



151st Church of Christ
Small Group Study Guide – 1 CORINTHIANS
by Richard Wolfe

AN IMPERFECT LOCAL CHURCH
A Study in 1 Corinthians
CLASS – Lesson 23

GENERAL OUTLINE

1 Corinthians 15:1-58, Another report – The resurrection

OUTLINE: Lesson 23

1 Corinthians 15:1-58, Another report – The resurrection

15:1-11, Christ is risen

15:12-19, The resurrection of Christ and logical implications

15:20-28, The resurrection of Christ and ultimate implications

15:29-34, Secondary arguments for resurrection

15:35-49, The resurrection body

15:50-58, Resurrection victory

Paul has devoted much of this letter to correction and rebuke. He repeatedly called for repentance and improved behavior. The relationships between Christians (i.e., fellowship) has also been a major and constant thread of thought. In his treatment of this last major subject of resurrection, it seems that he wants to conclude on a more positive note. Indeed, there could be few topics more positive than the Christian's anticipation of the glorious transformation and victory over all the corruption of this world in the final day when the "last trumpet" calls us together for eternity.

DISCUSSION

1 Corinthians 15:35-41, Examples of bodies and transformations

- 1. In nature, is it unusual for something (e.g., a sort of body) to exist in some form, for that form to die, and then to reappear in a different form (i.e., a transformation)? Give some additional examples to those Paul cites. What are the commonalities between the earlier and later form or body, and what are some differences?**

- 2. Who or what empowers the transformation and determines the form of the plant that grows from the seed? How does this relate to our resurrection?**

3. Are the “heavenly bodies” of v. 40 a reference to our resurrected bodies or to what we often call “heavenly bodies” such as the sun, moon and stars? Either way, what is Paul’s message with this example?

1 Corinthians 15:42-44, “So is the resurrection”

4. How is the pre-resurrection body described? How is the post-resurrection body described?
5. What are some weaknesses of our earthly bodies that will be corrected in our resurrection bodies (cf. Revelation 21:4; 2 Corinthians 4:16)?

1 Corinthians 15:45-49, The 1st man and the 2nd man

6. What was Adam’s relationship to life-giving power, and what was Jesus’ relationship to life-giving power (cf. Genesis 2:7)?
7. Of what is the 1st man made? Of what is the 2nd man made? If you have difficulty stating exactly of what each or either is made, describe some general characteristics of each one.
8. What is the difference between the resurrection of Lazarus (John 11) and that of Christ and our own resurrection?

1 Corinthians 15:50-58, Resurrection victory

In this concluding paragraph of the chapter on resurrection, Paul lifts our eyes to the heavens from whence our Lord will come to change us fully into his likeness and put all the negatives of corruption and sin behind us. On earth we suffer, and sometimes we suffer for our faith, but

when Christ gives us victory none of that will matter and all our struggles and efforts on earth will be validated.

9. Earlier in verses 42-44 Paul introduced the idea of incorruptible, spiritual resurrection bodies. What specific detail does he provide here (vv. 50-58) to clarify what that means?

10. In verses 42-44, Paul described our resurrection bodies (cf. question 4). What descriptive terms does he add or repeat in this paragraph (cf. Philippians 3:20-21)?

11. Who are the “we” who will be changed (v. 51; cf. 1 Corinthians 1:1-2)? Why do you think he limited his discussion to this group and their resurrection?

12. In what way(s) is sin the “sting of death”? How does the law give strength to sin? How can we overcome the impact of that sting?

13. The first part of the chapter (vv. 1-34) asserts the reality of the resurrection. The rest of the chapter gives information about what will happen when we are resurrected. Both sections end with exhortations (vv. 33-34, 57-58) that say nothing specific about resurrection itself. What is the message that is common to both concluding statements and how does it connect to the subject of the resurrection?

14. How does 15:58 reflect the ideas of 1:1-2?