

CHRIST IS RISEN FROM THE DEAD
I COR. 15:20-28

Introduction:

- A. In Paul's analysis of the Christian religion, "if Christ be not raised," he pauses to assure his readers that, "Christ is risen."
 - 1. "And now is Christ risen from the dead."
 - 2. Don't think for a minute that Christ is not risen.

- B. It seems that Paul does not wish to continue any longer with "if Christ be not raised," lest someone be overcome with grief.
 - 1. "They that are fallen asleep in Christ are perished"
 - 2. "ye are yet in your sins."

- C. He gives a brief resume of the central truths about death, immortality, the resurrection, the Kingdom, the end of death, and the final stage of "all in all."

I. CHRIST, THE FIRSTFRUITS OF THE DEAD.

- A. "but now is Christ risen from the dead."
 - 1. Two key words, "now," and "risen."
 - 2. Not a promise of a future event.

- B. "and become the firstfruits of them that slept."
 - 1. firstfruits = aparche - an offering of the firstfruits; the firstfruits which were offered to God.
 - 2. Lev. 23:9-11.
 - 3. This was a pledge of the full harvest.

II. THE SOURCE OF DEATH, THE SOURCE OF LIFE. V21,22

- A. Why do men die?
 - 1. "for since by man came death."
 - 2. Death came into the human race via the human race.

- B. How are men made alive?
 - 1. "by man came also the resurrection of the dead."
 - 2. Life was lost by a man, life must be regained by a man.

- C. Why do all men die?
 - 1. "For as in Adam all die."
 - 2. The sentence of death through Adam.

- D. How ill all men be raised?
 - 1. "even so in Christ shall all be made alive."
 - 2. John 5:28,29.

III. THE ORDER OF THE RESURRECTION. V23

- A. There is an "order" to the resurrection.
 - 1. "But every man in his own order."
 - 2. order = tagma - anything arranged in order, a body of troops, a band of people.

- B. What is the order?
 - 1. "Christ the firstfruits."
 - 2. "afterward they that are Christ's at His coming."
 - 3. v51,52.

IV. WHAT SHALL HAPPEN AFTER THE RESURRECTION OF THOSE AT CHRIST'S COMING? V24

- A. "Then cometh the end."
 - 1. The end will come after Christ has completed all of His work.

- B. "When he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father;"
 - 1. This is the millennial kingdom.
 - 2. At the close of the 1,000 year reign.

- C. "when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power."
 - 1. put down = katargeo - to render inactive, to spoil, to cause to cease.
 - 2. rule = arche - the first place, power, dominion.
 - 3. authority = eksousia - delegated authority.
 - 4. power - dunamis - natural capability, inherent power, power in action.

V. CHRIST WILL REIGN UNTIL ALL ENEMIES ARE CONQUERED. V25,26

- A. "For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet."
 - 1. reign = basileuo - to be a King.
 - 2. enemies = echthros - object of enmity, hated, opposite of agapetos.

- B. "The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death."
 - 1. destroyed = katargeo - to void, abolish, make of none effect.
 - 2. Rev. 21:1-4.

VI. CHRIST WILL HAVE ALL THINGS SUBJECTED TO HIM. V27,28

- A. "For He hath put all things under his feet."
 - 1. "Every knee shall bow and every tongue shall confess
 - 2. He will be "King of kings," and "Lord of lords."

- B. "But when he saith, all things are put under him, it is manifest that he is excepted, which did put all things under him."
 - 1. God the Father does not become subject to the Son.

- C. The Son will, after all things are subdued, offer Himself in subjection to God the Father.
 - 1. v28.

- D. The final stage of all things.
 - 1. God will be "all in all."

