**INTRODUCTION**

**The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the cornerstone and centerpiece of the Gospel – the “Good News”. Early in His earthly ministry, when challenged by the Jewish religious leaders to show them a sign of His authority, Jesus said, “Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up.” (John 2:19) Only after His resurrection did the apostles understand the meaning of this statement (John 2:21-22). Our very salvation is based on our faith in His resurrection: “That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.” (Romans 10:9) Yet there were some Christians in Corinth who openly doubted the reality of the resurrection. This was probably the result of false teaching. In Chapter 15, Paul confronts this error with a complete retelling of the Gospel (verses 3-8) including the appearances of the risen Savior after His resurrection. Later, he reveals a wonderful “mystery” (verses 51-52) concerning the resurrection of the dead.**

1. **Read verses 1-2. What does Paul intend to declare to the Corinthians? Answer: He declares the which he to them.**
2. **How did the Corinthians respond to the preaching of the Gospel, and what was (and still is) important for them (and us) to continue to do? (v. 1-2) Answer:**
3. **Read verses 3-11. Here, Paul re-tells the key facts of the Gospel and the events that happened after Jesus’ resurrection, when He appeared to many people. What THREE specific acts that happened “according to the scriptures” are listed in verses 3-4?**
4. **In verses 5-8 Paul notes many of the “post-resurrection appearances” of the Lord (this isn’t a comprehensive list – it doesn’t include the women at the tomb, or the two disciples on the road to Emmaus (Luke 24:13-31), for example). How many times was Jesus seen, and by whom?**
5. **Who was the first apostle to see Jesus? Why might this have been necessary (Hint – read Matthew 26:31-35, 40-41, 69-75)? What does this tell us about Jesus? What can WE learn from this?**
6. **Who was the LAST person to see the risen Lord (v. 8-10)? How did he feel about this?**
7. **How does Paul finish his re-telling of the post-resurrection appearances of Jesus Christ? (v. 11; see also Romans 10:6-15)**
8. **Read verses 12-19. In this passage, Paul uses “if-then” logical statements to challenge those Corinthians who had believed the “doctrine of the Sadducees” (Mark 12:18-27; Acts 23:8) First of all, how serious was this problem in the church? (v. 12; read II Timothy 2:16-18)**
9. **The first of Paul’s statements is in verse 13. What was it? Answer: He said, “If there be no of the , then is not .”**
10. **Paul’s second logical statement follows the first – what is the value of Paul’s preaching and the Corinthians’ faith if Christ is NOT risen from the dead? (v.14) Answer: His preaching is , and their faith is also .**
11. **What SERIOUS problem would all Christians have if “the dead rise not”? (v. 15) Answer: We would be “ of God”. What is the consequence of being this? (Read Proverbs 19:9; Revelation 22:8)**
12. **What FOUR EVEN MORE SERIOUS problems would Christians have “if the dead rise not”? (verses 15-18)**
13. **What would Christians be if there was no hope for a future life after this one? (v. 19) Answer: Christians would be the “ of all people.”**
14. **Read verses 20-28. When Jesus rose from the dead, He became the of them that . (v. 20) (See Exodus 23:14-17; Numbers 8:8-14; Proverbs 3:9-10; Nehemiah 10:34-39)**
15. **Who was the man who brought the REALITY of DEATH into the family of humankind? (v. 20-22) Answer: (See Genesis 3:17-19; Romans 5:12)**
16. **Who is the Man that brought the REALITY of RESURRECTION into the family of humankind? (v. 20-22) Answer: (See John 11:24-25; Romans 5:17-19)**
17. **What does the resurrection of Jesus Christ mean to everyone? (v. 22) Answer: In Christ shall all be . See Daniel 12:1-2; Isaiah 26:19; Revelation 20:4-6, 11-15)**
18. **Verse 23 shows the order in the resurrection. Who is first? Answer: . Who is next? Answer: They that are at His . (I Thessalonians 4:13-17)**
19. **Verses 24-28 briefly summarize what the apostle John describes in detail in the last book of the Bible – the Book of Revelations – chapters 4-22. All of those events were set in motion by the resurrection of Jesus Christ: because He rose, He will reign! During His reign as King of kings, what (and who) will Jesus “put down”? (v. 24) Answer: He will put down all and all and . (See Daniel 2:31-45)**
20. **Where will King Jesus put all of His enemies? (v. 25) Answer: He must reign until He has put them His .**
21. **The last enemy that Jesus will destroy is . (v.26)**
22. **What will Jesus Christ the Son of God do when “all things shall be subdued” to Him? (v. 28) Describe, in your own words.**
23. **Read verses 29-34. Paul, having shown how important the resurrection is to the future of every Christian, now shows how important it is for the present. The first verse of this passage has puzzled many Bible scholars. What is the practice that Paul describes in verse 29? Answer: he asks the Corinthians about those who were for the . This practice is called vicarious or proxy baptism.**
24. **What was life like for a Christian in those days? (v. 30-31) Answer: Paul stated that their lives stood in every hour. Why would the hope of resurrection be especially important to them? (See Luke 21:12-19; II Corinthians 11:24-30; Hebrews 11:35-40)**
25. **Paul now talks of his experience with persecution in the city of Ephesus, some of which is found in Acts Chapter 19. What Roman gladiatorial event did Paul use to describe his experience? (v. 32) Answer: Forcing to fight with .**
26. **What would Paul’s attitude towards suffering be if there was no hope of resurrection? (v. 32) Answer: “Let us and , for tomorrow we “.**
27. **In verses 33-34, Paul gives a warning to those Corinthians who had come to doubt the reality of the (past) resurrection of Jesus and the (future) resurrection of His church: be careful with whom you associate. In Corinth, like most Greek cities, there was a diversity of philosophical and religious thought (See Acts 17:16-21). What is the effect of “evil communications” (KJV: “bad company” (NIV); “evil companionships” (Amplified))? (v. 33) Answer: They “ good manners”. (See Matthew 16:6-12; Galatians 5:6-9; Acts 20:28-31; Romans 16:17-18)**
28. **What is Paul’s command to those who had come to doubt the reality of Christ’s resurrection? (v.34) Answer: to , and not”.**
29. **Read verse 35. Paul continues to teach about the resurrection. What two questions does he anticipate from the Corinthians?**
30. **Read verses 36-49. This passage gives us the most detailed description of the resurrection in the New Testament and summarizes all that Paul understood at that time. Paul compares the resurrection to what natural process? (v. 36-38; See also John 12:23-24) Answer:**
31. **What other parts of God’s creation does Paul use to illustrate the wonderful nature of the resurrection? (v. 39-41) Answer:**
32. **In verses 42-44, the apostle Paul shows the sharp contrast between the bodies that we have now and those that we shall have after the resurrection. Use the table below to summarize his comparison.**

**It is SOWN (planted; buried): It is RAISED (resurrected):**

1. **In verses 45-49, Paul returns to the comparison between the first man – Adam, and the second Man – Jesus Christ. Where is it written that “the first man Adam was made a living soul”? (v. 45) Answer:**
2. **Who was (is) the last Adam, and what was He made? (v. 45; see also John 5:24-29; John 6:37-40, 53-58; Acts 3:13-15) Answer: The last Adam is , and He was made a .**
3. **In verses 46-48, what two words are used to describe the “first man”? Answer: the first man (Adam) is described as (v. 46) and (v. 47). (See also Genesis 2:7 and Genesis 3:17-19)**
4. **In the same verses, how is the “second Man” described? Answer: He (Jesus) is described as (v. 46) and called the from (v. 47).**
5. **This passage ends with a promise (v. 48-49). What is that glorious promise? (See John 14: 1-3 and I John 3:2-3) Answer (in your own words):**
6. **The last passage of this great chapter (verses 50-58) reveals a wonderful transformation that will take place when Jesus Christ returns for His church, as well as an exciting revelation! It begins with a statement that seems obvious – we cannot get into heaven as we are (v. 50). Look at these three instances of what happened when the heavenly meets the earthly: Numbers 19:10-19; Daniel 10:4-12, 15-19; Revelation 1:9-17. Your comments?**
7. **What is the “mystery” that Paul reveals to the Corinthians in verse 51? Answer: We shall not all , but we shall all be .**
8. **What is the “signal” for this transformation to take place? (v. 52) The shall sound. (See also I Thessalonians 4:15-17)**
9. **When this wonderful change takes place, what scripture will be fulfilled? (v.54) Answer:**
10. **What will the risen saints say to their last (defeated) enemy? (v. 55) Answer:**
11. **What is the sting of death? (v. 56) Answer: . What is the strength of sin? Answer: the . (See Romans 7:5-13)**
12. **Who gives us victory over death and the grave, and by what means? (v. 57) Answer:**
13. **This chapter ends with an exhortation (word of encouragement) and a promise, made possible by the reality of the resurrection. (v. 58) What THREE things are we exhorted to be?**
14. **What is the promise to all who work (labor) for the Lord? (v. 58) (See also II Timothy 2:8-13; II Timothy 4:6-8; Revelation 22:12-13)**

**Summary**

**We have come almost to the end of our journey through this wonderful letter to the church at Corinth. Our goal was to focus on the “Love Chapter” – Chapter 13. But we have done so much more. The church at Corinth certainly needed more love; many of their problems had a lack of love for one another as the “root” cause: divisions, strife, arguing over the value of their spiritual gifts, and so on. Christian love – unconditional, freely given and received, was the solution for them, and for us.**

**Another characteristic of this church was a lack of discipline and order. There was disorderliness in the way they worshipped, how they received Communion, and even in their giving (as we will see in Chapter 16). These things should all be done “decently and in order”. Paul taught that the most important people in the church were the “unlearned” and “unbelieving” visitors who would judge the Gospel of Jesus Christ by what they saw. As we prepare to resume indoor services at some future time, we should be more considerate of how we appear to our visitors, as well as how we treat them.**