

# Studies in 1 Corinthians

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## *Lesson XXXXVI: The Dead Come Back to Life!*

**Text:** 1 Cor. 15:12-28

**12** But if it is preached that Christ has been raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? **13** If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. **14** And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. **15** More than that, we are then found to be false witnesses about God, for we have testified about God that he raised Christ from the dead. But he did not raise him if in fact the dead are not raised. **16** For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either. **17** And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. **18** Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost. **19** If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are to be pitied more than all men.

**20** But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. **21** For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. **22** For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. **23** But each in his own turn: Christ, the firstfruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him. **24** Then the end will come, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father after he has destroyed all dominion, authority and power. **25** For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. **26** The last enemy to be destroyed is death. **27** For he "has put everything under his feet."<sup>(a)</sup> Now when it says that "everything" has been put under him, it is clear that this does not include God himself, who put everything under Christ. **28** When he has done this, then the Son himself will be made subject to him who put everything under him, so that God may be all in all.

**Footnotes:** (a) *Psalm 8:6*

## Discussion Questions

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1. Review: What is the Gospel, according to verses 1-8? How the truth of the Gospel foundational to Paul's argument for the resurrection of the dead?

2. Why do you suppose that some teachers were telling others that there was no resurrection of the dead (vs. 12)?
  
3. What if Christ never rose bodily from the dead after he was crucified and entombed—what difference would it make? (vv. 14-19)
  
4. What do we say to the charge that “Christians are so heavenly minded that they are no earthly good”? Does Christian theology add value to life *before* death, as well as life *after* it? (vs. 19)
  
5. “First Fruits are a religious offering of the first agricultural produce of the harvest” (Wikipedia). How does the concept of firstfruits relate to Christ’s resurrection and the general resurrection of the dead? (vs. 20, 23).
  
6. Some question the fairness of one man, Adam, determining the fate of the entire human race (vv. 21-22). How would you respond?
  
7. Why is the significance of Christ’s victory over death? (vv. 24-28)