

# Letters to the church in...



# Corinth

**Focus:** 1 Corinthians 15:29-58

## Lesson 16-Second Coming and the Resurrection

- **The strivings of the Christian's life—all for the hope and faith of glory!! (v.29-34)**
  - (v.29) there is never any practice in the Bible, mentioned in any other place, of people being baptized “for” or in the place of some dead person. The gospel teaching is VERY clear...for every man “**must give account of himself to God**” (Romans 14:12). No one can make the choice for any other. —**the reference here** can only refer to one thing then— Being baptized “because of the dead.” (like as with a funeral sermon). Someone is **keenly reminded of how fragile life is, and how quickly it can be taken away in death.** (Then they get serious about being saved, and choose to be BAPTIZED and serve Christ, so that they can have eternal life, and the hope of a good resurrection!).
  - (v.31) “**I die daily**” A battle against self. Daily self surrender to Jesus Christ, and a crucifixion of the old man of sin. (a life walk to be sanctified—made holy—in Christ).
  - (v.32) “...If...fought with beasts at Ephesus...”. Paul was writing this letter from Ephesus (16:8). Could perhaps make reference to Paul's struggles against those who opposed the gospel (not fighting literally with beasts...for such an event is never mentioned of Paul in the historical account of Acts). **But, likely the idea here is, “IF...” “I have...” If I go to all struggles and all lengths to contend against evil, like men at Ephesus have done in their sporting, what good is it to me—IF THE DEAD RISE NOT??!** (might as well “eat and drink”...live it up “for tomorrow we die”...there is no life hereafter in such a case...just as the sinful world thinks about it)
  - (v.34) some have set a terrible example before the believers and unbelievers! “**...awake to righteousness and sin not!**” And choose your friends carefully (v.33).—associate closely with those who follow righteousness (while loving, and praying for those who know not God).
- **What will our bodies be like in the resurrection? (v.35-44 )**
  - (v.35-38) Seeds must die to give life. Then, they grow up into beautiful plants (having a different body than before they were buried). God gives us a body as He sees fit!! (v.38).
  - (v.39-41) There **are different kinds of bodies, flesh, and glory in the world as it is now!**
  - (v.42-44) **We will have brand new spiritual bodies (but they are physical bodies just the same).** When we are raised, our bodies will not get old and break down anymore!
  - **Philippians 3:20,21 tell us** that we will have bodies like Christ's body (after He was resurrected). Like Christ's “glorious body.” Jesus got hungry and he even had a real body which could be touched and felt. See **Luke 24:36-43.**
- **The two Adams are described—the natural versus the spiritual (v.45-50 )**
  - (v.48) We must have the image and likeness of Jesus Christ formed within us.

- (v.50) “...flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God...” What is Paul saying? (well obviously, our bodies will have some literal flesh and blood just like Christ’s resurrected body did). **He’s talking about a spiritual transformation. “As we have borne the image of the earthly, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly” (v.49) WE MUST BE BORN AGAIN...our souls must be transformed and converted away from sin to run to Christ. This is the same truth that Jesus spoke about to Nicodemus (see John 3:3,5-8). We must have the spiritual re-birth in Christ to experience eternal life. “The natural man receives not the things of the Spirit of God...neither can he know them for they are spiritually discerned” (1 Cor. 2:14).**
- **Victory over death at the Second Coming of Christ (v.51-55)**
  - Death is finally conquered and the victory saying is brought to pass. Death is swallowed up in victory. **AT THAT TIME**, we receive the gift of immortality. No one has that gift until then, except for God alone (1 Timothy 6:16). We are all fully subject to death, which puts all into a state of unconsciousness until the resurrection!
  - The “dead in Christ rise to life” when Jesus comes (**1 Thessalonians 4:16,17**). **We all get to meet the Lord in the air TOGETHER!!! No one goes before!** (Jesus will not touch the ground either...we all meet him in the air).
  - The wicked all die when Christ comes (2 Thes. 1:7-10). The earth is “laid bare” (2 Peter 3:10). **Every eye will see Jesus come (Revelation 1:7). Christ’s return is no secret at all!** (ref. Matthew 24:24-27). **The coming of Christ is ONE glorious event that will bring an end to all the Devil’s plans.**
- **Final comments on this matter (v.56-58)**
  - (v.56) “...strength of sin is the law. (comp. Romans 7:8,24,25). The Law is good and wonderful, but it cannot save us. Only Jesus can save us. Sin takes advantage of men, and will try to tempt men in what they know is wrong. **But Jesus gives us the VICTORY!!! (v.57)** and “without” him, we can “do nothing” (John 15:4,5). Therefore, continue faithfully in the work of Jesus Christ for it makes an eternal difference (v.58).

*Question (s) for the Heart:*

**Do you want Jesus to renew your heart and mind through His eternal Spirit?** \_\_\_\_\_ **Would you like to be ready for His second coming, and to have the gift of eternal life?** \_\_\_\_\_