

## 1 CORINTHIANS 15:20-34

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### 15:20

- “But now” is Paul’s way of saying that the Corinthian view and all its implications and consequences is wrong
- The phrase “fallen asleep” is a term that is used to refer to the death of a believer
- His resurrection is called a “firstfruits”
- First, the idea of firstfruits carries with it an idea of guaranteed outcome
- A firstfruits assures that more is to come afterwards
- Second, the future thing is similar to the first thing
- The harvest followed the firstfruits

### 15:21

- The comparison is between:
  - Two events: death and resurrection
  - Two people: Adam and Christ
- The one that brought about death is a reference to Adam
- The Bible teaches that all humans face physical death as a result of Adam’s sin
- Here, the one through whom comes the resurrection of the dead is Christ

### 15:22

- Our death comes due to our connection with Adam
- Our resurrection comes due to our connection with Christ

### 15:23

- Paul is going to speak of the order of all these things
- In verses 23-24, Paul will speak of three events that will take place
- First, it speaks of the resurrection of Christ
- Second, speaks of the future resurrection of those are Christ’s

### 15:24

- The third event is simply called “the end”
- It would be the end of the world
- It would be the end of time as we know it
- First, Jesus will yield the kingdom to the Father
- It speaks of the end of Christ’s mediatorial work
- It speaks of the end of Christ’ redemptive work for mankind
- Second, He abolishes every rule, authority and power
- This would speak of Satan and his angels
- This also would speak of the power of death being abolished

### 15:25

- Here, Paul explains why Jesus must reign as He does until all His enemies are defeated
- The picture of one’s enemies being put under one’s feet is a picture of complete defeat of an enemy and total subjection to the victor

## 15:26

- Physical death is said here to be the last enemy
- It means that death is the final or ultimate enemy
- Death is presented not just as an enemy, but as a reigning enemy
- Death is not natural in that death was not a part of God's original plan
- Death is the enemy of God

## 15:27

- The basis for this verse is found in Psalm 8
- That is that God the Father put all things in subjection to Christ

## 15:28

- The time in which all things are subjected to Christ is at the resurrection of the dead
- This does not mean that Jesus has some lesser or subordinate place
- Jesus does not give up deity at that time
- When he says that God may be "all in all" that means that He might be supreme over all things

## 15:29

- This is one of the most difficult and argued passages in the New Testament
- First, it does seem that there was some practice going on in the church that Paul calls a baptism for the dead
- Second, Paul is not endorsing this practice (whatever it was) in any way, shape or form
- The Corinthian's actions did not properly reflect their beliefs
- Some people take this a general reference to Christian baptism
- It could be speaking of the motivation behind some people's baptism
- Paul's point is that if there really is no resurrection from the dead, such a thing (whatever that thing was) makes no sense either

## 15:30-31

- Paul will use himself as an example of a consistency between belief and action
- The proof he gives is his living in constant danger for the sake of the Gospel

## 15:32

- Sometimes "wild beasts" is used as a metaphor for dangerous people
- Paul is saying that the only thing in it for him is in the future

## 15:33

- The thing that he does not want them to be deceived about is the future resurrection
- Our morals are the result of our beliefs
- Paul is urging them not to associate with people who do not believe in a future resurrection because it is going to negatively influence their beliefs and as a result their morals

## 15:34

- First, he tells them to sober up
- Second, he tells them to stop sinning
- The Corinthians would be foolish to get their theology from someone who is ignorant of God

