

## 1 CORINTHIANS Chapter 15/16

David Renwick, June 2, 2021

### SCHEDULE April 14- June 2, 2021

1. Background
2. Restoring Ruptured Relationships (1 Cor 1-3; 14)
3. Sex in the City (1 Cor 5-7)
4. Winning by Losing (1 Cor 8-10)
5. Did Paul Hate Women? (1 Cor 11)
6. Spiritually Mature? (1 Cor 11-14)
7. **Life After Death (1 Cor 15)**
8. **Generosity/Conclusion (1 Cor 16)**

End of our Series . . .

Tonight's Topic: 1 Corinthians 15 & 16

### LAST TIME – Resurrection of the Body

-- focused first on "the body"

-- a theme repeated in various ways in Paul's writings and in the gospels

e.g.,

- Lord's Supper -- This is my **body** broken for you
- Incarnation -- the word became flesh (embodied), and dwelt among us
- Creation -- Part of God's good material creation: God made our **bodies** the way they are on purpose
- Sin – **Bodies** weakened (infected?) morally and physically by sin
- **Bodies** subject to death
- Jesus' Resurrection (1 Cor 15) → in the **body**

PLUS

- IF Jesus' resurrection was in the body  
.. SO TOO ours will be

1. Tonight -- complete 1 Corinthians 15 . . .

2. But first . . .

## CHAPTER 16 (change the order!)

### FINAL GREETINGS 15:19-23

- <sup>19</sup>The churches of Asia send greetings.
- **Aquila and Prisca**, together with the church in their house, greet you warmly in the Lord.

▪ See Romans 16:3

- <sup>20</sup>**All the brothers and sisters** send greetings.
- Greet one another with a holy kiss.

<sup>21</sup>I, Paul, write this greeting with my own hand.

<sup>22</sup>**Anyone who has no love for the Lord:**

**Let there be a curse.**

***OF ULTIMATE IMPORTANCE: Love Jesus!***

***NOT:***

- *the wrong "leader/party;"*
- *the wrong knowledge;*
- *the wrong spirituality*

***Our Lord, come!***

<sup>23</sup>The grace of the Lord Jesus be with you.

<sup>24</sup>My love be with all of you in Christ Jesus.

### PAUL'S TRAVEL PLANS

<sup>5</sup>I will visit you after passing through **Macedonia**

—for I intend to pass through Macedonia—

- Philippi
- Thessalonica

<sup>6</sup>and perhaps I will stay with you or even spend the winter, so that you may send me on my way, wherever I go.

<sup>7</sup>I do not want to see you now just in passing, for I hope to spend some time with you, if the Lord permits.

<sup>8</sup>But **I will stay in Ephesus** until Pentecost,

- <sup>9</sup>*for a wide door for effective work has opened to me, and there are many adversaries.*



## PAUL'S CONCERN FOR CO-WORKERS

### I. 16:10-12

<sup>10</sup>If **Timothy** comes,

- see that he has nothing to fear among you,
  - for he is doing the work of the Lord *just as I am*;
- <sup>11</sup>therefore let no one despise him.
- Send him on his way in peace,
  - so that he may come to me;
  - for I am expecting him with the brothers.

<sup>12</sup>Now concerning our brother **Apollos**,

- I strongly urged him to visit you with the other brothers,
- but he was not at all willing to come now.

- He will come when he has the opportunity.

- Paul protects his staff!
- Pre-empt criticism

## PAUL'S CONCERN FOR CO-WORKERS

### II. 16:15-18

<sup>15</sup>Now, brothers and sisters, you know that **members of the household of Stephanas**

- were the first converts in Achaia,
- and they have devoted themselves to the service of the saints;
  - <sup>16</sup>I urge you to put yourselves at the service of such people, and of everyone who works and toils with them.

<sup>17</sup>I rejoice at the coming of

**Stephanas and Fortunatus and Achaicus,**

- because they have made up for your absence;
- <sup>18</sup>for they refreshed my spirit as well as yours.
  - So give recognition to such persons.
    - Service not "lording it over"

## PAUL'S FINAL ADMONITIONS

1. <sup>13</sup>Keep alert, stand firm in your faith,
  - Jesus in the garden
2. be courageous, be strong.
  - Joshua taking over leadership
3. <sup>14</sup>Let all that you do be done in love.

## THE COLLECTION 16:1-4

Now concerning **the collection for the saints**:

you should follow the directions I gave to the churches of Galatia.

<sup>2</sup>On the first day of every week,

- each of you is to put aside and save ("treasure") *whatever is profited*,
- so that collections need not be taken when I come.

<sup>3</sup>And when I arrive,

- I will send any whom you approve with letters to take your gift to Jerusalem.
- <sup>4</sup>If it seems advisable that I should go also, they will accompany me.

**Who else? . . .** mentions – Galatians --

- 2 Corinthians 8:1-15 -- Macedonians
- Romans 15:26 – Macedonians and Achaians

**What for?**

- Romans 15:26-31 the poor among the saints in Jerusalem
- Gal 2:10 – remember the poor

**Who in Corinth is being asked?**

- *1 Cor. 16:2 ALL! not just the wealthy*

**Assurance of Integrity**

- *1 Cor 16:3 not Paul alone carrying the money!*

**Why & in what spirit should they Give?**

## **2 Corinthians 8:1-9**

We want you to know, brothers and sisters, about the grace of God that has been granted to the churches of Macedonia;  
<sup>2</sup>for during a severe ordeal of affliction, their abundant joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part.  
<sup>3</sup>For, as I can testify, they voluntarily gave according to their means, and even beyond their means,  
<sup>4</sup>begging us earnestly for the privilege of sharing in this ministry to the saints—  
<sup>5</sup>and this, not merely as we expected; they gave themselves first to the Lord and, by the will of God, to us,  
<sup>9</sup>*For you know the generous act of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich.*

*So endeth 1 Corinthians!!*

Back To

## **1 CORINTHIANS 15**

### **CORINTHIAN ISSUE 1.**

#### **PROBLEM**

- **Not with life of some sort after death**
- **But “Resurrection of the Body”**
  - *Paul: you can't be serious?*
  - *Resurrection of the spirit? OK!*
  - *Resurrection of the body? You have to be kidding!*

**Paul:**

### **THE FACTS ON THE GROUND REGARDING JESUS' BODY . . .**

i.<sup>6</sup>Then **he appeared** . . .

to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time,  
most of whom are still alive,  
though some have died.

ii.<sup>7</sup>Then **he appeared** to James

(Jesus' brother, see Galatians <sup>1:19</sup>)

iii.then to all the apostles.

iv.<sup>8</sup>Last of all, as to one untimely born,

**he appeared** also to me.

so we (*apostles are all united to*) proclaim  
and so you have come to believe.

### **CORINTHIAN ISSUE 2. . . . .**

- **There is no resurrection of the dead (bodies)**  
→ **Therefore Jesus did not rise in the body!**
- **The power of the surrounding culture**  
-- *Our view of Jesus is not to be dictated by our view of “resurrection” (what the secular world thinks) but our view of “resurrection” (and much more) is to be changed by our view of Jesus*

<sup>12</sup>Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead,

*how can some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead?*

<sup>13</sup>If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised;

<sup>14</sup>and if Christ has not been raised, then

- our proclamation has been in vain
- and your faith has been in vain.
- (1) <sup>15</sup>We are even found to be **misrepresenting** (*bearing false witness to*) **God**, because we testified of God that he raised Christ

— whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised.

<sup>16</sup>For if the dead are not raised,  
then Christ has not been raised.

<sup>17</sup>(2) If Christ has not been raised,

- your faith is futile
- and **you are still in your sins.**
- (3) <sup>18</sup>Then those also who have died in Christ . . . **have perished.**  
<sup>19</sup>If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

[e.g., why sacrifice?

How do we understand suffering?]

### CORINTHIAN ISSUE 3

- Q. OK. So if there is “resurrection” why don’t we see more evidence of it?
- A. Paul’s View of God’s TIMING – God’s work not complete until the “2<sup>nd</sup> Coming”

<sup>20</sup>But in fact . . .

Christ has been raised from the dead,  
→ **the first fruits** of those who have died.

(Using a Biblical Image -- *Leviticus 23:10-11*,  
*A hope and assurance that full harvest is on its way*)

<sup>21</sup>For since *death* came  
through a human being,  
the *resurrection of the dead* has also come  
through a human being;

<sup>22</sup>for as *all die* “in” Adam,  
so *all will be made alive* “in” Christ.

<sup>23</sup>But each in his own order

**a.** Christ [*died and raised*] the *first fruits*,

**b. then at his coming** those who belong to Christ.

<sup>24</sup>Then (*DR: and only then*) comes the end,

- when Jesus hands over the kingdom to God the Father,
- after he has destroyed every ruler and every authority and power.  
(*Psalm 110*)

<sup>25</sup>For he must reign

until he has put all his enemies under his feet.

<sup>26</sup>**The last enemy to be destroyed is death.**

Q. Where does Paul get this from?

A. *Isaiah 25:6-8, Hosea 13:14, Rev. 21:4*

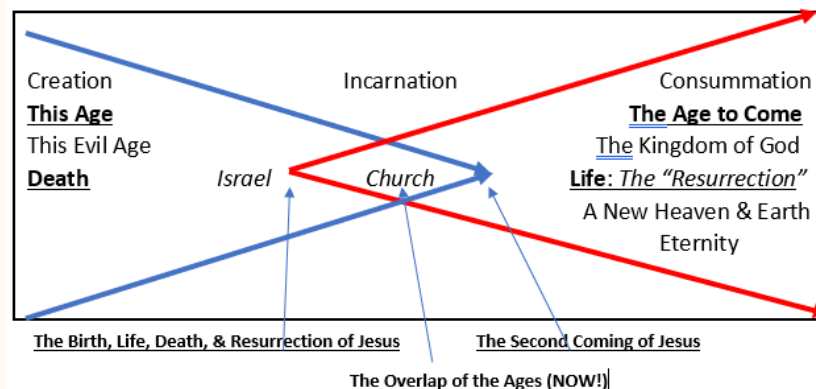
**Isaiah 25:6-8 . . . .**

<sup>6</sup>On this mountain the Lord of hosts **will** make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear.

<sup>7</sup>And he **will** destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the sheet that is spread over all nations; **he will swallow up death forever.**

<sup>8</sup>**Then** the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the Lord has spoken.

### THE TWO AGES OF ANCIENT JUDAISM



→ **AN ASIDE on How “The Trinity” works!!**

(A complex section: was this a Corinthian issue?)

<sup>27</sup>For *Psalm 8:6*

“God has put all things in subjection under his feet.”

But when (the Scripture) says,

“All things are put in subjection,”

it is plain that this does not include the one (i.e., God) who put *all things* in subjection under him.

<sup>28</sup>When *all things* are subjected to him,  
then the Son himself

will also be subjected to the one  
who put *all things* in subjection under him,

so that

[DR: in God's Good Time at Christ's coming]

God (F,S, HS) may be all in all.

**Note: "subjection"** → *bossed by? controlled by?*  
→ OR *operating in the right/proper relationship to?*  
= *Mission accomplished*  
= *humility in the Godhead? Philippians.2:6*

### → AN ASIDE on the "Inconsistent" Corinthians

<sup>29</sup>Otherwise, what will those people do who receive baptism on behalf of the dead?

If the dead are not raised at all,  
why are people baptized on their behalf?

[we have no clue whether or not Paul approved  
of this practice, or what exactly it meant]

### → AN ASIDE on the Sanity/Reasonableness of the "Sacrificial Christian Life" only if . . .

- <sup>30</sup>And why are we putting ourselves in danger every hour? <sup>31</sup>I die every day! (2 Corinthians)

That is as certain, brothers and sisters,  
as my boasting of you—  
a boast that I make in Christ Jesus our Lord.

- <sup>32</sup>If with merely human hopes

*I fought with wild animals at Ephesus,*  
what would I have gained by it?

**If the dead are not raised,** "Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die." (Isaiah 22:12-13)

### → AN ASIDE on "listening to contemporary culture/philosophy"

. . . but Paul knew the philosophers too

<sup>33</sup>Do not be deceived: [by your peers and Greek philosophy]  
"Bad company ruins good morals."

<sup>34</sup>Come to a sober and right mind, and sin no more; for some people have no knowledge of God. I say this to your shame.

## CORINTHIAN ISSUE 4

- What does the resurrection look like?
- What do WE look like in the resurrection?

<sup>35</sup>But someone will ask,

- "How are the dead raised?
- With what kind of body do they come?"

<sup>36</sup>Fool!

### 3a. God's "two bodies" plan in Nature

(Nature: akin to the Parables of Jesus,  
and making sense to "this worldly" people)

What you sow does not come to life unless it dies.

<sup>37</sup>And as for what you sow,

- you do not sow the body that is to be,
- but a bare seed, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain.
- <sup>38</sup>But God gives it a body as he has chosen,  
and to each kind of seed its own body.

<sup>39</sup>Not all flesh is alike,

- but there is *one flesh for human beings*,
  - *another* for animals,
  - another for birds,
  - and another for fish.
- <sup>40</sup>*There are both heavenly bodies*
- *and earthly bodies*,  
but the "glory" of the heavenly is one thing,  
and that of the earthly is another.
  - <sup>41</sup>There is one "glory" of the sun,
  - and another "glory" of the moon,
  - and another "glory" of the stars;
  - indeed, star differs from star in "glory".

<sup>42</sup>So it is with the resurrection of the dead.

What is sown is perishable,  
what is raised is imperishable.

<sup>43</sup>It is sown in dishonor,  
it is raised in glory.  
It is sown in weakness,  
it is raised in power.  
<sup>44</sup>It is sown a physical body,  
it is raised a spiritual body.  
If there is a physical body,  
*(why is there a problem with thinking that)*  
there is also a spiritual body.

### 3b. God's "two men" plan God's Timing # 2

*We will look like the resurrected Jesus  
-- JESUS NOT ADAM -- is our ultimate "image"*

<sup>45</sup>Thus it is written, "*The first man, Adam,  
became a living being*"  
the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. (Joel 2:28)  
<sup>46</sup>But it is not the spiritual that is first,  
but the physical, and then the spiritual.  
<sup>47</sup>The first man was from the earth, a man of dust;  
→ the second man is from heaven.  
<sup>48</sup>*As was* the man of dust,  
*so are* those who are of the dust;  
→ and *as is* the man of heaven,  
*so are* those who are of heaven.  
<sup>49</sup>*Just as* we have borne  
the image of the man of dust,  
→ *we will also bear*  
the image of the man of heaven.  
<sup>50</sup>What I am saying, brothers and sisters, is this:  
*(and in this, I, Paul, agree with you)*

flesh and blood  
cannot inherit the kingdom of God,  
nor does the perishable  
inherit the imperishable.

### 3c. God's "two states"//Dead & Living// Plan

### God's Timing #3

<sup>51</sup>Listen, I will tell you a mystery!  
We will not all die,  
but we will all be changed,  
<sup>52</sup>in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye,  
at the last trumpet.  
For the trumpet will sound, *(there will be no doubt!)*  
and the dead will be raised imperishable,  
and we will be changed.  
<sup>53</sup>For this perishable body  
must put on imperishability,  
and this mortal body  
must put on immortality.  
<sup>54</sup>When this perishable body  
puts on imperishability,  
and this mortal body  
puts on immortality,  
Then *[and only then]*  
the saying that is written (in Scripture) will be fulfilled:  
*"Death has been swallowed up in victory."  
<sup>55</sup>"Where, O death, is your victory?  
Where, O death, is your sting?"*  
<sup>56</sup>The sting  
*(the cause/instrument rather than the feeling of pain)*  
of death is sin,  
and the power of sin is the law.  
*(LAW = "the day you eat you shall die")*  
<sup>57</sup>But thanks be to God,  
who gives *(as a free gift)*  
us the victory  
through our Lord Jesus Christ.  
*(GRACE = the day you trust you shall live)*  
<sup>58</sup>Therefore, my beloved,  

- be steadfast, immovable,
- always excelling in the work of the Lord,

because you know  
that in the Lord

your labor is not in vain.