

Understand your Bible

Suggested notes

1 Corinthians 15

Background to the chapter

The apostle Paul's preaching in the Greek city of Corinth resulted in a group of believers. This chapter, looking at the question of the resurrection of the dead, is part of a letter Paul sent to this group.

What we will see in this chapter:

- What Paul taught about resurrection
- The significance of the resurrection of Jesus Christ for us
- Events after the resurrection

1 Read the chapter

2 Questions to help us in our understanding of this chapter. Look at the chapter verses in your Bible and use the questions to help you make your notes.

Chapter verses	Questions (to help with your notes)	Suggested notes
1 to 4	1. What did Paul want them to know happened to Christ?	Christ died for our sins, was buried and raised on the third day.
5 to 11	2. Who saw the resurrected Jesus Christ?	Cephas (Peter), the twelve, over five hundred brothers, James, all the apostles and last of all Paul.
12 to 19	3. What did Paul say follows if Christ was not raised from the dead? <i>Text note: "fallen asleep" means "died"</i>	Our faith is empty and futile; we are still in our sins. Those who have died have perished; we are in a sorry state.
20 to 23	4. What are the consequences for us of Christ's resurrection from the dead? <i>Text note: "firstfruits" means "first of more to come". "In Adam" is "our natural state".</i>	Jesus Christ is the first of many who will rise from the dead. Those who are "in Christ" will also be raised when Jesus comes back to the earth.
24 to 28	5. What will be the events after our resurrection from the dead?	Jesus will reign until all his enemies are overcome. The last enemy to be abolished will be death. He will then deliver the Kingdom to God and be subject to him. God will then be all in all.

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29 to 34	6. Why does Paul risk his life preaching?	He believes he will be raised if he loses his life in doing so.
35 to 50	7. What are the contrasts between people now and those raised in the Kingdom of God?	Perishable and imperishable Dishonour and glory Weakness and power Natural and spiritual Made of dust and heavenly
51 to 58	8. What is the great hope that the resurrection gives and what should our response be?	Our mortal, perishable bodies can become immortal and imperishable through our Lord Jesus Christ. We should always be doing what God asks of us because there is real long-term value in doing so.

3 Related theme: *Many will rise from the dead and live forever.*

Have a look at these related verses and see this theme running through the Bible. Make a note of the main point(s) in the verse(s).

Verse(s)	Main point(s)
Daniel 12 v 2	Daniel says the dead will rise from the grave.
Hosea 13 v 14 <i>Text note: Hebrew "Sheol" is translated grave in some versions.</i>	Hosea says that God will rescue people from the grave.
John 11 v 24 and 25	Martha says she believes that her dead brother will rise from the dead. Jesus then tells her that it is through belief in him that we can be raised.
Acts 24 v 14 and 15	The apostle Paul says that he believes in the resurrection of the dead.
Philippians 3 v 10 and 11	Paul tells the Philippians that being raised from the dead is the most important thing to him.
1 Thessalonians 4 v 16	Paul tells the Thessalonians that the resurrection will take place at the return of Jesus Christ.