

Calvary Chapel of El Cajon Women's Bible Studies

1 Corinthians 15

Lesson 21

Paul is now approaching the climax of his message. He has challenged them concerning many different topics and conditions. He has revealed the emptiness of supposed knowledge and philosophies. He reminds us, as he begins this chapter, that he has preached the gospel. The gospel has been preached, the way to walk in it has been taught, and now in this fifteenth chapter of 1 Corinthians Paul gives us a glimpse of heaven, directing our hope beyond the trials of this life. He freshens our perspective and points us to why we should *be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord*.

DAY ONE: Read 1 Corinthians 15

1. Read through this week's verses using both your Observation Worksheets and another Bible translation or paraphrase. After reading through these verses, what would you say to someone if they asked you what they were about?

a. 1 Corinthians 15 has been divided into seven sections. List below the subject(s) covered in each section.

Verses 1-11

Verses 12-19

Verses 20-28

Verses 29-34

Verses 35-38

Verses 39-49

Verses 50-58

How would you title each section? Record your titles on the **Chapter & Paragraph Division Titles Chart** provided with your Observation Worksheet.

After titling each segment division, record a title for chapter 15.

2. At the right-hand side of the same chart are columns labeled **Key Word** and **Symbol**. They have been provided for you to record the key words and the symbol you have chosen to represent each one. Record the key words listed below and their symbols on the chart.

Used in prior homework lessons: *God* and *Jesus*

New to this lesson: *preach, rise/risen, dead/die/death/sleep, and body/bodies*

Now, using the symbols you have chosen, mark each of the key words each time they are used in 1 Corinthians 15. Remember, as you mark the key words to mark any personal pronouns that refer to them. You do not need to mark every word that refers to them – only those that you feel are significant.

4. Using the chart provided with your Observation Worksheets, add any information you feel is pertinent about the **Author(s)**, the **Recipients**, **Problems** and **Commands**.
5. Scan through 1 Corinthians 15 again making a list of what the chapter teaches about *death*.

DAY TWO: Read 1 Corinthians 15:1-28

1. What historical evidence does 1 Corinthians 15:5-8 give concerning Christ's resurrection?
 - a. What are believers to *hold fast to*? (1 Corinthians 15:2-4)
 - b. Twenty-seven years after Christ's resurrection, how could the Corinthian believers verify Paul's statements about Christ's resurrection? 1 Corinthians 15:6b

Challenge: What Old Testament Scriptures affirm Paul's statement of 1 Corinthians 15:3c?

2. What were some of the Corinthian believers saying about the *resurrection of the dead*? verse 12b
 - a. Why is the *resurrection of Christ* essential to our belief in the *resurrection of the dead*?
3. The evidence Paul presented in 1 Corinthians 15:3-8 confirmed with absolute certainty his statement in 1 Corinthians 15:20. Write 1 Corinthians 15:20 in your own words.
 - a. State the order of the resurrection from 1 Corinthians 15:23.

4. We have a glimpse of things to come in 1 Corinthians 15:24-28. After the millennial (thousand year) reign of Christ and the final conflict between the enemies of Christ is over, record what will happen:
 - a. 1 Corinthians 15:26 (Revelation 20:14)
 - b. 1 Corinthians 15:28
 - 1.) Think of 1 Corinthians 15:24b in connection with Ephesians 6:12. What similarities do you find?

DAY THREE: Read 1 Corinthians 15:29-49

1. Apparently there were those believers in Corinth who were being baptized on behalf of the dead. Paul’s question in 1 Corinthians 15:29 does not in any way condone this practice. He uses these questions to show the absurdity of this practice by people who do not believe in the resurrection. Then in 1 Corinthians 15:30 he asks why (if there is no resurrection of the dead) he would hazard his life (for the sake of the gospel). The reference to having *fought with beasts at Ephesus* may be literal or a reference to cruel and vicious men who opposed the gospel in Ephesus. Paul then summarizes the Epicurean philosophy which results from unbelief in the resurrection of the dead. Write this from 1 Corinthians 15:32c.
 - a. How does this help you understand the way some people live today?
 - b. 1 Corinthians 15:33,34 warn us and advise us about associating with those who *do not have the knowledge (agnostics) of God*. Write these in your own words or from other versions:

1 Corinthians 15:33

1 Corinthians 15:34
2. Many Christians are curious about what our resurrection bodies will be like. Burial in the ground or cremation certainly alters the form of the body. With what common example does Paul answer their questions? 1 Corinthians 15:36-38
3. 1 Corinthians 15:38-41 show God’s glorious and infinite variety in creation and assure us that our resurrected bodies will be infinitely more glorious than these earthly ones. Contrast these earthly bodies of ours with our heavenly bodies by filling in the following chart from 1 Corinthians 15:42-44. Notice that the resurrected body is related to the natural body by the word *sown*.

Verse	Sown	Raised
42		
43		
43		
44		

4. Complete the following chart from 1 Corinthians 15:46-50.

Verse	Natural Body	Spiritual Body
46		
48		
49		
50		

5. Thoroughly absorb the awesome revelation and promise of 1 Corinthians 15:49 as you print it here.

a. Express your reaction to this thrilling promise.

b. In what way does this verse affect your perspective of life here on planet earth?

DAY FOUR: Read 1 Corinthians 15:50-57

1. Observe the paragraph division in today's assignment and write a bumper sticker message from this paragraph.

2. Notice the word *behold* in 1 Corinthians 15:51. It prompts us to hold our attention on what follows. What is the *mystery* revealed in this verse?

a. *Sleep* here means that all believers will not die before the resurrection takes place. *Changed* in verse 51 and 52 means to make different, transform. View this change once again from Philippians 3:20-21 and 1 John 3:2. What do you see?

b. Phrase by phrase, write what 1 Corinthians 15:52 says about this.

1.) What does 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 add to this?

c. Why must this *corruptible* put on *incorruption*, and this *mortal* put on *immortality*?
1 Corinthians 15:50

3. This will be the ultimate triumph for the believer. These verses reveal four areas of triumph. Record the victories discussed in 1 Corinthians 15:54-57.
 - a. Notice the word *victory* mentioned three times in this paragraph. List a few synonyms for this word.
 - 1.) What does it mean to you that *sin* and *death* are defeated?

DAY FIVE: Read 1 Corinthians 15:58

1. Notice the word *therefore* that begins the final verse of this chapter. To what does the *therefore* refer?
 - a. This prospect of the *rapture* (1 Thessalonians 4:17 *caught up*), this *resurrection*, is to be a powerful incentive for all *beloved* believers. List the conduct which should result from knowing these truths from 1 Corinthians 15:58 and define them.

2. What do we *know* from 1 Corinthians 15:58b about any *labor* we do for the Lord?
 - a. Our *labor* in the Lord is never *in vain*. Whether we experience results or not, we can cling to this promise. How does that strengthen, comfort, and encourage you?

 - b. How does II Chronicles 15:7 augment this?

3. Be aware that 1 Corinthians 15:58 is addressed to all believers. In recognition of this, what does *always abounding in the work of the Lord* say to you?
 - a. List some of the ways a believer can do this no matter what his or her circumstances?

DAY SIX: Review 1 Corinthians 15

1. Using 1 Corinthians 15:12b, what is the main subject of 1 Corinthians 15?
 - a. Why is the resurrection of Christ central to the gospel?
2. What particular aspect of the believers' resurrection has most affected you this week?
3. Share a way the example of a seed has helped you understand what our *resurrected* or *changed* bodies will be like.
4. In what way does the revelation of the *mystery* of 1 Corinthians 15:51-57 affect your priorities, attitudes, and actions?
 - a. If Jesus were to come today, what one specific thing would you want to make sure you had accomplished?
5. If you were prone to waiver in your faith, become lukewarm or weary in well doing, how might this chapter recharge your batteries?
6. What are some of the promises or encouragements from 1 Corinthians 15 that impact you?

*Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ,
so that whether I come and see you or am absent,
I may hear of your affairs, that you stand fast in one spirit,
with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel,
- Philippians 1:27*

Scripture References for Lesson 21

DAY TWO:

Revelation 20:14 Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

Ephesians 6:12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual *hosts* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*.

DAY FOUR

Philippians 3:20-21 For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.

1 John 3:2 Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. ¹⁴For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus. ¹⁵For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive *and* remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. ¹⁶For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷Then we who are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. ¹⁸Therefore comfort one another with these words.

DAY FIVE

1 Thessalonians 4:17 Then we who are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.

2 Chronicles 15:7 But you, be strong and do not let your hands be weak, for your work shall be rewarded!"

DAY SIX

Philippians 1:27 Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your affairs, that you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel,