



HAMMERING IT OUT

Studies in 1 Corinthians

Growing in Spirit & Truth

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A Change Is Gonna Come I Corinthians 15-16



Authentic Christianity is hammered out in the details of life.

The 5 Purposes of the Purpose Driven Life

- **Worship**—You were planned for God’s pleasure
- **Fellowship**—You were formed for God’s family
- **Discipleship**—You were created to become like Christ
- **Ministry**—You were shaped for serving God
- **Evangelism**—You were made for God’s mission

In 1963 R & B singer, Sam Cooke, wrote the hit, “A Change Is Gonna Come”. It came to exemplify the 60s civil rights movement, which had been a long time coming. Similarly, Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 15 about the biggest change that’s gonna come, our bodily resurrection. We are bound in this sin-ravaged body, but at Christ’s return we will receive a brand new body and be set free from sin. This is the irrefutable message of the gospel. Christ died, was buried and raised again according to the Scriptures; He then was seen for forty days by many who were still alive when Paul wrote and even appeared to Paul himself later. Belief in the resurrection is vital because without its truth even Christ has not been raised, thus negating the gospel. We would

still be trapped in sin, God would be a liar, and we would be eternally dead. Since Christ was raised, though, we will be also; in Adam we all died, but in Christ all believers will be made alive. He will reign for a time and at the end He will hand the kingdom back to His Father who is all in all. This means that living as believers right now is worthwhile although we die daily for Him. We also have an intriguing promise; while we are sown or buried in a mortal body we will be raised in a resurrection body. This will be imperishable, honorable, spiritual, and heavenly because the last Adam, Jesus, whose image we will bear, is a life-giving Spirit. This change will occur instantly when He returns and death is swallowed up in victory. The immediate application then, is to

be steadfast and hopeful, abounding in the work of the Lord since it is not in vain. We can give our money and our very lives for His work, as Paul encouraged the Corinthians to do. As he closed his letter his love for them was clearly seen. He promised to come to them as soon as possible, was sending Timothy, and explained why Apollos wasn’t coming. After he urged them to be alert, firm, courageous, strong and loving, he also urged them to help all who labored for the Lord. He then greeted them in his own handwriting and prayed for the return of the Lord. This would bring the ultimate change that was gonna come.

Study Questions for I Corinthians 15-16

(For answers go to [http://www.celebrationnet.com/abf/html/study questions](http://www.celebrationnet.com/abf/html/study%20questions))

1. Read 1 Cor 15:1-11. What did Paul make known to them (v1) and what were its elements (v3-9)? What was the “proof” of the gospel in them (v2) and Paul (v10-11)?	
2. From 15:12-19 what were some saying (v12) and why was this a problem (v12, 13-14, 16)? To what other negative conclusions would this lead (v15, 17, 18, 19)?	
3. In 15:20-28 what fact is reaffirmed (v20) and what will result (v21-22)? What is the resurrection order (v23) and comes after this (v24, 26)? How long will Christ reign and why (v25, 27)? What occurs then (v28)? Why (v28)?	

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I Corinthians 15-16 - Daily Study Questions (cont)

4. Looking at 1 Cor 15:29-34 what were people doing (v29) and the apostles doing (v30-31, 32)? Why were both doing this (v29)? What must be avoided and why (v33-34)?

5. Based on 15:35-41 with what process are the dead raised (v35-37)? What kinds of bodies are there (v38-41)? Who determines what the resurrection body will be like (v38)?

6. Using 15:42-49 compare our earthly bodies with our resurrection bodies (v42-44, 49). How are the first Adam and the last Adam (Jesus) different (v45, 46, 47)? Who will we be like (v48)?

7. Read 15:50-57. Who cannot inherit God's kingdom (v50)? What will happen to allow this (v51-52, 53-54) and what will the results be (v55-57)?

8. In 15:58-16:4 because of the resurrection what should be our overall mindset (v58)? What specific application did Paul make (16:1-4—see Gal 2:10, 2 Cor 8:4)? Why?

9. From 16:5-12 what were Paul's plans and why (v5-9)? What did he instruct regarding Timothy and why (v10-11)? What else did he tell them (v12)?

10. Looking at 16:13-24 what 5 things did Paul first command (v13-14)? What did he urge them to do next and why (v15-16, 17-18)? How did he conclude his letter (v19-24)? Describe his personal relationships (v5-24).

11 Summarize why the resurrection is indisputable (15:1-34), the intriguing promise it holds for us (15:35-57), and the immediate application for us in everyday life (15:58-16:24).

Scripture to Remember

“Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord.”

1 Corinthians 15:58 (NASB)

Celebration Fellowship

Help—Hope—Healing

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Life Group Questions—*Finding Freedom in the Word (Ps 119)*

(Using questions from Sunday's sermon, Life Groups meet in homes to build supportive relationships with others at Celebration Fellowship, helping us to grow in Christ.)

1. Think of a liberating truth that you have discovered in the Bible and share that with the group (like “there is no condemnation for those in Christ”). How has it changed you?
2. Read Ps 119:9-11. What conditions do we have to follow to find freedom from sin in our lives? Practically how can we do this consistently?
3. What are some of the ways that we get deceived? What are the effects of this and how can being in the Word help overcome that (see Ps 119:105)?
4. Discuss the meaning of vanity and why human beings are so vain as a rule. Why does being in the Word lead us to be on a mission for others instead of for ourselves?
5. Talk about why man's nature tends to be rebellious and some ways you have seen this in your life. How does following God's Word give us freedom us from that?
6. What are some idols we find ourselves worshiping? Describe the process that enslaves us to idolatry. How does taking in the Word break this slavery and lead us to worship God instead?
7. Share specific ideas of ways to saturate yourself with God's Word this week.