

First Corinthians 15 & 16

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Greetings, everyone! Welcome to Sabbath services! This Sabbath we're going to do a verse-by-verse study of 1-Cor. 15. The reason that I'm doing it so we can finish the series that we have, going through 1-Cor.

I actually went through the first six chapters in the Corinthians series long time ago. Then Jim, in compiling everything, was able to get 7-14, but we're missing chapters 15 and 16. Sixteen does not have very much in the way of things that you need to know.

But fifteen is very important. What you will do, if you look at the *Fourteen Rules of Bible Study*, we will go through it just exactly according to the rules of Bible study. That should apply every time you want to do an in-depth study. There may be some things you want to know, that you've had questions about, but you don't know how to answer them.

1-Corinthians 15:1: "Now, I am declaring to you, brethren, the *same* Gospel that I proclaimed to you, which you also received, *and* in which you are now standing." That's very interesting! There are two things you stand in which also means under, because they come from God:

1. the Gospel
2. the grace of God

Romans 5:1: "Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through Whom we also have access by faith into this grace **in which we stand...**"

That's very important, because the Gospel brings us the grace of God and we stand in grace. When you go through the series, *Grace Upon Grace*, you will see that God has put us in a special category that no one else in the world has any entitlement to. That is to have the Holy Spirit of God and direct connection with God the Father in heaven above.

We just saw what the likeness of the Holy of Holies is going to be in the coming temple in Jerusalem. On the Day of Atonement we learn that the high priest only went into the Holy of Holies *one day a year*.

However, with *grace upon grace*—standing in the grace, standing in the Gospel—we have access to God the Father and Jesus Christ 24/7 through prayer. That's something to really contemplate and think about, and how much hope this is to give us

when we look out and see how things are going in the world.

1-Corinthians 15:2: "By which you are also being saved... [by the Gospel; that's the way it is in the Greek] ...if you are holding fast *the* words that I proclaimed to you; otherwise you have believed in vain."

Sidebar: 1st & 2nd-Cor. are filled with so many problems and difficulties, I just imagine that the Apostle Paul from time-to-time when he was praying to God, said, 'God, why did you give me all these problems in this Church?' The answer is that covers every single problem—plus other Epistles of Paul covering other problems—that we will have in our Christian lives at any time in the history of true Christianity. We have the answers for it right here:

Verse 2: "By which you are also being saved... [this is present-tense passive; it is being accomplished] ...**if** you are holding fast *the* words that I proclaimed to you..." This also tells us why:

- Bible study is so important
- knowing and understanding the Word of God is important
- living in the grace of God and by the words and commandments of God are very important

1-Corinthians 1:18: "For to those who are perishing..."—the people in the world, the Greeks especially. You talk about intellectual vanity, the Greeks had the highest scale of that with their philosophers and everything that they had intellectually. They had some very complicated things that they invented.

They have found a very precision machine that is calculating time, that has many gears. It was found at the bottom of the Aegean Sea near Greece. And was also used for navigation. So, this whole thing that the people back in Jesus' time were a bunch of ignorant fools running around with used burlap bags for clothes and had long hair, because they didn't know how to cut it, etc. *is foolishness*.

"...the preaching of the cross is foolishness..." (v 18). 'You believe in Someone Who gave His life so that you can have your sins forgiven? Compared to our great philosophies?' *Nonsense!*

"...but to us who are being saved..." (v 18). This tells us *salvation is a process!* Protestantism falls absolutely flat on their nose, because they think, 'once saved-always saved, and all you have to

do is say I believe in Jesus. Jesus forgives my sins and it's done.' *Not so!*

Let's see why it is a process. Consider this, Peter tells us we are to 'grow in grace and knowledge.' If we're to grow in grace and knowledge, how is it that salvation is so simple and instantaneous? *It's not! It's a process! You are being saved!*

Ephesians 2:8: "For by grace... [because God has reached down here to call you with His Spirit] ...you have been saved..." That is past-tense right there. *You have been saved!* But the question is: From what?

Verse 1: "Now you were dead in trespasses and sins." When the man said, 'I'll follow you, Lord, but let me bury my father,' Jesus said, 'Let the dead bury their dead.' Everyone that does not have the Spirit of God is as good as dead, just a matter of time.

Verse 2: "In which you walked in times past... [walking in your sins, living in them] ...according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now working within the children of disobedience." We have been saved from Satan the devil *and* from our past sins. ***But we have to grow in grace and knowledge and develop the character of God!*** That's the whole purpose of grace in the New Testament.

Verse 3: "Among whom also we all once had our conduct in the lusts of our flesh, doing the things willed by the flesh and by the mind, and were by nature *the* children of wrath, even as the rest of *the* world." *This is what we have been saved from!* We have not received the completion of salvation, and that does not come until the first resurrection.

Verse 8: "...and this *especially* is not of your own selves; *it is* the gift of God, not of works..." (vs 8-9)—***your*** works. 'Oh, Lord, look what I did for You; isn't that wonderful? Nobody ever did this.'

"...so that no one may boast" (v 9). Just think if Job would have made it on his own!

Verse 10: "For we are **His workmanship, being created** ..." A *process* of creation! Why is it process? ***Because it is in our mind and heart with God's Spirit!*** That takes:

- time
- living
- faith
- study
- prayer
- understanding

"...in Christ Jesus unto *the* good works..." (v 10). ***If*** you do your own works, that's not going to do anything toward salvation. But ***if*** you keep the commandments of God, whose work is it? *The good works from God!* That's why when you read Rev. 2 & 3, Jesus says, '*I know your works and I judge you by your works.*'

If our works are our own, carnally speaking, we haven't built any spiritual character. So we ***are being created*** with God's Spirit to develop the character of God so that when the resurrection takes place we will be ready for a spirit-mind and body.

Verse 10: "For we are His workmanship, being created in Christ Jesus unto *the* good works that God ordained beforehand in order that we might walk in them."

1-Corinthians 15:2: "By which you are also being saved, if you are holding fast *the* words that I proclaimed to you; otherwise you have believed in vain. For in the first place, I delivered to you what I also had received: that Christ died for our sins, according to the Scriptures" (vs 2-3).

This has to be New Testament Scriptures. No place in the Old Testament does it say, 'The Messiah will be in heart of the earth three days and three nights.' The only one that said that was Jesus Himself. How do we know that's not Old Testament Scripture? Remember what I brought out about the ministers of the Word were writing it down, as Jesus was teaching, and the events were occurring.

I hope to get that book real soon *Jesus' Stenographers* by B.J.E. Van Noort (a Dutchman) [transcriber's correction of title] He has a chapter on how they took shorthand. Again, everything about the time of Christ is cast into the 'just evolved out of the caveman era.' ***Not true!***

1-Timothy 6:3: "If anyone teaches any different doctrine, and does not adhere to sound words, *even those* of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the doctrine *that is* according to Godliness."

He's talking to people in Ephesus who never heard Jesus. This tells us they had the Gospels written by the time he wrote this, which was in about 62_{A.D.} Very important to understand.

1-Corinthians 15:3: "...Christ died for our sins, according to the Scriptures." If they were ministers of the Word, what they were writing became Scriptures.

We have other prophecies in the Old Testament about the resurrection: 'I will rejoice when I awake in your likeness' (Psa. 17). But that doesn't tell how many days, how many nights in the grave.

Verse 4: “And that He was buried; and that He was raised the third day... [which is all about the Gospels] ...according to the Scriptures; and that He appeared to Cephas, *and* then to the twelve. Then He appeared to over five hundred brethren at one time...” (vs 4-6). That’s when He was on the mount in Galilee. Imagine what that would have been like? Imagine what those 500 thought?

“...of whom the greater part are alive until now, but some have fallen sleep. Next He appeared to James; then to all the apostles; and last of all He appeared to me also, as one who was born of a miscarriage. For I am the least of the apostles, *and* am not fit *even* to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the Church of God. But by *the* grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me has not been in vain; rather, I have labored more abundantly than all of them; however, *it was* not I, but the grace of God with me” (vs 6-10).

Let’s see what else Paul says. It makes you wonder why those who say that ‘the Gospels were only orally transmitted for over 300 years.’ Sometimes if you have people sitting in a circle, and you whisper something in the ear of one, and he whispers it to the ear of the other around the circle, it gets mixed up. How long would that take? Five minutes? What about 300 years? *It was written down!*

Think of this: ***The coming of Jesus Christ, His first coming, was a most important event in the history of the world up until that time!*** You think God would leave it to people in their imaginations? *No!* Likewise with Paul; he was called out of sequence with the other apostles.

Galatians 1:6: “I am astonished that you are so quickly being turned away from Him Who called you into *the* grace of Christ, to a different gospel, which *in reality* is not another *Gospel*... [there is only one and that began with Christ] ...but there are some who are troubling you and are desiring to pervert the Gospel of Christ” (vs 6-7).

- Have we experienced that?
- Have we lived through that? *Yes, indeed!*

But notice what he says. How important is the Word of God? I can tell you this, this was one of the guiding things that I was following when I was translating the New Testament, and then later as much I could, the Old Testament with the help of Michael Heiss.

Verse 8: “But if we, or even an angel from heaven, should preach a gospel to you *that* is contrary to what we have preached, LET HIM BE ACCURSED!” That’s very emphatic in the Greek:

Accursed! That means *let him be thrown in the Lake of Fire!*

How important is it to stay true to the Word of God? *Absolutely important!*

Verse 9: “As we have said before, I also now say again. If anyone is preaching a gospel contrary to what you have received, LET HIM BE ACCURSED! Now then, am I striving to please men, or God?... [you can’t do both] ...Or am I motivated to please men? For if I am yet pleasing men, I would not be a servant of Christ” (vs 9-10).

What happened to so many of the ministers who were trying to please men? I remember one time I was sitting in the auditorium in Pasadena and all they did was praise the founder of it. Every other sentence had his name in it. So, one Sabbath I decided to do a little score keeping. I put the name of the founder of that church and the so-called apostle, abbreviation H.W.A. The next column I put Jesus Christ. I did tick marks. How many for the founder? *111 in an hour and a half sermon!* Was that seeking to please men? *Yes, indeed! Less than 25 for Jesus Christ!* I think that is illustrative. Where is that man now? He is not a servant of Christ; he is gone!

Verse 11: “But I certify to you, brethren, that the Gospel that was preached by me is not according to man; because neither did I receive it from man, nor was I taught *it by man*; rather, *it was by the* revelation of Jesus Christ” (vs 11-12). Paul says in another place that he was down in Arabia and he was there for three and a half years.

Verse 13: “For you heard of my former conduct when I was in Judaism, how I was excessively persecuting the Church of God and was destroying it; and I was advancing in Judaism *far* beyond many *of my* contemporaries in my *own* nation, being more abundantly zealous for *the* traditions of my fathers” (vs 13-14). Trying to please men to get number one!

Verse 15: “But when it pleased God, Who selected me from my mother’s womb, and called *me* by His grace.” Paul’s calling was very ungracious. He was knocked flat to the ground, made blind for three days.

Verse 16: “To reveal His own Son in me, in order that I might preach Him as the Gospel among the Gentiles...”

Also, Paul was from the tribe of Benjamin, the smallest tribe and the last son of Jacob. God, many times, takes small things, that which is least. Paul was like that.

“...I did not immediately confer with flesh and blood, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those *who*

were apostles before me; but I went away into Arabia, and returned again to Damascus. Then, after three years, I went up to Jerusalem to become acquainted with Peter... [imagine what a shock that was] ...and I remained with him fifteen days” (vs 17-18). So, the Gospel that Christ gave to Paul was exactly the same one He taught the twelve apostles.

Sidebar: Someone wrote me a note and said, ‘When I read about New Jerusalem, all twelve of the apostles are listed as part of the foundation. I didn’t see the name of that man who proclaimed himself to be an apostle. What do you think?’ I answered back and said, ‘We better stick with the Word of God, but I can tell you one thing, any self-appointed apostle is in deep trouble.’

1-Corinthians 15:11: “Now then, whether I or they, so we preach, and so you have believed. But if Christ is being preached, that He rose from *the* dead...” Notice that in the Church Paul had a hard time convincing them of the resurrection. If you read some of the Greek philosophies you’ll understand. This is the very problem in Christianity today. They believe in going to heaven, no resurrection.

In the book, *My Catholic Faith*, it’s ridiculous to read how the souls in heaven come back into the bodies that have long disintegrated in the earth for the resurrection. An impossibility! No resurrection of the dead.

Then he makes it absolutely clear, v 13: “For if there is no resurrection from *the* dead, neither has Christ been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching *is* in vain, and your faith *is* also in vain” (vs 13-14). {2-Cor. 11 about everything he went through as an apostle.}

Do you think that if the resurrection were not true, that if he didn’t see Jesus Christ and got the Gospel from Him, that he would have endured any of those things listed in 2-Cor. 11? *I say no!*

Verse 15: “And we are also found *to be* false witnesses of God... [and God cannot lie] ...because we have testified of God that He raised Christ, Whom He did not raise, if indeed *the* dead are not raised. For if the dead are not raised, neither has Christ been raised. But if Christ has not been raised, your faith is vain; you are still in your sins, and those who have fallen asleep in Christ have then perished.... [gone forever] ...If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most miserable” (vs 15-19).

God wants the Gospel preached, He wants the Word to go out. Paul *did not know* it’s going to be nearly 2,000 years.

Verse 20: “But now Christ has been raised from *the* dead; He has become the Firstfruit of those who have fallen asleep.”

What do we have in Lev. 23? We have the Wave-Sheaf Offering, the first of the firstfruits. That’s symbolic of Christ’s resurrection. We have a continuous count beginning with that day up to day-50, and that’s the finality of the harvest, which is the harvest of the rest of the firstfruits. So, if you want to stop here and go get one of the sermons on Pentecost, that will fill in the blanks.

Verse 21: “For since by man *came* death, by Man also *came the* resurrection of *the* dead. For as in Adam all die...” (vs 21-22).

When you go through the genealogy of Jesus Christ, that is beginning through *Mary’s father*. Joseph was the son-in-law of Mary’s father, and that is properly translated Joseph the son-in-law of Eli^[transcriber’s correction; Luke 3:23]. Then it goes to Eli’s father, and all the way down to Adam, the son of God. That’s why it’s important that it go back there. That shows that Christ fulfilled the prophecy of the Messiah, to Adam and to Eve.

Once you get into the Bible and put all of these things together, it becomes absolutely a fantastic, wonderful thing to understand.

Romans 5:12: “Therefore, as by one man sin entered into the world...” I don’t know how it would have worked out, but what if when Eve picked the fruit, and Adam would have said, rather than watching what she was doing to see if anything would happen to her, if he would have said, ‘Eve, leave that alone.’ I wonder how the human race would have turned out. Maybe a great deal differently.

We’ve got a sermon also online, *What Would the World have been Like **IF** Adam and Eve had not Sinned?* I suppose it would be very much like it’s going to be in the Millennium. By one man, through him and Eve we have—all of us—‘the law of sin and death.’

“...and by means of sin *came* death; and in this way death passed into... [Greek—‘eis’] ...all mankind; *and it is* for this reason that all have sinned” (v 12). That’s why it has to come through Christ.

1-Corinthians 15:22: “For as in Adam all die...” Then we also have where Paul wrote, ‘It’s given to men once to die and after that the judgment.’ All die, every human being!

“...so also in Christ shall all be made alive” (v 22). That means everyone. When you understand the second resurrection and you understand that part of the second resurrection for the resurrection of the

wicked, *they are all made alive*. Those in the second resurrection to receive salvation, they'll have an opportunity. The wicked who are resurrected are all brought back to life so that they are all judged at once and thrown into the Lake of Fire altogether—*all!*

Verse 23: “But each in his own order: Christ *the* Firstfruit; then, those who are Christ's at His coming.” Nothing in between! Those who are Christ's at His coming are called the firstfruits and they are in the first resurrection.

Verse 24: “Afterwards the end *comes...*” John fills us in with more information, because Paul did not understand the second resurrection. The only thing he wrote about was ‘all Israel shall be saved’ (Rom. 11).

Then he says the greatness of God, the mercy, the compassion, and everything. But no one knew until John was given the revelation of what we have (Rev. 20). The first resurrection, those are Christ's. Then we have the statement, ‘but the rest of the dead lived not again till the thousand years have been finished.’

Verse 24: “Afterwards the end *comes*, when He shall have delivered up the kingdom to Him who *is* God and Father, when He shall have put an end to all rule... [the rule of man, the rule of Satan] ...and all authority and power. For it is ordained that He reign until He has put all enemies under His feet. *The last enemy to be destroyed is death*” (vs 24-26).

I want to show you something in Rev. 20. Keep this mind for any of your Baptist friends who believe in an ever-burning hell. Last enemy: *death!*

Revelation 20:14: “And death and *the* grave were cast into the Lake of Fire. This is the second death.” In the *King James* it reads, “And death and hell...” What is hell to the Protestants and Catholics? That's a place of ever-burning fire. But the Greek word ‘hades’ means *grave*, not hell.

Question for them: Why would God cast ever-burning fire into ever-burning fire? How can you cast hell into ever-burning fire? The Lake of Fire is eventually going to burn out. This is the second death! If there is a second death that means that those who suffer the second death they had to live twice. So, they are included in the phrase ‘*all shall be made alive.*’

That's why it's important for all of to really learn the Bible, so we will not be intimidated with smart questions by people who don't know the Bible. If we know it, what are they going to say?

1-Corinthians 15:26: “*The last enemy to be destroyed is death*. For He has put all things in

subjection under His feet. But when it is said that all things have been put in subjection, *it is* clearly evident that *it does* not include Him [God the Father] Who put all things in subjection under Him” (vs 26-27).

(go to the next track)

Now we're going to cover something that is very important. One of the central doctrines of the Mormon Church is ‘baptisms for the dead.’ That's why they are such ardent genealogists. They have the greatest genealogy capacity of anybody in the world.

They claim that people can be baptized for their relatives, or other people, so that they will receive salvation—they baptize for George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, etc. I wonder if anybody was for Judas?—because of the way it's translated in the *King James Version*.

The whole topic in 1-Cor. 15 is the resurrection. Why can you not be baptized for other people so that they can be saved? *Because it has to be you!* Baptism alone is not enough. So, for them to take it and say, ‘This is a doctrine. We now baptize for people who have been dead’...

I remember one woman, when we were in Salt Lake, she asked to be visited by a minister and I was the minister, so we came in and we started talking. She told me why she had left the Mormon Church, because she was going over to the local church, which was not too far away, but it was a snowy day. They were going to have a baptism for different people there to baptize 200 people that day. To be baptized *for* 200 other people, long dead.

She was the only one there and she went through 200 baptisms. She said, ‘I felt like I was drowning going through that.’ That's as bad as water-boarding. The only thing you have to do is provide the word, like in 1-Cor. 15:29 *resurrection* in italics. That's what it is referring to all the way through. So, when you do that, that eliminates that false interpretation.

1-Corinthians 15:29: “Otherwise, what shall they do who have been baptized for the *resurrection of the dead...* [that's what you're baptized for, *the resurrection*] ...if *the* dead are not raised at all? Why then are they baptized for the *resurrection of the dead?*” Let's see that it's necessary to be baptized so you can be saved.

Mark 16:15: “And He [Jesus] said to them, ‘Go into all the world and preach the Gospel to the whole creation. The one who believes...’” (vs 15-16). You have to be alive so you can believe. A dead person can't believe anything. If you believe in the

immortality of the soul, if they're already in heaven, why do you have to be baptized for them?

Verse 16: "The one who believes and is baptized shall be saved..." *Baptism is necessary for salvation*, but also standing in the Gospel and living by the Gospel is all necessary.

"...shall be saved, but the one who does not believe shall be condemned" (v 16).

1-Corinthians 15:30 is sort of a encapsulation or summary of everything: "Why are we also in danger every hour? I die daily by our boasting, which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord" (vs 30-31).

What does he mean "...die daily..."? Jesus said, *'No one can come to Me unless he hates his father, mother, brother, sister, children, lands, and also his own life, and does not carry his cross, cannot follow Me.'* How do you die every day? *The truth is physically you are dying every day!* Of the trillions of cells that you have, every seven years they're completely replaced. That's why seven years later you look a little older than you were the seven years before.

Remember, all of what we are and every process that's going on in the body came from a speck of dust. Paul says, "...I die daily..." I tell you, Paul really had a difficult life. He had to be exceedingly strong in order to go through this:

2-Corinthians 4:8: "On every *side* we are hard pressed, but not crushed; perplexed, but not despairing; persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed" (vs 8-9)—which shows that God is going to see you through every difficulty, regardless of how hard it is.

Verse 10: "Always carrying about in *our* bodies the dying of the Lord Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies. For those of us who are living are always delivered to death for Jesus' sake, that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our mortal flesh. So then, on the one hand, death is working in us; and on the other hand, *life is working* in you. And having the same spirit of faith, according as it is written, 'I believed, therefore, I have spoken,' we also believe; therefore, we also speak, knowing that He Who raised the Lord Jesus *from the dead* shall also raise us through Jesus, and shall present *us* with you. For all things *are* for your sakes, so that the abounding grace may cause the thanksgiving of many to overflow unto the glory of God. For this reason, we do not lose heart; but if our outward man is being brought to decay, yet, the inward *man* is being renewed day-by-day" (vs 10-16).

In Galatians he says that he *dies daily*. How is that accomplished? *By repentance, overcoming and always moving ahead every day!*

There's one thing the athletes have correct: Don't let the poor game of yesterday tarnish the game today. Take everything day-by-day; likewise with us. What we did yesterday is already over and done, it's gone. There isn't anything you can do. Now, if it was not a good day, you can repent of it today. But if you *die daily* that means that ***you're putting to death the works of the flesh within your mind!*** That's what it means.

1-Corinthians 15:31: "I die daily by our boasting, which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord. If I fought as a man with beasts in Ephesus, what *did* it profit me, if *the* dead are not raised? Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die. Do not be deceived; evil companionship corrupts good behavior. Awake to righteousness, and do not sin, for some *of you* do not have the knowledge of God. I say *this* to your shame" (vs 31-34). Isn't that true with some people in the Church? *Yes, indeed!*

Verse 35: "Nevertheless, someone will say, 'How are the dead raised?... [a mystery of God] ...And with what body do they come?'" If you're lost at sea and the sharks ate you up, how are you going to be resurrected? ***or*** If you died and everything is gone to dust, how are you going to be resurrected? ***The spirit of man!***

What did Jesus say just before He died? *'Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit'*! That substantiates Ecc. 12 where it says when we die the spirit goes back to God Who gave it. It's not resurrected in the same body or the same flesh. Where does that spirit go? Just like I explained before, in these envelopes I have these little chips. I can record the sermon on it. Everything is recorded on this chip. But if I don't have a player, it's worthless.

Likewise with the *spirit of man*, which I'm writing about for the letter in August, quite considerably, to show that *life begins at the instant of conception!* That's it! Heb. 12 gives us an indication. The spirit goes back to God and when you stop and think about it, aren't there a lot of things taking place through the power of God, that the power is so slight, you don't even notice it?

Like right here, right in this room, what do we have? *Radio waves, television waves, light waves coming down upon us!* There's the machine going, we can hear that, for air conditioning. If we had the right tuner, we could tune into every one of those things. But you have to have the right tuner.

When you die, *the spirit goes back to God!* The spirit has no consciousness, because it's just the spirit of man. The spirit of man cannot function without a brain anymore than you can listen to this chip without a player. What does God do?

Hebrews 12:22: "But you have come to Mount Zion, and to *the city of the living God*, heavenly Jerusalem; and to an innumerable company of angels; *to the joyous festival gathering*; and *to the Church of the Firstborn*, registered in the *Book of Life* in heaven; and to God, *the Judge of all*; and to *the spirits of the just who have been perfected*" (vs 22-23).

When we die, and the spirit goes back to God, it has been perfected. It's waiting for the resurrection. God has to put it into a spirit body and spirit mind. Exactly how He's going to do that I do not know. I don't know how He's going to do it in relationship to the grave, in relationship to where you died or any of those things. He doesn't tell us.

We know the activity of giving us spirit life is going to take place on the earth, because we're going to be carried up into where the Sea of Glass is. I can't answer all those questions, because God has all that already worked out. The only ones that we can talk about, that we know, are those who are still alive and they are changed after everybody else has been resurrected.

I-Corinthians 15:35: "'...And with what body do they come?'" *A new body!* Isn't that going to be great? Here we are, we've got a lot of people in the Church now that are reaching the finish line. Same way with the veterans of WWII, they're reaching the finish line. God intends we reach the finish line and we die and our spirit goes back to God. We're not coming back in the same body, couldn't be, because that one's already gone and disintegrated, whether buried, burned, or eaten by sharks.

Can you imagine the intellectual arguments they were having about, 'How is the resurrection going to occur?' So, Paul says:

Verse 36: "Fool! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies." That's an amazing thing! Take any seed, you can keep that as long as you like. It has everything in it that it will be, but cannot become that until it's put in the ground and given water. What is in the ground and what is in the water that says to the seed *grow* I don't know. But that's an every-day occurrence. Every seed!

You look at some seeds, like I did with the ones from the sequoia tree, it's no bigger than a grain of wheat, but that can grow to be over hundreds and hundreds of feet tall and live to be

thousands of years old. But it's in a very small seed. What does God need to give us eternal life? *A new body and a new mind*, the perfected spirit that He's got stored there probably right close to His altar. Who knows, I don't know!

Verse 37: "And what you sow *is* not the body that shall be; rather, *it is* bare grain—it may be of wheat, or one of the other *grains*." So you put it in the ground, it is all consumed in the process of sprouting and growing. Then the head has between 30-100 kernels in it.

Verse 38: "And God gives it a body according to His will... [what He put into it] ...and to each of the seeds its own body. *Likewise*, not all flesh *is* the same flesh. Rather, *there is* one flesh of men, and another flesh of beasts, and another of fish, and another of birds" (vs 38-39). All different kinds!

Verse 40: "And *there are* heavenly bodies, and earthly bodies..." Now we can see more of the heavenly bodies with all the technology we have today. Sometimes when you see that you think, 'I wonder what it's going to be like traveling in the universe.' We're going to live forever, so it doesn't matter how far away it is. How fast does a spirit being travel? Faster than the speed of light? *Don't know!* But we'll find out at the resurrection.

"...but the glory of the heavenly *is* different, and the glory of the earthly *is* different. *There is* one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for *one* star differs from *another* star in glory" (vs 40-41). They had a lot of understanding, didn't they? *Yes, indeed!*

Verse 42: "So also *is* the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption... [you're weak, you die, you're gone] ...it is raised in incorruption... [that's going to be a spectacular operation] ...It is sown in dishonor; it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness; it is raised in power" (vs 42-43).

Every time I perform a funeral ceremony I think about that. Here's this person, whether I knew him or not, they were alive once, now they are gone. They're just a body. It's going to completely disintegrate. So what's it going to be at the resurrection? *Quite a fantastic thing!* Think of the calling and the hope that God has given us. It's just mind-blowing!

Verse 44: "It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body..." Think about that! When there is conception, everything that that person is going to be is right there, *likewise spiritually!* When we develop the character that God wants, there's everything that He has done with us through our physical lives. All of this is recorded on *the spirit of man*.

We are not going to be born again into the Kingdom of God at the resurrection as infants, *but as full spirit beings*. How God is going to do that, that has to be connected to our original genes and chromosomes, and conversion with God's Spirit. Has to be!

Verse 45: "Accordingly, it is written, 'The first man, Adam, became a living soul; the last Adam *became* an ever-living Spirit.' However, the spiritual *was* not first, but the natural—then the spiritual" (vs 45-46).

The ancient philosophers say, 'We came from star dust up in heaven.' The Mormons say that human bodies are 'possessed by a spirit that was in heaven with God and possesses a human body.' So, they are saying the spiritual is first, contrary to the Word of God. *The physical is first—the natural—then the spiritual!*

Verse 48: "As *is* the one made of dust, so also *are all* those who are made of dust; and as *is* the heavenly *One* [Christ] so also *are all* those who are heavenly." Hasn't happened yet, but it's going to.

Verse 49: "And as we have borne the image of the *one* made of dust [Adam] we shall also bear the image of the heavenly *One* [Christ]. Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the Kingdom of God... [not possible because it is a *spiritual* kingdom, not a *physical* kingdom] ... nor does corruption inherit incorruption. Behold, I show you a mystery... [it is a mystery, a secret of God] ... we shall not all fall asleep, but we shall all be changed" (vs 49-51).

At this point Paul didn't understand how far off it was until the return of Christ. He was thinking it was in his lifetime and that's reflected in their writings. Then the last of their writings with Peter and with Paul, you get the understanding that they understood there was more time.

"...but we shall all be changed. in an instant, in *the* twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for *the* trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruptibility... [that has to come from God] ...and this mortal must put on immortality. Now, when this corruptible shall have put on incorruptibility, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: 'Death is swallowed up in victory.'" (vs 51-54). So then, death is nothing!

Verse 55: "O death, where is your sting? O grave, where is your victory?" Now the sting of death *is* sin, and the power of sin *is* the Law. But thanks *be* to God, Who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ So then, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the

work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in *the* Lord" (vs 55-58).

So that's quite a chapter, isn't it? *Yes, indeed*. This tells us a lot of things.

1-Corinthians 16

In the first part of 1-Cor.16 is where the Protestants get going to church on Sunday and taking up a collection. Nothing could be further from the truth.

1-Corinthians 16:1: "Now, concerning the collection that *is being made* for the saints..." You have to read in 2-Cor. what it is all about. There was a famine down in the area of Jerusalem. They were growing food, getting it ready to send. They would send grain, raisins, probably other dried foods, figs, fruits, vegetables, maybe even dried meats. But a lot of them had to go out and plant the wheat, let it grow and then harvest the wheat and get it ready. It was a whole year-long project. So, they were doing many things.

"...as I directed the churches in Galatia, so you also are to do. Every first *day* of the week... [weekly on the first day of the week] ... each one is to put aside *food* at home..." (vs 1-2)—because that's what he's talking about. He says so:

2-Corinthians 9:5: "Therefore, I thought *it* necessary to exhort the brethren to go ahead *of us* to you, and to complete the *preparations* of this your bounty beforehand... [to get it all ready to go when he came] ...since you had already proclaimed a *willingness*; so that it might be *received* as a blessing, and not as *it were* of covetousness. But this *I say*: the one who sows sparingly shall also reap sparingly..." (vs 5-6). If you want to send a big offering down to Jerusalem, you plant a lot of seed.

"...and the one who sows bountifully shall also reap bountifully. Each one as he purposes in his heart, *so let him give*, but not grudgingly or by compulsion; for God loves a cheerful giver. For God *is* able to make all grace abound toward you so that in every way you may always have sufficiency..." (vs 6-8).

Don't worry about what you have after you give the offering, because God is going to provide you plenty. What example do we have? *The example of the manna!* Everybody had plenty.

Verse 9: "According as it is written: 'He has scattered abroad, *and* he has given to the poor; his righteousness remains forever.' Now, may He Who supplies seed to the sower, and bread to eat, supply *your seed* and multiply your sowing; and may He increase the fruits of your righteousness... [the gift that is going to Jerusalem] ...*so that you may* in

every way be enriched unto all bountifulness, which causes thanksgiving to God through us” (vs 9-11).

So, this is what they were doing, preparing. This was the plan: every first day of the week, at home, you gather it. You get it ready, so that when it’s ready to ship ‘we won’t have to come up and do anything.’

1-Corinthians 16:3: “And when I come, whomever you approve in *your* letters, these are the ones I will send to carry your bounty to Jerusalem.”

Think of this: If the Protestants want to take this literally, then every Sunday gather up your collection and send it to Jerusalem. The only church that wouldn’t have to do that would be a church of New Jerusalem. There are such churches.

Verse 5: “But I will come to you after I pass through Macedonia, for I am going through Macedonia. It may be *that* I shall stay with you, or *that* I may even winter *there*, so that you may send me forth *on my journey* wherever I may go” (vs 5-6).

In other words, he’s also telling them, ‘Get ready to send some things with me when I go’; which would also include funds to pay for the trip on the ship. How do you think he would get around to different places? *Close by he would walk! To go from Asia Minor to Greece he would have to go on a ship!* Do you think they’re going to let him come, ‘Here’s the Apostle Paul. Let’s give him a free ride.’ *No!*

Verse 7: “For *at this time* I will not *stop* to see you, but I hope at some *future* time to stay with you, if the Lord permits. But I will remain in Ephesus until Pentecost” (vs 7-8). That’s where he was writing the letter from.

Verse 9: “For a great and effective door has been opened to me, and there *are* many adversaries.” You read Acts 19. What a thing! There in Ephesus he set everything upside down! There were so many people converted, they were coming in and bringing their statues of Diana and all of their occult books and burning them. All of the idol-makers and silver-makers said, ‘We can’t have this.’

Ephesus was a big city, thousands of people. It was the center of the goddess worship in Asia Minor and a big statue of Diana. She was so fertile she had countless breasts. They actually had it so that the initiates and the devotees who would come in, they had it so that they could heat the milk and make it go up and then at the magic moment, all the milk pour out of the breasts of Diana. The people, ‘Oh, what a wonderful thing that is.’ What did God do to the temple? *He destroyed it!* Paul was there in Ephesus.

Verse 10: “Now, if Timothy comes, see to it that he may be with you without fear; for he labors in the work of *the* Lord, even as I *do*. Therefore, do not let anyone despise him; but send him forth *on his journey* in peace... [pay for his way to go] ...so that he may come to me; for I am waiting for him with the brethren. Now concerning Apollos, *our* brother...” (vs 10-12).

I’ve often wondered about Apollos because he came from Alexandria (Acts 18). He was an eloquent man with the Scriptures. So, I’ve often wondered, because there’s hardly anything mentioned of him later, was he one of those who became one of the false teachers? *I don’t know*, but this is what he did here. This gives me cause to ask that question.

Verse 12: “Now, concerning Apollos, *our* brother, I strongly urged him to go to you with the brethren.... [to go visit them, to go with Timothy] ...However, it was not at all *his* desire to come *to you* at this time; but he will come when he has an opportunity.”

That sounds like a politically correct excuse by Apollos not to do it, which makes we wonder, did he have something else in mind. *I don’t know!*

Verse 13: “Be watchful; stand fast in the faith... [that’s what we need to do today] ... conduct yourselves with courage. Be strong *in the Lord*.” Regardless of what comes along! We don’t know how things are going to go, but we can certainly look forward to some difficult times with the same-sex marriage advocates, because their goal is to destroy Christianity.

Verse 14: “Let everything you do be done in love. Now I exhort you, brethren, (You know the household of Stephanas, that it is the first fruit of Achaia, and *that* they have dedicated themselves to the service of the saints.) To submit yourselves to such *as these*, and to everyone who is working and laboring with *us*” (vs 14-16). So that everything that needs to be done can be done reasonably and decently.

Verse 17: “Now I rejoice at the coming of Stephanas and Fortunatus and Achaicus because they have made up for your deficiency.” What does he mean here? Remember, he didn’t take any tithes and offerings from them, because they were more willing to give them to the false ministers and apostles. So, Paul said, ‘I’m not taking a dime.’ Every once in a while he lets them know, ‘You didn’t do it.’ He says, ‘I wasn’t burdensome to you’ (2-Cor. 13), meaning, ‘I didn’t take from you,’ with the implication, ‘I should have, but didn’t. Forgive me for this wrong.’

If you believe in God, and believe in the Truth, then you are going to give. You think there are going to be any freeloaders in the Kingdom of God? Look at the entitlement society we have today. Almost outnumbering the working class. *Yes, indeed!*

Verse 18: “For they refreshed my spirit and yours; therefore, recognize those *who are serving*. The churches in Asia salute you. Aquila and Priscilla salute you much in *the* Lord, together with the Church in their home.... [church at home] ...All the brethren salute you. Greet one another with a Holy kiss. The salutation of Paul by my *own* hand. If anyone does not love the Lord Jesus Christ let him be accursed. Our Lord shall come! The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ *be* with you. My love *be* with you all in Christ Jesus. Amen” (vs 18-24).

That concludes the series in 1-Corinthians!

Scriptural References:

- 1) 1-Corinthians 15:1
- 2) Romans 5:1-2
- 3) 1-Corinthians 15:2
- 4) 1-Corinthians 1:18
- 5) Ephesians 2:8, 1-3, 8-10
- 6) 1-Corinthians 15:2-3
- 7) 1-Timothy 6:3
- 8) 1-Corinthians 15:3-10
- 9) Galatians 1:6-18
- 10) 1-Corinthians 15:11-22
- 11) Romans 5:12
- 12) 1-Corinthians 15:22-26
- 13) Revelation 20:14
- 14) 1-Corinthians 15:26-27, 29
- 15) Mark 16:15-16
- 16) 1-Corinthians 15:30-31
- 17) 2-Corinthians 4:8-16
- 18) 1-Corinthians 15:31-35
- 19) Hebrews 12:22-23
- 20) 1-Corinthians 15:35-58
- 21) 1-Corinthians 16:1-2
- 22) 2-Corinthians 9:5-11
- 23) 1-Corinthians 16:3, 5-24

Scriptures referenced, not quoted:

- Revelation 2; 3
- Psalm 17
- 2-Corinthians 11
- Leviticus 23
- Romans 11
- Ecclesiastes 12
- Acts 19; 18
- 2-Corinthians 13

Also referenced:

- Sermon Series: *Grace Upon Grace*

- Sermon: *What Would the World have been Like **IF** Adam and Eve had not Sinned?*
- From *The Holy Bible in Its Original Order: Appendix A: Fourteen Rules of Bible Study*
- Books:
 - ✓ *Jesus' Stenographers* by B.J.E. Van Noort
 - ✓ *My Catholic Faith* by L. LaRavoire, S.T.D. Morrow, E. Andre

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