

First things first
25. The resurrection of the Christ (1 Cor. 15v12-34)

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Introduction

- The significance of the resurrection?
- The situation in Corinth (v12)

What if Christ has not been raised (v12-19, 29-32)

- Our preaching is in vain (v14)
- The apostles are liars (v15-16)
- Christians are still in their sins (v17)
- Christians who have died are lost (v18, 29)
- Living for Christ is a waste of time (v19, 30-32)

What if Christ has been raised (v20-28)

- We will be raised (v20-22)
- Creation will be renewed (v23-28)

Conclusion (v33-34)

- Are we living now in the light of the future?

Bible references: 1 Cor. 15:3-4, Heb. 9:27

1 Corinthians 15v12-34 (NIV)

¹² But if it is preached that Christ has been raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? ¹³ If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. ¹⁴ And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. ¹⁵ More than that, we are then found to be false witnesses about God, for we have testified about God that he raised Christ from the dead. But he did not raise him if in fact the dead are not raised. ¹⁶ For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either. ¹⁷ And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. ¹⁸ Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost. ¹⁹ If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are to be pitied more than all men.

²⁰ But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. ²¹ For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. ²² For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive.

²³ But each in his own turn: Christ, the firstfruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him. ²⁴ Then the end will come, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father after he has destroyed all dominion, authority and power. ²⁵ For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. ²⁶ The last enemy to be destroyed is death. ²⁷ For he "has put everything under his feet". Now when it says that "everything" has been put under him, it is clear that this does not include God himself, who put everything under Christ. ²⁸ When he has done this, then the Son himself will be made subject to him who put everything under him, so that God may be all in all.

²⁹ Now if there is no resurrection, what will those do who are baptized for the dead? If the dead are not raised at all, why are people baptized for them? ³⁰ And as for us, why do we endanger ourselves every hour? ³¹ I die every day--I mean that, brothers--just as surely as I glory over you in Christ Jesus our Lord. ³² If I fought wild beasts in Ephesus for merely human reasons, what

have I gained? If the dead are not raised, "Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die."

³³ Do not be misled: "Bad company corrupts good character."

³⁴ Come back to your senses as you ought, and stop sinning; for there are some who are ignorant of God--I say this to your shame.

Two resources on the Christian hope of resurrection

Rory Shiner, "*Raised Forever – Jesus' resurrection and ours*" (Great little book on the implications of the resurrection for us; very readable and answers all the questions that we often have!)

Mark Ashton, "*On my way to heaven: facing death with Christ*" (short booklet available on the bookstall, written by a pastor as he faces his own death; suitable to give away)