



The Triumph of the Rising STUDY QUESTIONS

CHAPTER 1

The Evidence for Christ's Resurrection

1 Corinthians 15:1–11

1. What are the essential elements of the gospel message according to these verses (15:3–4)? What was its impact and how did the Corinthians respond (15:1–2)? Why does Paul remind them of this?
2. What was the doctrinal issue in Corinth that Paul addresses in this chapter (p. 4)? What evidence does he give that testifies to Christ's resurrection (15:1–11)?
3. How does the secular world undermine the resurrection (15:32)?
4. Who are some of the eyewitnesses to Jesus' resurrection? Why is their testimony so important for the resurrection (15:5–7)?
5. How does Paul's testimony proclaim the reality of the resurrection (15:8–10)? Does yours?
6. How could the testimonies to the resurrection (e.g., the testimony of the Church, Scripture, eyewitnesses, etc.) encourage other believers? How could they help in evangelizing an unbeliever?



CHAPTER 2

The Importance of Bodily Resurrection

1 Corinthians 15:12–19

1. What does the secular culture say happens to a person after he or she dies (cf. pp. 25–26)?
2. Is there evidence for the resurrection in the Old Testament (see Gen 22:5 and Heb 11:17–19; Job 19:26–27; Isa 26:19; Ezek 37; Dan 12:1–2)?
3. What are some of the theological consequences if there is no resurrection (15:12–19)?
4. What are some of the personal consequences if there is no resurrection (15:12–19)?
5. Each of these consequences is stated as a hypothetical (i.e., “*if* Christ has not been raised, *then* our preaching is vain,” 15:14; etc.). But Christ *has* been raised (cf. 15:20)! Reword each of these consequences in light of Christ’s resurrection (i.e., “*Because* Christ has been raised, our preaching has eternal value,” etc.). Reflect on these realities of the resurrection and discuss one that stands out (15:12–19).

CHAPTER 3

The Resurrection Plan

1 Corinthians 15:20–28

1. What did Paul mean when he said that Christ’s resurrection was the “first fruits” (15:20, 23)?



2. How does the statement “For as in Adam all die” relate to “so in Christ all shall be made alive” (15:22)? How does this comparison strengthen Paul’s argument?

3. What are the three stages of the resurrection that Paul outlines (pp. 48–49)? Which stage will you be part of?

4. Why was it necessary for Paul to outline this resurrection plan for the Corinthian church (15:12, 35)?

5. What will Christ ultimately achieve when death, the last enemy, is abolished (1 Cor 15:26; cf. Rev 21:4; 22:3)? How will that affect every believer in the end?

6. How does the promise of the future resurrection give hope to the believers today?

CHAPTER 4

Resurrection Incentives

1 Corinthians 15:29–34

1. What is the relationship between doctrine and conduct (pp. 58–60)? How should the doctrine of the resurrection affect our conduct?

2. How should we understand the phrase “baptized for the dead” (15:29)?



3. How should the resurrection motivate the believer's service to Christ?

4. How would you use the doctrine of the resurrection to counsel a believer who is suffering?

5. How should the resurrection motivate and energize the believer's sanctification?

6. What things tend to distract you from focusing on the future reality of the resurrection?

7. How can we remind ourselves of the coming resurrection?

CHAPTER 5

Our Resurrection Bodies

1 Corinthians 15:35–49

1. How does Paul's illustration of sowing seed help us understand the resurrection (15:35–44)?

2. How will our future body be similar to and different from our current body (15:42–44)?

3. How should the doctrine of personal, bodily resurrection affect our stewardship of the bodies God has given us in this life?



4. Who is the first Adam and who is the last Adam? Why does Paul compare the two (15:45)?
5. How can we encourage the physically weak, sick, and needy with the doctrine of bodily resurrection?
6. How can we show the physically strong and healthy that the doctrine of bodily resurrection is crucial for them as well?

CHAPTER 6

Victory over Death

1 Corinthians 15:50–58

1. What does Paul mean when he says, “flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the corruptible inherit the incorruptible” (15:50)?
2. When will death be defeated and “swallowed up in victory” (1 Cor 15:54; cf. Isa 25:8; Rev 21:4)?
3. What does Paul mean when he says that “the sting of death is sin” (1 Cor 15:56; cf. Rom 3:23; 6:23)?
4. What does Paul mean when he says that “the power of sin is the law” (1 Cor 15:56; cf. Rom 2:14–15; 4:15)?



5. What are some ways unbelievers try to avoid the sting of death?

6. What do unbelievers believe about the power of sin?

7. How does the truth of the resurrection make the labor of every believer “not in vain” (15:58)?

8. How should Christ’s triumph over death affect the believer’s view of death? How does Christ’s triumph provide hope for every believer?