

Welcome to 1 Corinthians 15

It's funny how you can be a follower of Jesus for decades and yet not have thought deeply about Jesus' resurrection or your own!

In some ways, 1 Corinthians 15 is such a familiar passage. Who can forget verse 54?

"Death has been swallowed up in victory."

But there's so much more to that verse and indeed, the whole chapter. Even with two episodes, we'll only begin to appreciate the riches in this wonderful part of God's Word.

There's a keyword that runs throughout this chapter. It's usually translated into English as 'vain'. It means something like a "mist", that quickly floats away.

You can miss this thread in the NIV translation, where you don't always see the word 'vain'.

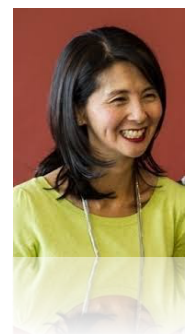
Otherwise you have believed *in vain* (15:2)
His grace to me was not *without effect* (15:10)
If Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is *useless* (15:14)
Your labour in the Lord is not *in vain* (15:58)

Here Paul makes it clear that if Jesus' resurrection is not true, then everything we do is *in vain* - it floats away with death. But if Jesus' resurrection is true, then what is done in him, will last for eternity.

In Episode 1, we'll take a soaring view of eternity beginning with Jesus' resurrection.
In Episode 2, we'll zoom in on the difference Jesus' resurrection makes to our body and our work.

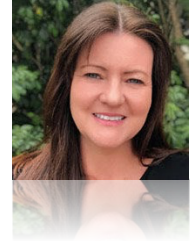
We hope you will continue this "resurrection" conversation long after EQUIP. Read 1 Corinthians 15-16 beforehand to get the most out of EQUIP AT HOME.

Your sister,
Isobel Lin
Chair of EQUIP Women



Is the resurrection true?

1 CORINTHIANS 15:1-8 | ALLI MUSCAT



1. The resurrection and eternity
2. The resurrection back then
3. The resurrection is true
4. The resurrection and you

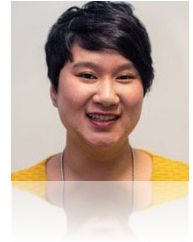
Thinking More...

Read again Paul's amazing testimony in verses 9-11: from someone who persecuted the church to the author of 1 Corinthians! Praise God for his grace to Paul and us.

Do I see myself as a twenty-first century "resurrection witness". Why or why not?

Does the resurrection matter?

1 CORINTHIANS 15:12-24 | TASH LEONG

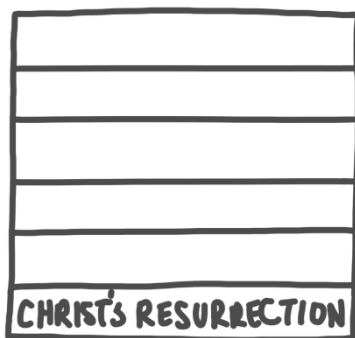


1. Eternity Jenga

2. Why does Paul focus on the resurrection piece?
 - a. The Corinthian were confused about the resurrection (v12)

 - b. The resurrection of Jesus is the game-ending piece (12-19)

 - c. The resurrection of Jesus is the foundational piece (v20-28)



3. Remember the end (v29-34)

Thinking More...

"My resurrection is not just for me, but so that God will be all in all."

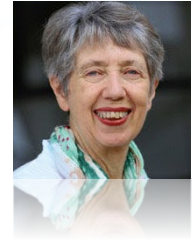
"The combination of Jesus' resurrection and the resurrection of all believers will declare death to be defeated."

Are these new or old truths for you?



Our resurrection body

1 CORINTHIANS 15:35-57 | LESLEY RAMSAY



1. Lessons from my garden (v35-42)

2. From a 'natural' body to a 'spiritual' body (v42-50)

Verse	 Seed	 Plant
42		
43		
43		
44		
45		
47		
49		

3. In the twinkling of an eye (v51-57)

EPIPHANY

4. Lessons on the body
 - a. Being honest about our natural body

 - b. Looking forward to our spiritual body

 - c. Not afraid of death

Thinking More...

"Christians don't need to be afraid of death."

What stops us living this way?



Thinking More...

Note the 2 key phrases in verse 58:

*“Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the **work of the Lord**, because you know that your labour in the Lord is not **in vain**.”*

See how Paul uses these phrases in the rest of 1 Corinthians:

- **work of the Lord** (3:13-15, 9:1, 16:10)
- **in vain** (15:2, 10, 14)

“Paul is speaking of a unique and special work of believers that is never wasted (it lasts for eternity).”

Colossians 3:23-24 speaks of doing everything ‘for the Lord’. How is this different from the more specific work of the Lord?

The stories in chapter 16 introduce some of Paul’s fellow workers. Read through each one and ask:

Verse	How are they doing the work of the Lord together?	Who do they remind you of today?
1-4		
5-9		
10-11		
12		
13-18		
19-20		

Despite some of the tension between Paul and the Corinthians in this letter, note the lovely way Paul finishes the whole letter in verse 24.