

# Joyful Life Bible Studies

## I CORINTHIANS 15

Lesson 21

### FIRST DAY: Review and Overview

1. I Corinthians 14 was written to correct the misuse of *spiritual gifts* when the *church came together*. Write the principles governing the use of these gifts from:
  - a. I Corinthians 14:1a
  - b. I Corinthians 14:12b
  - c. I Corinthians 14:40
  - (1.) Record what we learn about the character of God in relationship to the gifts from I Corinthians 14:33a.
    - (a.) Contemplate this for a few moments. This truth about God is not limited to this chapter. How does I Corinthians 14:33a minister to you today?
2. Mark the three paragraph divisions of I Corinthians 15:1-28. Next to each, write a newspaper headline that briefly relates the contents of the paragraph.
  - a. I Corinthians 15:1-11
  - b. I Corinthians 15:12-19
  - c. I Corinthians 15:20-28
3. *I know that my Redeemer liveth and because He lives, I too, shall live* could be a summary of I Corinthians 15. It has been said: *This is the grandest and most significant chapter in the Bible in reference to the meaning it gives to human life.* It thoroughly contradicts and destroys the philosophy of the secular humanists who believe this life is all there is and therefore, live as though we are not immortal beings. That is why so much of the world's entertainment, legislation, and lifestyles focus on the here and now. Begin your journey through this chapter by asking the Lord to grant you a fresh revelation of what Jesus' resurrection means in your life today and your future life. Recognize that the death of this mortal body is only a transition from the earthly to the heavenly. Ask the Lord to impress that truth on your heart so strongly that you will day by day weigh all you do in the light of eternity. Underline or highlight your prayer from the above paragraph.
  - a. Why do you think not believing in an afterlife influences the way people live now?
  - b. Write your proclamation of faith here from Job 19:25, 26.

*The one most exhilarating thing in the whole range  
of human experience is the thought that we are immortal-  
that whatever may happen to our body, we shall live forever.  
This assurance is in the Christians' heart because Jesus rose from the dead.*

ANON

**SECOND DAY:** Read I Corinthians 15:1-28

1. What historical evidence does I Corinthians 15:5-8 give concerning Christ's resurrection?
  - a. What are believers to *keep in memory* concerning the gospel? I Corinthians 15:(2),3,4
  - b. Twenty-seven years after Christ's resurrection how could the Corinthian believers verify Paul's statements about Christ's resurrection? I Corinthians 15:6b

Challenge: What Old Testament *scriptures* affirm Paul's statement of I Corinthians 15:3c?

2. What were some of the Corinthian believers saying about the *resurrection of the dead*? I Corinthians 15:12b
  - a. Why is the *resurrection of Christ* essential to our belief in the *resurrection of the dead*?
3. The evidence Paul presented in I Corinthians 15:3-8 confirmed with absolute certainty his statement in I Corinthians 15:20. (The word *first fruits* is a reference to the first sheaf of ripened grain which was presented to the Lord in the Old Testament harvest feast. Leviticus 23:10 As the first sheaf of harvest was to the crop a guarantee of the harvest, so is Christ's resurrection a guarantee to the body of believers. It is an assurance of the promise to all believers of our resurrection.) Write I Corinthians 15:20 in your own words.
  - a. State the order of the resurrection from I Corinthians 15:23.

Challenge: Explain the meaning of I Corinthians 15:21, 22 in light of Romans 5:12-19.

4. We have a glimpse of things to come in I Corinthians 15:24-28. After the millennial (thousand year) reign of Christ and the final conflict between all enemies of Christ is over (Rev. 19:11-21; 20:5-14), then what will happen:
  - a. I Corinthians 15:26 (Rev. 20:14)
  - b. I Corinthians 15:28
    - (1.) Think of I Corinthians 15:24b in connection with Ephesians 6:12. What similarities do you find?
5. Look at the *resurrection of the dead in Christ* through the lens of Revelation 20:6a. (For understanding of the *second death*, read Revelation 20:14,15.) Express what this means to you.

Advanced: What will the *second death* mean to those who have never accepted Christ?

**THE TRIUNE GOD WILL BE SOVEREIGN AND SUPREME IN ALL THINGS**

*Hallelujah, hallelujah  
For the Lord God omnipotent reigneth  
and He shall reign forever and ever.  
Amen*

**THIRD DAY:** Read I Corinthians 15:29-49

1. Note and mark the paragraph divisions in today's assignment. Write a brief T.V. news lead-in to capture the attention of the hearers.
  - a. I Corinthians 15:29-34
  - b. I Corinthians 15:35-38
  - c. I Corinthians 15:39-49
  
2. Apparently there were those believers in Corinth who were being baptized on behalf of the dead. Paul's questions in I Corinthians 15:29 **do not in any way condone this practice.** He uses these questions to show the absurdity of this practice by people who do not believe in the resurrection. Then in I Corinthians 15:30 he asks why (if there is no resurrection of the dead) he would hazard his life (for the sake of the gospel). The reference to having *fought with beasts at Ephesus* may be literal or a reference to cruel and vicious men who opposed the gospel in Ephesus. Epicurean philosophy results from unbelief in the resurrection of the dead. Write this from I Corinthians 15:32c.
  - a. How does this help you understand the way some people live today?
  
  - b. I Corinthians 15:33, 34 warn us and advise us about associating with those who have not the knowledge (agnostics) of God. Write these in your own words or from other versions:
    - (1.) I Corinthians 15:33
    - (2.) I Corinthians 15:34

*Bad company corrupts good character.*

*I Corinthians 15:33b 9QV*

3. Many Christians are curious about what our resurrection bodies will be like. Burial in the ground or cremation certainly alter the form of the body. With what common example does Paul answer their questions? I Corinthians 15:36-38
  - a. Give or draw or bring an illustration of this from your garden.

4. I Corinthians 15:38-41 show God's *glorious* and *infinite variety* in creation and assure us that our resurrected bodies will be *infinitely* more *glorious* than these earthly ones. Contrast these earthly bodies of ours with our heavenly bodies by filling in the following chart from I Corinthians 15:42b - 44a. Notice that the resurrected body is related to the natural body by the word *sown*.

Sown	Raised

Optional: Complete the following chart from I Corinthians 15:44b-50.

Natural body	Spiritual body
vs. 45- first Adam (Genesis 2:7)	last Adam (I Corinthians 15:22)
vs. 46	
vs. 47	
vs. 48	
vs. 49	
vs. 50	

5. Thoroughly absorb the awesome revelation and promise of I Corinthians 15:49 as you print it here.
- Express your reaction to this thrilling promise.
  - In what way does this verse affect your perspective of life here on planet earth?

*Then we shall be where we would be,  
Then we shall be what we should be;  
Things that are not now, nor could be,  
Soon shall be our own.*

-Thomas Kelly (1769-1854)

**FOURTH DAY:** Read I Corinthians 15:50-57

- Observe and mark the paragraph division in today's assignment and print a bumper sticker message from this paragraph.

*I Corinthians 15:50-57*

2. Notice the word *behold* in I Corinthians 15:51. It prompts us to *hold our attention* on what follows. What is the *mystery* revealed in this verse?
- a. *Sleep* means here that all believers will not die before the resurrection takes place. *Changed* in verses 51 and 52 means to *make different, transform*. View this change once again from Philippians 3:(20)21 and I John 3:2. What do you see?
- b. Phrase by phrase write what I Corinthians 15:52 says about this.
- (1.) What does I Thessalonians 4:13-18 add to this?
- (2.) How quickly will this take place?

*In the army encampments in Paul's time  
trumpets were blown to cause the soldiers  
to wake up, pack up, fall in line, and move out.  
The last trump for Christians is their final wake up call.*

- c. Why must this *corruptible* put on *incorruption*, and this *mortal* put on *immortality*? (Refer to I Corinthians 15:50 for your answer.)
3. This will be the ultimate triumph for the believer. These verses reveal four areas of triumph. Record the phrases from I Corinthians 15:54b to 57 that match the following definitions:
1. Prophecy will be fulfilled \_\_\_\_\_
  2. Victory over death and the grave \_\_\_\_\_
  3. Victory over sin and the law \_\_\_\_\_
  4. Divine victory \_\_\_\_\_
- a. Which of these phrases is most meaningful to you today? Why?
- b. Notice the word *victory* mentioned three times in this paragraph. List a few synonyms for this word.
- (1.) What word or phrase would you use to define this victory?
- (2.) What difference does it make to you that sin and death are defeated?

Advanced: Explain the meaning of I Corinthians 15:56.

4. Ponder the wonder and joy of this victory. *Death and sin will be devoured by victory.* Think of living in our redeemed bodies in an atmosphere utterly without fear of death or sin. Now, write I Corinthians 15:57 as your thanksgiving to God for this glorious victory now and then.

a. Through Whom do we have this *victory*? Print your answer in large bold letters.

(1.) How do we have this *victory*?

(a.) Hebrews 2:14b

(b.) I Corinthians 15:20a

*Up from the grave He arose  
With a mighty triumph o'er his foes;  
He arose a Victor from the dark domain,  
And He lives forever with His saints to reign.  
He arose! He arose!  
Hallelujah! Christ arose!*

**FIFTH DAY:** Read I Corinthians 15:58

1. Notice the word *therefore* that begins the final, one verse paragraph of this chapter. To what does *therefore* refer?
  - a. This prospect of the *rapture* (I Thessalonians 4:17 *caught up*), this *resurrection*, is to be a powerful incentive for all the *beloved* believers to be: (List the words from I Corinthians 15:58.)
    - (1.)
    - (2.)
    - (3.)
    - (a.) Define each of these words.
    - (b.) Comment on what they say to you about your life.
    - (c.) Couple *always abounding* with I Corinthians 15:10b. What did God's grace accomplish through Paul?
  - b. Our belief in the ultimate victory we have through Christ must affect the way we live now. In response to I Corinthians 15:58 what specific action or decision are you making?
2. What do we *know* from I Corinthians 15:58b about any *labour* (work, toil, weariness, fatigue) we do for the Lord?

- a. Our *labour* in the Lord is *never futile, wasted, or to no purpose* (Amp.). Whether we experience results or not, we can cling to this promise. How does that strengthen, comfort, and encourage you?
  - b. How does II Chronicles 15:7 augment this?
3. Be aware that I Corinthians 15:58 is addressed to all believers - not just pastors and teachers. In recognition of this what does *always abounding in the work of the Lord* say to you?
    - a. List some of the ways a believer can do this no matter what his or her circumstances.
  4. Now, write I Corinthians 15:58 from any version you choose personalizing it as a prayerful commitment unto the Lord. Sign your name as a pledge of obedience. Yield to the Holy Spirit Who is able to empower you to fulfill your desire.

*Then steadfast let us still remain  
 Though danger rise around,  
 And in the work prescribed by God  
 Yet more and more abound.  
 Assured that though we labour now,  
 We labour not in vain  
 But through the grace of Jesus Christ,  
 our eternal crown shall gain.*  
 c.m.

**SIXTH DAY:** Review I Corinthians 15

1. State the main subject of I Corinthians 15. See verse 12b.
  - a. Why is the resurrection of Christ central to the gospel?
2. What particular aspect of the believers' resurrection has most affected you this week?
3. Share a way the example of a seed has helped you understand what our *resurrected* or *changed* bodies will be like.
4. In what way does the revelation of the *mystery* of I Corinthians 15:51-57 affect your priorities, attitudes, and actions?
  - a. If Jesus were to come today, what one specific thing would you want to make sure you had accomplished?
5. Measuring the length of time we are on this earth with eternity, what immediate changes would you like to make in your life?

6. If you were prone to waiver in your faith, become *lukewarm* or *weary in well doing*, how might this chapter recharge your batteries?
  
7. In light of Christ's return what warning from Luke 21:34-36 need we heed?
  - a. What things contribute to your carrying out the exhortation of I Corinthians 15:58?
  
8. Share a specific discovery from I Corinthians 15 that has ministered to you.

*Be watchful, be steadfast, be courageous, be brave.  
Let all that you do be done in love.  
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.  
Our love be with you all in Christ Jesus.*

**MARANATHA!**

*I Corinthians 16*