

LESSON 27: 1 CORINTHIANS 15:35-16:24

Resurrection

1. What illustrations are offered to show that the resurrection makes good sense and is not illogical (vv. 35-49)? Do you agree?
2. The question in verse 35 is a “how” question. Why does the fact that a person doesn’t necessarily understand “how” sometimes keep that person from belief? (Recall Nicodemus’ response to Jesus, in John 3:4,9.)
3. In verses 35-49, contrast the view toward the physical body of the world in which we live with Christ’s view of the physical body. In what four ways (at least) is the resurrection body different from our present body?
4. List the contrasts between the first Adam and the last Adam. Why can’t flesh and blood inherit the Kingdom of God? Why is it important that there is a “spiritual” body as well as a “natural” body (vv. 44b, 50-55)? Compare verses 50 and 53. Why does Paul use the imperative “must” (v. 53)?
5. If you are weary of this world and long for heaven, what message is there for you in verse 50-58? To what service do you wish to give yourself knowing that “your labor in the Lord is not in vain” (v. 58)?
6. Contrast how the believer and the pagan confront death (vv. 54-57). How is the sting and death now overcome? Why does it still hurt to have someone close to you die?
7. Why is a correct understanding of the resurrection of the dead essential? What happens when your theology in this area is weak?

The Collection, and Final Exhortations

1. What was the purpose of the collection about which Paul speaks in verses 1-4? Why should the Gentile Christians of Achaia share with the Jewish Christians in Jerusalem? What do they “owe” to Jews? (See Romans 15:25-28.)

2. What guidelines does Paul provide for the collection, and what principles for giving can we deduce from these verses?

3. On what basis does Paul make decisions about his future plans (vv. 5-9)? How about Apollos (v. 12)?

4. Note the two seemingly opposing elements in verse 9. What do you think this “great door for effective work” was to which he here refers (see Acts 19)? What happens if in your thinking, you neglect or emphasize one to these elements to the exclusion of the other? For what purpose does God open (or close) doors in your life? (See Acts 16:6-10; 2 Corinthians 2:12; and Colossians 4:3.)

5. What can be learned about Timothy by reading between the lines in verses 10-11? (See also 1 Timothy 1:2; 4:12,14.) Why and how does God work to spread the Gospel through different kinds of people?

6. In verse 13, Paul gives a summary list of guidelines for the character of a Christian’s stance and life, and then, in the following verses, holds up Stephanas and others as examples. Why? Why do “such men deserve recognition”? To what had the household of Stephanas submitted themselves? And why should the Corinthians now “submit to such as these”?

7. Near the very end of his letter Paul writes, “Come, O Lord!” (v. 22b) Do you long for the return of the Lord? What difference would such longing make in the Church today?