



Resurrection Implications (1 Corinthians 15:29-34)

- In verses 12-19, Paul wants the Corinthians and all believers to understand how important it is to believe in the future resurrection for all believers because of Christ's resurrection.
- In verses 12-19, he showed what is lost when the essential doctrine of the resurrection is denied.
- In verses 20-28, he then affirmed the glories of this essential doctrine and showed how it leads to the final consummation of God's redemptive plan for the ages.
- Now, he will return to some more implications that must be understood and responded to in order to experience the fulness of our future resurrection life.

① Your ministry doesn't matter if there is no future resurrection (15:29-32)

- Paul appeals to the absurdity of two ministry experiences that are meaningless if there is no resurrection: the practice of water baptism and the prevalence of personal danger.
- **The example of the practice of baptism** does not make sense if there is no resurrection. Paul references this strange and mystifying statement about baptism not found anywhere else in Scripture. What we do know is it refers to water baptism and the meaning must have been known to the Corinthians since it is not explained. Of all the interpretations, three seem to stand out:
 - 1: Paul could be referencing a proxy baptism being erroneously practiced for those who had died in Christ but had never been baptized (Paul uses the third person to speak of this baptism and just as the Corinthians had a false belief about the resurrection, Paul could also be using as an illustration of a false practice they had employed with baptism that pointed to a future resurrection they supposedly didn't believe)
 - 2: Paul could be referencing believers who were being baptized for their own dying bodies pictured as a death, burial, and resurrection in the act of baptism (Rom. 6:3-11; 8:10).
 - 3: Paul could be referencing believers who had been baptized "*because of*" believers who had died and their witness (by testimony when alive or writings after death) led them to Christ, and they were baptized into Christ.
- **The example of the pervasiveness of physical danger** does not make sense if there is no resurrection. Why face all the perpetual opposition, persecution and even death if there is no resurrection? Why expose yourself to unnecessary opposition or persecution? Why be willing to "*die daily*" just to boast about the work of Christ in peoples lives (2 Cor. 4:8-12; 5:1; 6:4-5, 8-10, 11:23-29)? What's the point of fighting against "*wild beasts*" (real or symbolic) that existed to end Paul's life? You might as well live for the moment if the dead are not raised: "*eat and drink, for tomorrow we die*" (quote from Isa. 22:14).

② Your morality matters because there is a future resurrection (15:33-34)

- There is a direct line between what you believe and how you behave. The Lord's resurrection and our future one has ethical implications and Paul mentions three:
 - 1: **Stop being deceived** (v. 33: "*do not be deceived; bad company corrupts good morals*"). Paul warns them about being negatively influenced by evil associations (the wrong crowd) and evil communication because they will pollute and corrupt your morals that should be pleasing God (Psalm 1:1)

- **2: Stop living spiritually drunk** (v. 34a: *“Become sober-minded as you ought”*). Get out of your spiritual drunken stupor and get a grip on what you know you should be thinking, believing, feeling and doing.
- **3: Stop sinning** (v. 34b: *“and stop sinning; for some have no knowledge of God”*). Both beliefs and behaviors can be sinful, so Paul commands them to stop being influenced by those ignorant of God’s will and ways. As Paul said, *“How shall we who died to sin still live in it? (Rom. 6:2). “Do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its lusts” (Rom. 6:12).*