

## 1 Corinthians 15

**Verses 1-34** deal with the *denial* of the doctrine of the resurrection of the dead. The section ends with the practical implication of believing that this life is all that there is, v 32.

**Verses 35-58** deal with the *main intellectual objection* to the doctrine. The section ends with the practical implication of believing that this life is not all that there is, v 58.

### 1 Corinthians 15.1-34

Comprises two sections, verses 1-19 and verses 20-34. Both consist of blocks of teaching followed by the implications of denying this teaching.

(Note that in verses 1-19 the apostle points out that the denial of the resurrection of the dead necessarily involves the denial of the resurrection of Christ, vv 13,16.)

**Verses 1-11.** The resurrection of *Christ* forms *an essential and integral part of the apostolic gospel*. Looks backward – concerned with the realm of history.

**Verses 12-19.** The implications of denying that *Christ* has been raised. (Note “if Christ has not been raised”, vv 14,17.)

**Verses 20-28.** The resurrection of *the believer* forms *an essential and integral part of God’s programme for the future*. Looks forward – concerned with the realm of prophecy.

**Verses 29-34.** The implications of denying that *the believer* will be raised. (Note “if the dead are not raised”, vv 29, 32.)

## **1 Corinthians 15.35-58**

**Verse 35.** Two questions posed by the false teachers :

First, “How are the dead raised?”

Second, “With what kind of body will they come?”

**Verses 36-44a.** Paul answers the second question, dealing with the nature of the resurrection body.

*He appeals to an analogy from nature.*

**Verses 44b-49.** Paul argues that, because of our links with two very different kinds of men (Adam and Christ), we have every reason to expect the resurrection of our bodies.

*He appeals to the teaching of Old Testament scripture.*

**Verses 50-57.** Paul answers the first question, dealing with the ‘mechanics’ of the resurrection change.

*He appeals to a revelation from the Lord (labelled “a mystery”).*

**Verse 58.** Paul concludes with a brief practical application.

***“Be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labour is not in vain in the Lord”, 1 Cor. 15.58***

Examples of those who lived that way :

**Paul** himself, 16.5-9;

**Timothy**, 16.10-11;

**Apollos**, 16.12;

**The household of Stephanas**, 16.15-16;

**Stephanas, Fortunatas and Achaichus**, 16.17;

**Aquila and Priscilla**, 16.19.