

I. THE BAD NEWS: If there is no bodily resurrection from the dead ...

7 AWFUL FACTS

1. Jesus Christ would not be risen but decayed in the ground. (v. 13)
2. The substance of what we preach is nothing more than powerless religious chatter. (v. 14a)
3. Our faith is worthless because it does not have an object powerful enough to change lives. (v. 14b)
4. The message and experience of the apostles was a lie—so we are liars, too. (v. 15)
5. Contemporary believers are still in their sins, standing under the condemnation of God as eternally guilty. (v. 17)
6. All dead believers laid to rest are lost and will never be seen again. (v. 18)
7. The world should see us as pathetic because we embrace an empty lie about this life and the next as well. (v. 19)

FIRST
CORINTHIANS
15:12-23

**BUT ... in fact, Christ has been raised from the dead,
the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. (v. 20)**

**SO ... what difference does the doctrine of the resurrection
make for us today?**

II. THE GOOD NEWS: The resurrection proves that ...

_____ is stronger than lies. (Rom 1:18)

Good is stronger than _____. (Gen 50:20)

_____ is stronger than hatred. (Matt 5:44)

Life is stronger than _____. (1 Cor 15:55)

_____ is stronger than fear. (1 Cor 15:51-52)

*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy,
he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,
to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you ... 1 Peter 1:3-4*

UNDIVIDED

DEVOTIONAL & HOME GROUP STUDY

1. Read 1 Corinthians 15:12-23. Paul's argument here is designed to show the Corinthians what would follow if one declares that there is no resurrection. If there is no resurrection, what are the general implications?

2. What would it mean in terms of your faith and your ability to be forgiven of sins if there was no resurrection? How would your daily life change?

3. Paul closes this letter with a reminder that "in the Lord your labor is not in vain" (v. 58). Why would Paul want believers to remember this?

4. How should this passage affect your attitude toward your own future? What difference should it make in your life that death is defeated?

5. What has this *Undivided* series meant to you? How has it impacted your faith and growth in Christ?

"The resurrection of Jesus—and our future resurrection—is the fundamental reality for all followers of Christ. It is the good news—the gospel—of Jesus the Messiah. The Christian life only makes sense if the resurrection is the foundation on which it stands. Christianity is not merely a set of ideas, a spiritual path, a political agenda or a rule of life—though it gives light to those things. At its heart, Christianity is good news about an event that forever changed the world. Those who live by the reality of the resurrection will never be the same again."

DAVID JEREMIAH

Firstfruits: Each year the Jews gave the first of the harvest to the Lord as a sign that the whole harvest belonged to Him (Lev 23:10-11,17,20). The significance of the first fruits, however, not only was that they preceded the harvest but that they were a *first installment* of the harvest. Christ became the first fruits at the moment of His resurrection. The rest of the crop is to follow. In other words, Christ's resurrection could not have been in isolation from ours—His resurrection *requires our resurrection*, because His resurrection was part of the larger resurrection of God's redeemed.

The resurrection of which Paul speaks here is permanent resurrection. Both the Old and New Testaments tell of persons who died and were miraculously brought back to life (1 Kin 17:22; 2 Kin 4:34-36, 13:21; Lk 7:15; Jn 11:44). But all of those persons died again. Even those whom Jesus raised—the son of the widow of Nain, Jairus's daughter, and Lazarus—eventually died again. Christ Himself, however, was the first to be raised never to die again.

Those who are asleep refers to the righteous dead, whose spirits have gone to be with the Lord (2 Cor 5:8; cf. Phil 1:23) but whose remains are in the grave, awaiting recomposition and resurrection. Through Christ, as a man, came the resurrection of the dead—just as through Adam, the first man, came death. Jesus' humanness was inextricably involved both in His resurrection and in ours. It was because Jesus died, was buried and was raised as a man that He could become the first fruits of all others who would be raised to glory.

EXERCISE FOR THIS WEEK

Read the rest of this chapter—1 Corinthians 15:24-58.

Paul knew that his teaching about physical resurrection would prompt questions (v. 35).

What does Paul say about the differences between our current physical bodies and our future spiritual bodies at the resurrection (vv. 42-45)?

What does Paul say will happen to those who are alive at the time of Jesus' second coming (vv. 52-44)?

Why must all natural, physical bodies be changed, even those that have not died (vv. 42-44, 50, 53)?

What will be the result when this occurs (vv. 54-55)?

What can we learn about the nature of resurrected bodies from Jesus' resurrected body (see Luke 24:13-42, John 20:10-21:14)?

Jesus rose from the dead! He is alive—and one day He will raise us up to be with Him eternally. What tremendous power the resurrection has, and what wonderful hope it gives!

COMING UP AT CHRIST CHAPEL

Here's a glimpse at what you need to know for this week at Christ Chapel. If you'd like to find out even more, visit www.ccbcfamily.org/events. That's a great spot to see what's coming up!

LOOKING FOR COMMUNITY? YOU'RE JUST IN TIME FOR FALL HOME GROUPS! Home groups are one of the best ways to find community at Christ Chapel as you grow in your faith and study the Bible. Use the insert in today's notes to sign up for one. You can also stop by the home groups table outside your worship venue to ask questions. Groups will be kicking off with the start of our fall series on Sunday, Oct. 3. Psst! Are you a young couple looking for a home group? Join us for a special home group gathering and dinner on Monday, Sept. 27. Email Anna at AnnaC@christchapelbc.org to learn more and RSVP.

REGISTER FOR WOMEN'S FALL PRAYER RETREAT—IT'S ALMOST HERE! Life is hectic, days are noisy and unprecedented situations seem never-ending—that's why the women of Christ Chapel are getting away for an overnight prayer retreat. Get out of town this Friday, Sept. 24 and Saturday, Sept. 25 and spend time resting and talking with God. There's more to know about the retreat so head to www.ccbcfamily.org/events to read on and register.

LET'S SERVE OUR SCHOOLS! The mission of Christ Chapel's Serve Our Schools Ministry is for every child, teacher and administrator in our local, partner schools to experience an authentic, personal encounter with Jesus. Christ Chapel has partnered with schools in Fort Worth, Parker County and Johnson County, and there are opportunities for you to serve as a mentor, reading tutor, teacher friend and more this fall. Scan the QR code to learn about Serve Our Schools or visit the kiosk outside your worship venue to get involved today.

A NEW CLASS ON TOXIC EMOTIONS STARTS SUNDAY, OCT. 3. We all enjoy talking about love, joy and peace, but bitterness, fear and people-pleasing? Maybe not so much. Those emotions (along with depression, anger, regret and the like) can wreak havoc in our lives and relationships. In the Toxic Emotions class you'll learn what drives these feelings, recognize the ways we most often respond to them and discover how God is eager to help us process them. Learn more and sign up for the class, which begins Sunday, Oct. 3 at 9 a.m., at www.ccbcfamily.org/events.

GROW YOUR FAITH AND THE NEXT GENERATION WITH CHILDREN'S MINISTRY! Serving in Children's Ministry on Sundays is a chance to build authentic friendships, grow deeper in your faith and show kids that Jesus loves them. Stop by the Children's Ministry display in the Great Room or Atrium today to sign up.

LOOKING FOR THE CONNECT CARD? Scan the QR code here to fill out a Connect Card. Our team will reach out this week to answer your questions and tell you more about Christ Chapel.

IF YOU'D LIKE TO GIVE AN OFFERING TODAY, YOU CAN DO SO STRAIGHT FROM YOUR PHONE. The process is quick and easy—just text "CCBCFW" to 833-422-7200 to get started.