



CHRIST  
BIBLE CHURCH

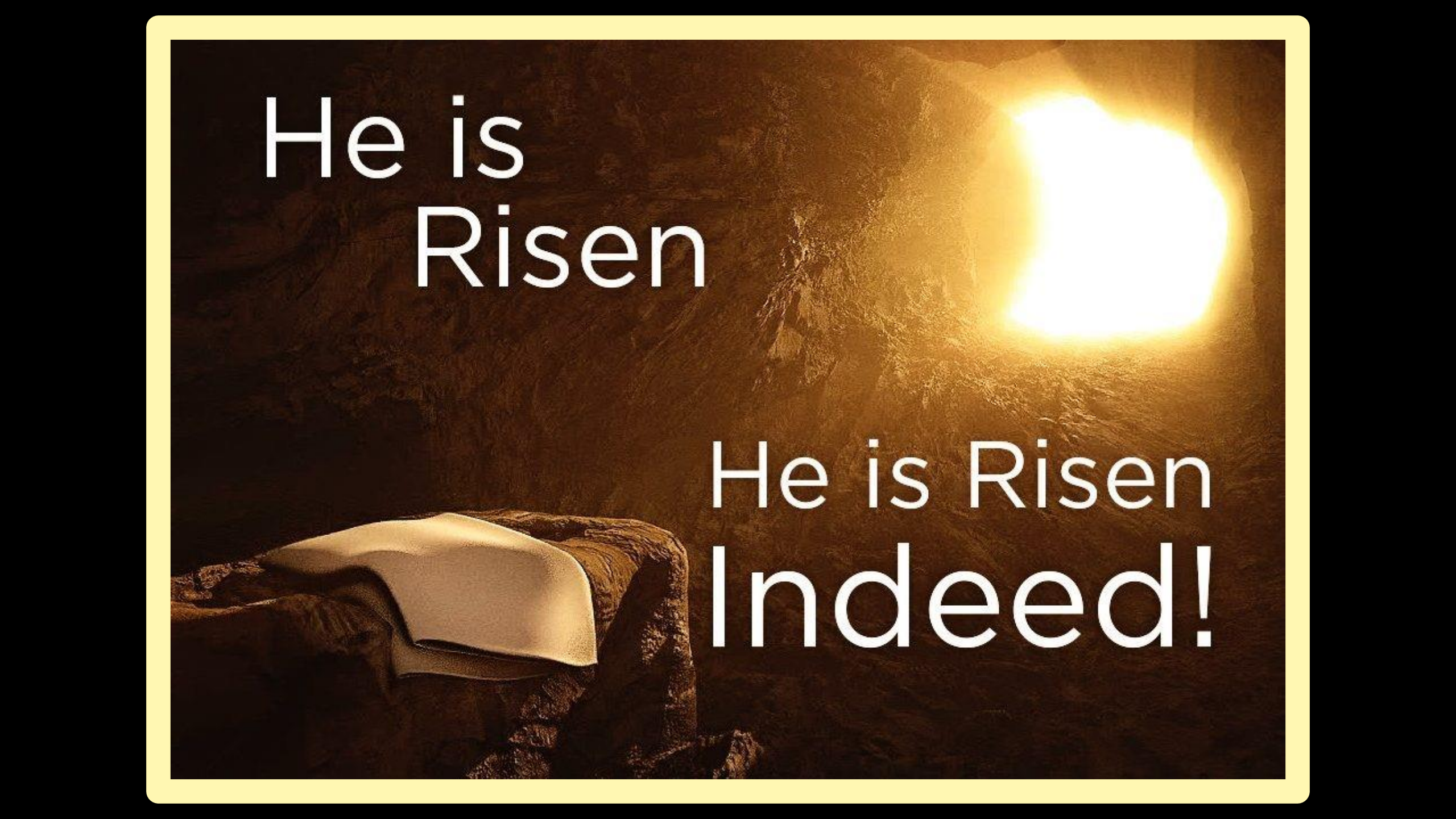
URGENT

1st  
CENTURY  
CIRCA ROM



# 1 Corinthians



A photograph of an empty tomb. In the foreground, a white cloth is draped over the edge of the stone slab. The interior of the tomb is dark, but a bright, glowing light emanates from the entrance at the top right, creating a dramatic silhouette effect. The text "He is Risen" is overlaid in white on the left side of the image.

He is  
Risen

He is Risen  
Indeed!



**1 Corinthians 15:29-58**  
**Concerning the**  
**Resurrection**





# **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



---

---

# 1 Corinthians 15:29-58

CONCERNING THE RESURRECTION (15:1-58)

- Arguments from Life's Everyday Routines (15:29-34).
  - The Foolishness of Denying the Resurrection Body (15:35-58).
- 
-

---

---

# 1 Corinthians 15:29-58

CONCERNING THE RESURRECTION (15:1-58)

- Arguments from Life's Everyday Routines (15:29-34).
  - The Foolishness of Denying the Resurrection Body (15:35-58).
- 
-



# 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).

**4. Arguments from Life's Everyday Routines (15:29-34).**

**5. The Foolishness of Denying the Resurrection Body (15:35-58).**

# 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).
  - 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).
    - 4. Arguments from Life's Everyday Routines (15:29-34).
    - 5. The Foolishness of Denying the Resurrection Body (15:35-58).
      - i. Analogies to the Resurrection Body (15:35-41).
      - ii. Differences between Our Present and Our Future Bodies (15:42-49).
      - iii. The Promise of Future Transformation (15:50-57).
      - iv. A Final Exhortation (15:58).



# Arguments from Life's Everyday Routines

•—————•  
**1 CORINTHIANS 15:29-35**

# 1 Corinthians 15:29-34

Otherwise, what do people mean by being baptized on behalf of the dead? If the dead are not raised, why are people baptized on their behalf? Why are we in danger every hour? I protest, brothers, by my pride in you, which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die every day! What do I gain if, humanly speaking, I fought with beasts at Ephesus? If the dead are not raised, "Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die." Do not be deceived: "Bad company ruins good morals." Wake up from your drunken stupor, as is right, and do not go on sinning. For some have no knowledge of God. I say this to your shame.



## Arguments from Life's Everyday Routines (15:29-34)

“Otherwise, what do people mean by being baptized on behalf of the dead? If the dead are not raised, why are people baptized on their behalf?” (ESV).

“Now if there is no resurrection, what will those do who are baptized for the dead? If the dead are not raised at all, why are people baptized for them?” (NIV).

**Verse 29 may be the most difficult in the New Testament.**

**What does Paul mean?**

- A kind of emotional appeal concerning a practice of living Christians being baptized on behalf of Christians who have died without baptism.
- A practice in which some become Christians and are baptized because of the impact of other Christians who have died.
- Now, if there is no resurrection, what will be accomplished by those who get baptized because of what they have heard about how our dead will be raised? If the dead are not raised, their practice is in vain.”

## Arguments from Life's Everyday Routines (15:29-34)

“Why are we in danger every hour? I die every day—yes, just as surely as I boast about you in Christ Jesus our Lord. What do I gain if, humanly speaking, I fought with beasts at Ephesus? If the dead are not raised, ‘Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die.’”

- Recall Paul's sufferings as an apostle for Christ.
  - 1 Corinthians 4:9-13—“To the present hour we hunger and thirst, we are poorly dressed and buffeted and homeless, and we labor, working with our own hands. When reviled, we bless; when persecuted, we endure; when slandered, we entreat. We have become, and are still, like the scum of the world, the refuse of all things.”
  - 2 Corinthians 1:8-11—“For we do not want you to be unaware, brothers, of the affliction we experienced in Asia. For we were so utterly burdened beyond our strength that we despaired of life itself. Indeed, we felt that we had received the sentence of death.”



## Arguments from Life's Everyday Routines (15:29-34)

- Paul's premise is this: Every affliction we endure is a form of DEATH.
- No resurrection? Paul's daily routine of risking his life for the gospel is foolish.
- Did Paul face "wild beasts" in a Roman arena?
- He portrays God's adversaries as wild beasts.
  - Psalm 35:17—"Rescue me from their destruction, my precious life from the lions!"
  - 2 Timothy 4:14-18—"Alexander the coppersmith did me great harm; the Lord will repay him according to his deeds. . . . So, I was rescued from the lion's mouth."
- "If the dead are not raised, 'Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die.'
  - If the dead are not raised, Paul should abandon preaching the gospel and indulge in the pursuit of pleasure by partying.
  - Paul cites Isaiah 22:13—"Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die."

## Arguments from Life's Everyday Routines (15:29-34)

“Do not be deceived: ‘Bad company ruins good morals.’ Wake up from your drunken stupor, as is right, and do not go on sinning. For some have no knowledge of God. I say this to your shame.”

- “Do not be deceived!”
- He quotes a famous line from a play titled **Thais** by Menander.
  - It is likely that Paul had not read the play.
  - His quote is probably like many who quote famous lines from Shakespeare’s plays without reading those plays.
  - “Bad company ruins good morals” = “Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God?” (James 4:4).
- “Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead” (Ephesians 5:14-16).
- This is stark. The verified resurrection of the dead by Christ’s resurrection testifies against deniers in Corinth: “For some have no knowledge of God. I say this to your shame.”

# The Foolishness of Denying the Resurrection Body

---

## 1 CORINTHIANS 15:35-58

1. Analogies to the Resurrection (15:35-41)
2. Differences Between Our Present Bodies & Our Resurrection Bodies (15:42-49).
3. The Promise of Future Transformation (15:50-57).
4. The Final Exhortation (15:58).



# The Foolishness of Denying the Resurrection Body

---

1. ANALOGIES TO THE RESURRECTION  
1 CORINTHIANS 15:35-41

# 1 Corinthians 15:35-41

But someone will ask, “How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?” You foolish person! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. And what you sow is not the body that is to be, but a bare kernel, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body. For not all flesh is the same, but there is one kind for humans, another for animals, another for birds, and another for fish. There are heavenly bodies and earthly bodies, but the glory of the heavenly is of one kind, and the glory of the earthly is of another. There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for star differs from star in glory.

# Analogies to the Resurrection(15:35-41)

Paul considers the nature of the resurrection body by engaging an imaginary questioner.

- “How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?”
  - Dead bodies decompose. Some are consumed by fire. All eventually turn to dust, just as Genesis 3:19—“for you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”
  - Paul treats the questions as not innocent or genuine.
  - Skeptics pose these questions.
  - The questions ring of unbelief.
- Modern translations somewhat mute Paul’s reply: “You foolish person!” (ESV). “How foolish!” (NIV).
- It’s stronger than this. He responds, “Fool!”



## Analogies to the Resurrection(15:35-41)

“What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. And what you sow is not the body that is to be, but a bare kernel, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body.”

- Snarky scholars say, “Germination isn’t actually about a seed dying.”
- The analogy is fitting, even if not satisfying to horticulturists.
- Paul’s analogy is this: A seed planted in the ground is like a dead body that rises from the ground at the resurrection.
- God causes both plants to emerge from planted seeds and resurrection bodies to emerge from dead bodies buried in the soil.

Jesus speaks the same language: “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit (John 12:23-24).







Thanks, Linda Dickinson  
for the link.



## Analogies to the Resurrection(15:35-41)

“For not all flesh is the same, but there is one kind for humans, another for animals, another for birds, and another for fish. There are heavenly bodies and earthly bodies, but the glory of the heavenly is of one kind, and the glory of the earthly is of another. There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for star differs from star in glory.”

- Paul directs us to ponder Genesis 1, the variety of life forms God created.
- “All flesh is not the same.”
- Varieties—humans, animals, birds, and fish.
- Heavenly bodies; earthly bodies. Each has its own glory.
- Sun, moon, stars.

# The Foolishness of Denying the Resurrection Body

---

**2. DIFFERENCES BETWEEN OUR PRESENT  
BODIES AND OUR RESURRECTION BODIES**  
**1 CORINTHIANS 15:42-49**

# 1 Corinthians 15:42-49

So is it with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable; what is raised is imperishable. It is sown in dishonor; it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness; it is raised in power. It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body. Thus, it is written, “The first man Adam became a living being”; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. But it is not the spiritual that is first but the natural, and then the spiritual. The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. As was the man of dust, so also are those who are of the dust, and as is the man of heaven, so also are those who are of heaven. Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven.



# Differences Between Present & Resurrection Bodies(15:42-49)

**The body is sown in . . .**

- Corruptibility
- Dishonor
- Weakness

**The body sown is . . .**

- Natural

**The body is raised in . . .**

- Incorruptibility
- Honor/Glory
- Power

**The body raised is . . .**

- Spiritual

## Differences Between Present & Resurrection Bodies(15:42-49)

Paul points out continuity and discontinuity between our current bodies and the bodies we will receive in the resurrection.

- Our sown bodies are perishable, deteriorating, decaying, heading to death.  
Our raised bodies will be imperishable, no decay or death.
- “Sown in dishonor”—not inherently evil, but corrupted by sin.  
Our resurrection bodies will be “raised in glory.”
- “Sown in weakness,” subject to illness, injury, weariness—all aspects of our incremental dying.
- “Sown a natural body” but “raised a spiritual body.” Paul is not contrasting material with immaterial. “Spiritual” does not mean immaterial.

# Contrasts Between Adam and Christ

## The First Adam was:

- Living being
- Natural
- First man
- Dust/of the earth
- Earthly man

*His people are of the earth and bear his image, his likeness.*

## The Last Adam was:

- Life-giving spirit
- Spiritual
- Second man
- Of heaven
- Heavenly man

*His people are of heaven and shall bear his image, his likeness.*



## **Differences Between Present & Resurrection Bodies(15:42-49)**

- Thus, it is written, “The first man Adam became a living being”; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. But it is not the spiritual that is first but the natural, and then the spiritual. The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven.
- Biblical storyline features two men: First Adam & Last Adam.
- First Adam—created—“became a living being” by receiving life (Genesis 2:7).
- Last Adam—resurrected—“became a life-giving spirit” by the power of his resurrection.
- First Adam, a “Natural Being.”
- Last Adam, “Spiritual,” “Gives life.” The resurrection & the life.
- God’s appointed order—first the natural, then the spiritual—not an order of existence but of redemptive history.

## **Differences Between Present & Resurrection Bodies(15:42-49)**

As was the man of dust, so also are those who are of the dust, and as is the man of heaven, so also are those who are of heaven. Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven.

- Paul focuses on the origin of the First Man & Last Man.
- Moves from Natural and Spiritual to Earth and Heaven.
- He helps us understand the Natural – Spiritual contrast.
- First Man, of the dust of the earth—Genesis 2:7.
- Contrasts our mortality with Christ's eternal nature & heavenly origin as the Resurrected One.
- We bear Adam's likeness—Genesis 5:3.
- All in Christ already bear something of his likeness, his character. Not yet do we bear his full image.

# The Foolishness of Denying the Resurrection Body



## 3. THE PROMISE OF FUTURE TRANSFORMATION 1 CORINTHIANS 15:50-57



# 1 Corinthians 15:50-57

I tell you this, brothers: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality. When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written:

“Death is swallowed up in victory.”

“O death, where is your victory?”

O death, where is your sting?”

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

## The Promise of Future Transformation (15:50-57)

Paul explains how God's ultimate defeat of death, the last enemy, depends on Christ's raising the dead from their graves and giving them resurrection bodies.

- “Flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.”
- Entrance into God's Kingdom entails both *already* and *not yet* phases.
- We are only in the *already* phase, heirs in Christ Jesus. We receive the *not yet* phase when raised from the dead.
- “Flesh and blood” is a biblical figure of speech.
- Jesus was raised bodily forever to be “in bodied” & will return bodily.
- “Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself. Handle me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see I have” (Luke 24:39).
- Philippians 3:21—“will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body. . . .”

# The Promise of Future Transformation (15:50-57)

“Behold! I tell you a mystery.”

- Mystery—a secret previously revealed in a veiled way now plainly revealed.
- What is this mystery?
  - “For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality.”
  - This was revealed in the OT—Isaiah 25:8 and Hosea 13:14.
  - “We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed.”
  - So, what is this mystery?



**No, Not This  
Mystery!**

# NURSERY

We shall not all sleep,



but we shall all be changed.



# The Promise of Future Transformation (15:50-57)

“Behold! I tell you a mystery.”

- What is this mystery?
  - This was revealed in the OT—Isaiah 25:8 and Hosea 13:14.
  - “When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written:  
‘Death is swallowed up in victory.’  
‘O death, where is your victory?  
O death, where is your sting?’”
- **Isaiah 25:7-8.**

And he will swallow up on this mountain  
the covering that is cast over all peoples,  
the veil that is spread over all nations.  
He will swallow up death forever;  
and the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from all faces,  
and the reproach of his people he will take away from all the earth,  
for the LORD has spoken.

# The Promise of Future Transformation (15:50-57)

- “The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law.”
  - Death’s stinger is sin.
  - Shows the link between sin and death.
  - Sin brings death.
  - Death alienates people from God (Genesis 2:17; 3:3-4; Romans 5:12; 6:23; 1 Corinthians 15:21-22).
  - Sin’s power is the law. What does Paul mean?
  - Sin’s strength is the law—commandment because commandment provokes sin.
  - “For while we were living in the flesh, our sinful passions aroused by the law, were at work in our members to bear fruit for death” (Romans 7:5).
- “But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.” Reminiscent of Romans 7:24-25.



# The Foolishness of Denying the Resurrection Body

---

1 CORINTHIANS 15:58

4. A Final Exhortation:  
The Eternal Worth of Our Work

## 1 Corinthians 15:58

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

# **A Final Exhortation (15:58)**

**Paul puts his final word on an extended discussion:**

- It is impossible to deny the resurrection and affirm Christ's resurrection.
- Deny one, you also deny the other.
- Christ Jesus has defeated death by dying and rising again.
- Therefore, Christ assures us that he will utterly destroy death, our indestructible hope is the Day of Resurrection.
- Paul exhorts us, "Stand firm!"
- Our resurrection hope banishes weariness and constrains us to engage life fully in this present world.

# A Final Exhortation (15:58)

- “in the Lord your labor is *not in vain*.”
  - This answers 15:14—“And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is *in vain* and your faith is *in vain*.”
  - It also recalls 15:10—“But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was *not in vain*.”
  - “*Not in vain*” is a figure of speech—*litotes*—an affirmative expressed by negating its opposition.
  - “*Not in vain*” is a strong way of affirming our labors now will be disproportionately rewarded with eternal life in the age to come.
- The resurrection enlivens us for our labors.
- “The work of the Lord” = “your labor in the Lord.”
- Sanctified work in God’s Kingdom, whatever your labors entail.
- Never despise your calling but “Whatever you do, work heartily as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward.” Our inheritance is nothing less than ETERNAL LIFE.





**He is RISEN!**

**He is risen, INDEED!**

**And God raised the Lord  
and will also raise us  
up by his power.**

**1 Corinthians 6:14**

**Up from the tomb, he came with grace and majesty. . . .**

**He is alive! HE IS ALIVE!**



**This Is An  
ABC  
Production**



**For**

**Christ Institute**

**The Educational Ministry of  
Christ Bible Church**



URGENT

1st  
CENTURY  
CIRCA ROM



# 1 Corinthians