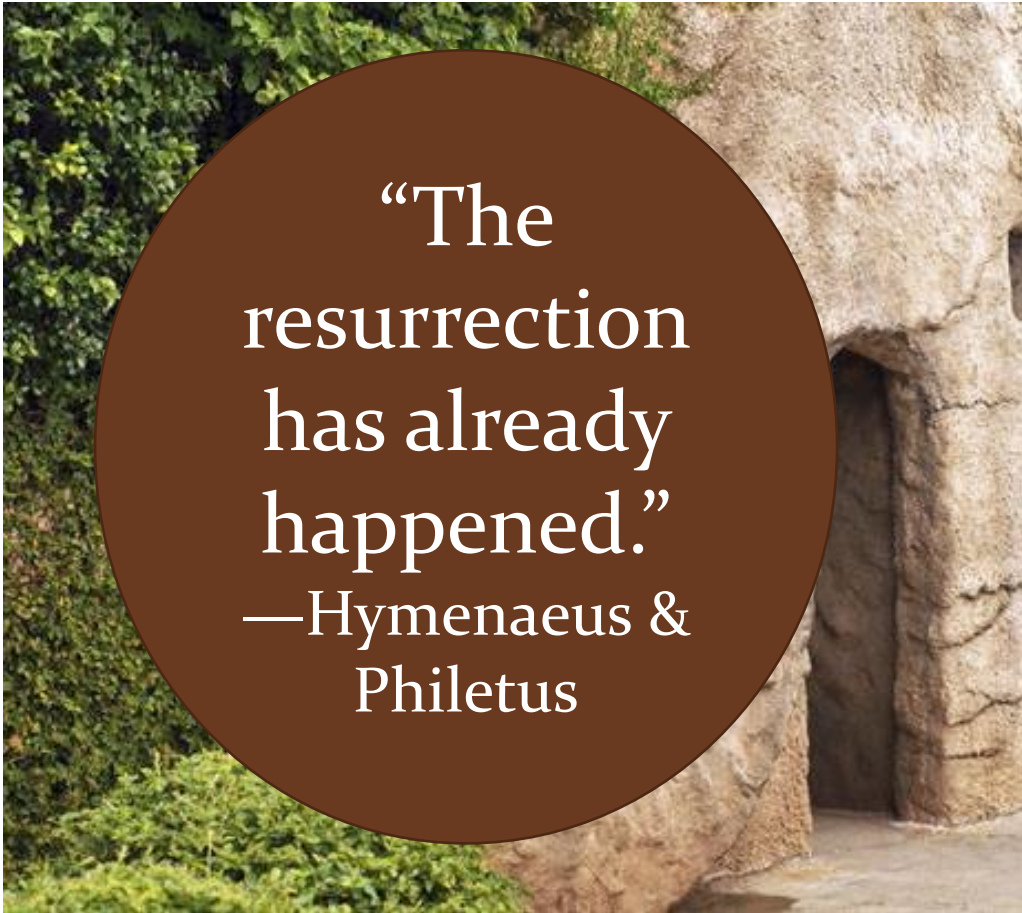
Now when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked. But others said, "We will hear you again about this." So Paul went out from their midst. But some men joined him and believed, among them were Dionysius the Areopagite and a woman named Damaris and others with them.

## 1 Corinthians 6:14-20

“All things are lawful for me,” but not all things are helpful. “All things are lawful for me,” but I will not be dominated by anything. “Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food”—and God will destroy both one and the other. **And God raised the Lord and will also raise us up by his power.**

- By interjecting this corrective—“And God raised the Lord and will also raise us up by his power”—at this point, Paul foreshadows his lengthy discussion of the resurrection in chapter 15.
- Paul’s appeal to resurrection here helps us understand how pervasive the theological problem with the resurrection was for the Corinthians.
- At least some, especially those whose behavior prompts this Paul’s rebuke, believed the resurrection is complete, no Last Day resurrection. Thus, they reasoned that the body is irrelevant, so what one does with one’s body does not matter. If no future resurrection exists, abandoned surrender to our body’s appetites is inconsequential.
- This is what the Apostle Paul rebukes with this striking and potent interjection.

## 1 Timothy 1:18-20

A photograph of a stone tomb entrance, likely the tomb of Jesus, with a circular overlay containing text. The tomb is made of rough-hewn stone and has a small arched opening. The background shows green foliage.

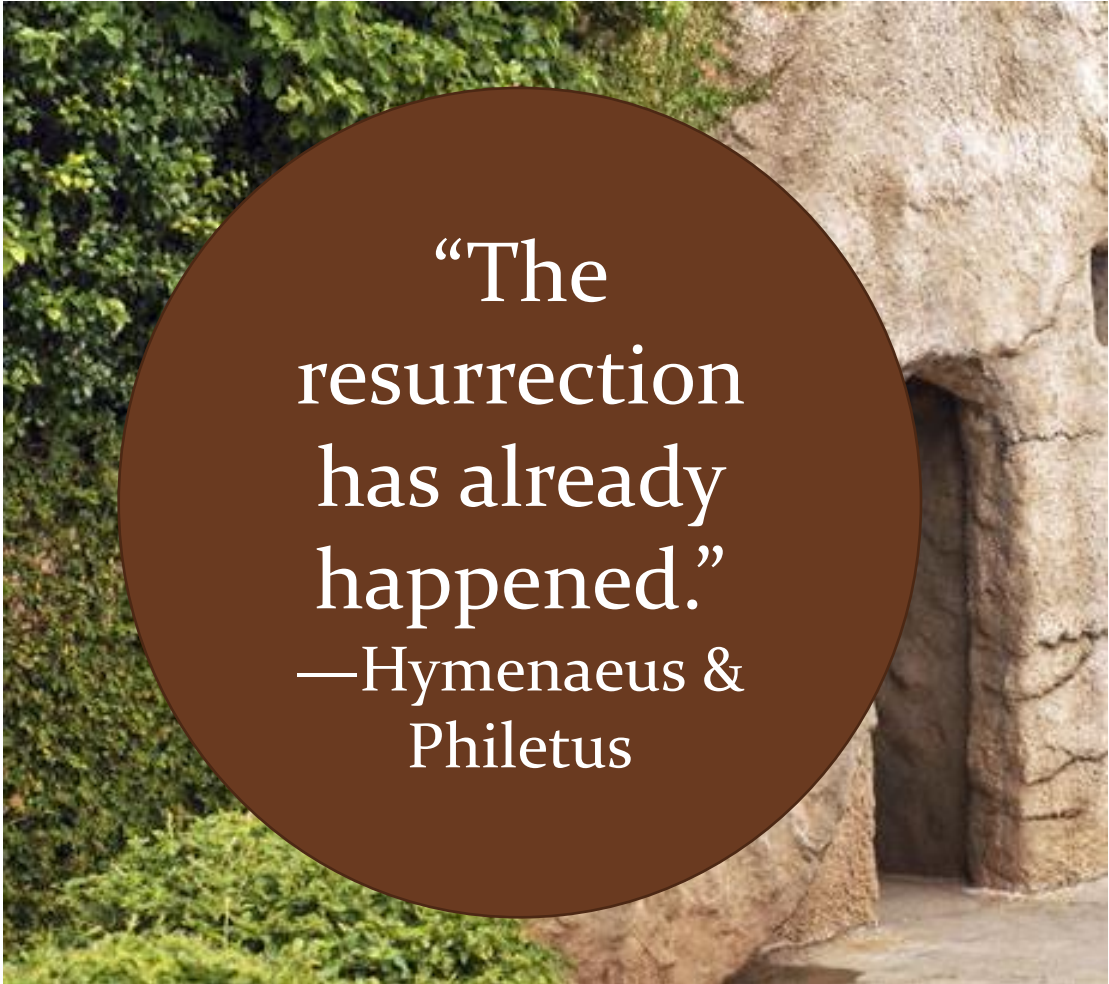
“The  
resurrection  
has already  
happened.”  
—Hymenaeus &  
Philetus

This charge I entrust to you, Timothy, my child, in keeping with the prophecies previously made about you, that by them you may wage the good warfare, holding faith and a good conscience. **By rejecting this, some have made shipwreck of their faith, among whom are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I have handed over to Satan that they may learn not to blaspheme.**



## 2 Timothy 2:16-18

Avoid irreverent babble, for it will lead people into increasing ungodliness, and their talk will spread like gangrene. Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus, who have swerved from the truth, saying that **the resurrection has already happened.** They are upsetting the faith of some.

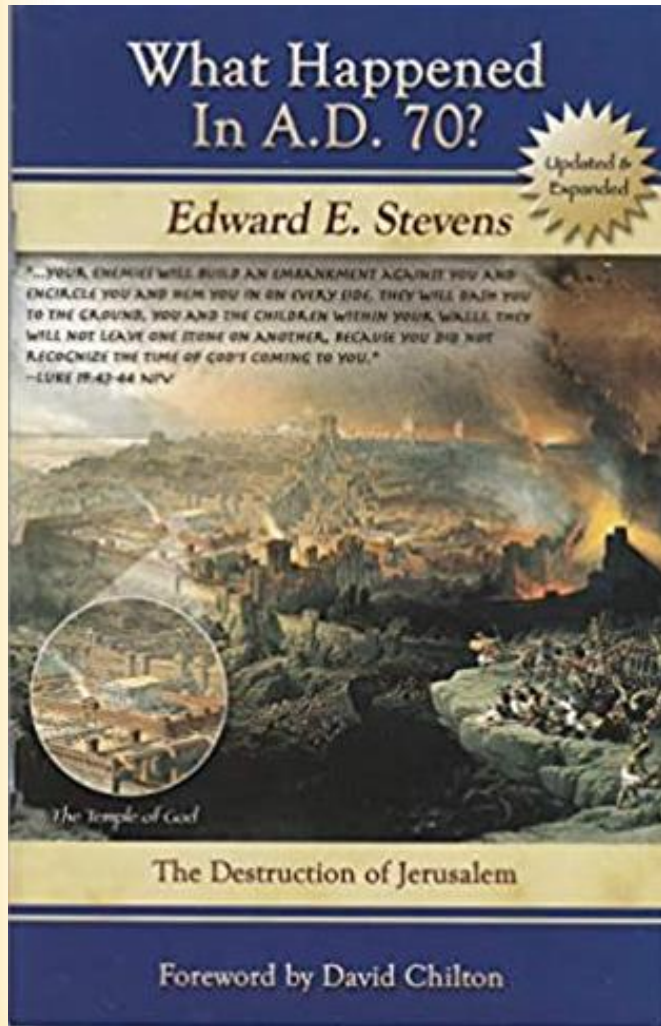


“The  
resurrection  
has already  
happened.”  
—Hymenaeus &  
Philetus

# 1 Timothy 4:1-5

Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons, through the insincerity of liars whose consciences are seared, who forbid marriage and require abstinence from foods that God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth. For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, for it is made holy by the word of God and prayer.

## What Do Contemporary Hymenaeans Believe?

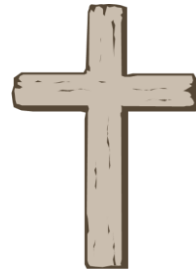


## The Resurrection of the Denial of the Resurrection

- The end of biblical prophecy focuses on A.D. 70, the Roman destruction of Jerusalem.
- The Last Days came to an end in A.D. 70.
- The Last Day Resurrection and judgment occurred “once for all time” in A.D. 70 when Rome devastated Jerusalem and the Temple.
- There is no future resurrection or judgment.
- We all now inhabit the Eternal Kingdom.
- The Eternal Kingdom “is *spiritual* in nature and will *endure forever*.”
- Life in this world will continue forever.
- Although A.D. 70 began the process of renewal and regeneration of the culture and nations through the gospel, perfection will never be attained on earth.
- “When we [Christians] die, we receive our new immortal bodies and go straight to heaven to live forever.” There is no bodily resurrection for anyone. When we die, we are entirely done with our physical bodies.
- Never again will we inhabit this earth. Death permanently terminates our relationship with the earth.

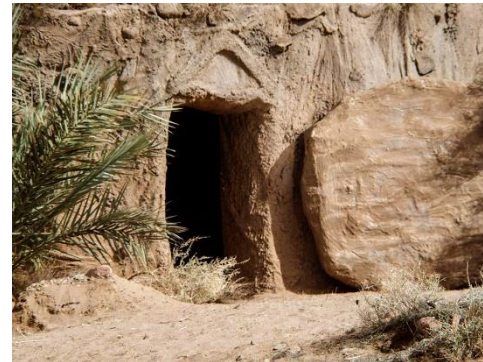


# If the dead are not raised on The Last Day



The Last Day

Then Christ has not been raised from the dead.



Then everyone who has fallen asleep in Christ has perished.

For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile, and you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied.

# The Gospel Affirmation of the Resurrection

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**1 CORINTHIANS 15:1-11**

# 1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.

For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.



# The Gospel Affirmation of the Resurrection (15:1-11)

- “Now I remind you. . .” both a reminder and rebuke.
- Paul’s concern is the gospel’s form.
  - The Corinthians received it.
  - They stand in the gospel.
  - By this gospel, they will be saved (present tense used with future sense) if they hold firmly to the word Paul preached to them. Last Day salvation comes only through persevering belief.
  - If they fail to retain the gospel in the form Paul preached it, then they believed in vain.
- The gospel has four essential features.
  - Christ died for our sins, according to the Scriptures.
  - Christ was buried verifies that he died.
  - Christ was raised from the dead on the third day, according to the Scriptures.
  - Christ’s appearances confirm his resurrection.

# The Consequences of Denying the Resurrection

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**1 CORINTHIANS 15:12-19**

# 1 Corinthians 15:12-19

Now, if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain. We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified about God that he raised Christ, whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied.



# Paul's Series of Logical Propositions (15:12-19)

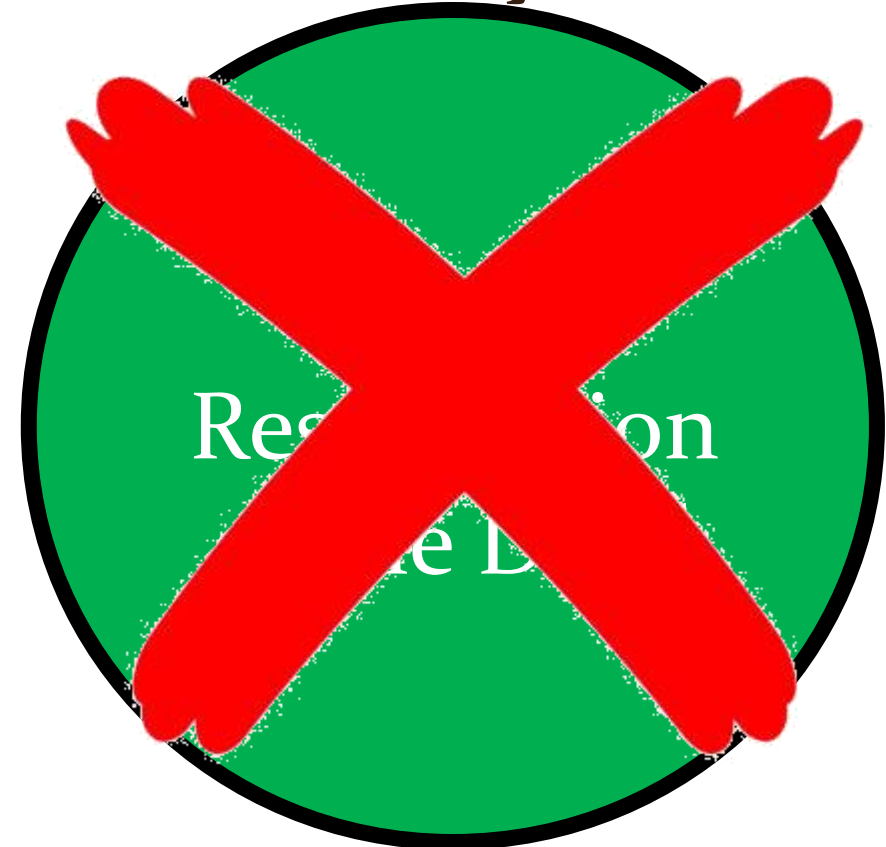
- Now, if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead?
- But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised.
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- For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised.
- And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins.
- Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished.
- If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied.

# The Apostle Paul Argues from Set and Subset

**Affirm?**



**Deny?**



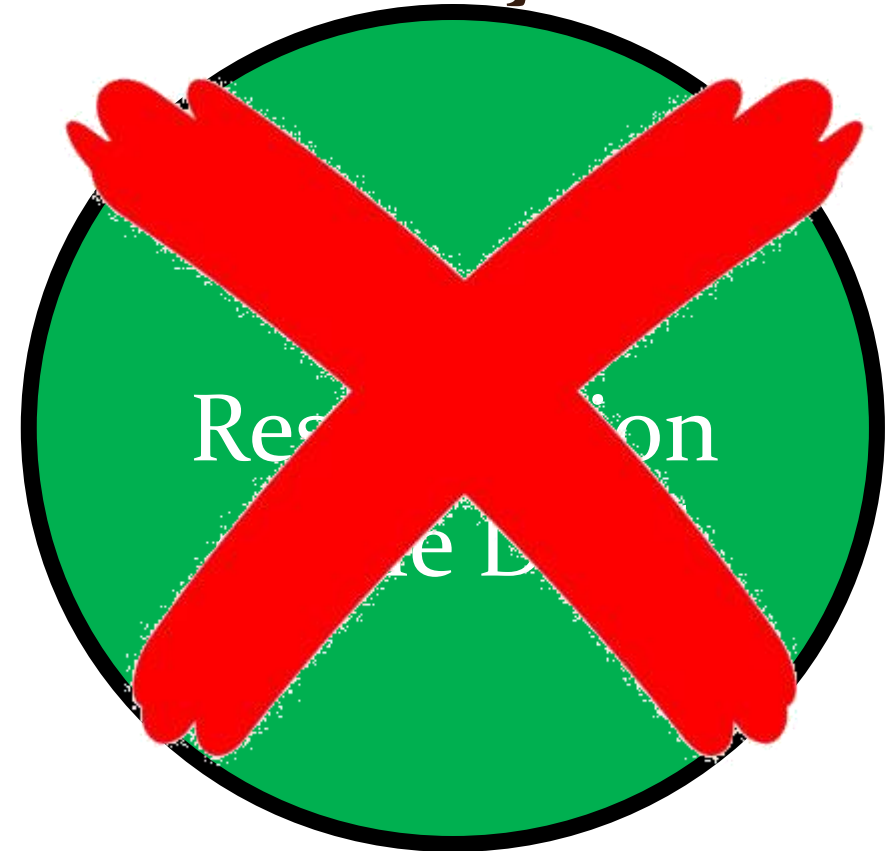
**Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead?**

# The Apostle Paul Argues from Set and Subset

Affirm?

Affirm

Deny?



Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead?



# Christ, the Firstfruits of the Resurrection

•—————•  
**1 CORINTHIANS 15:20-28**

# 1 Corinthians 15:20-28

But in fact, Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death. For “God has put all things in subjection under his feet.” But when it says, “all things are put in subjection,” it is plain that he is excepted who put all things in subjection under him. When all things are subjected to him, then the Son himself will also be subjected to him who put all things in subjection under him, that God may be all in all.

## Christ, the Firstfruits of the Resurrection (15:20)

“But in fact, Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.”

- Now Paul turns to trace the logical consequences concerning the truthfulness of Christ’s resurrection.
- “Firstfruits” is from the Law of Moses, the installment promise that the entire harvest will follow.
- Exodus 23:19—First fruits offering to the Lord.
- Leviticus 23:10-11—bring the sheaf of your harvest’s firstfruits to the priest.
- The resurrection of Jesus Christ verifies that all the dead in him will be raised bodily from their graves.
- Colossians 1:18, “firstborn from the dead,” substitutes for “firstfruit.”



## Christ, the Firstfruits of the Resurrection (15:21-22)

“For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive.”

- Death came by way of Adam’s disobedience, and resurrection life came through the obedience of Christ Jesus (cf. Romans 5:19).
- People who deny our bodily resurrection claim that Adam’s disobedience did not bring *physical death*, only *spiritual death*.
- Scripture does not permit us to separate spiritual and physical death.
- In Christ Jesus, the resurrection of believers comes in two phases:
  - Already.
  - Not yet.

## Christ, the Firstfruits of the Resurrection(15:23-24)

“But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ.”

- Our resurrection and Christ’s do not take place at the same time. Paul makes it clear that they take place at different times.
  - Christ the firstfruits is raised.
  - Then, at Christ’s coming, all who are in Christ will be raised.
- “Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power.”

# Christ, the Firstfruits of the Resurrection (15:25)

“For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet.”

- The destiny of the unrighteous is not in Paul’s purview at this point.
- Paul’s focus is on “those who belong to Christ at his coming.”
- The end of history comes with Christ’s coming.
- Until then, Christ must reign, subjecting every enemy. When he achieves that, he will hand the kingdom over to the Father.
- Paul alludes to Psalm 110:1—“The LORD says to my Lord: ‘Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet.’”



## **Christ, the Firstfruits of the Resurrection(15:26)**

“The last enemy to be destroyed is death.”

- Death is the last of Christ’s enemies to be destroyed.
- Christ dealt a death blow to death at the end of the beginning, which is also the beginning of the end.
- Death is still our enemy. It still has its claws and fangs. Yet, many preachers and laypeople treat death as a friend.
- Paul makes it clear: Death is the Last Enemy to be defeated when we are bodily raised from our graves.

## Christ, the Firstfruits of the Resurrection (15:27-28)

“For God has put all things in subjection under his feet. But when it says, ‘all things are put in subjection,’ it is plain that he is excepted who put all things in subjection under him.”

- Repeated allusion to Psalm 110:1—“God has put all things in subjection under his feet.”
- Paul makes clear that the Father is not subjected to the Son.

“When all things are subjected to him, then the Son himself will also be subjected to him who put all things in subjection under him, that God may be all in all.”

- Paul does not develop what the eternal state will be like.
- We will be raised bodily.
- Paul’s interest is to make it completely clear that our bodily resurrection is tied to Christ’s.



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