

Physical Death is Not the End

1 Corinthians 15:20-34

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I. Jesus is the firstfruits. 1 Corinthians 15:20

The idea of giving to the Lord first from all their increase was established from this passage; the people were thankful and realized all they _____ came from the Lord. **Leviticus 23:10**

- Similar to the sheaf of grain that was to be set apart for the Lord in **Leviticus 23**, so we as believers are set apart for God's _____.

"The resurrection of Jesus is also the firstfruits of our resurrection in the sense that He is our "entrance fee" to resurrection. Jesus paid our _____ to the resurrection!" (Guzik)

II. Death came by man. 1 Corinthians 15:21-23

Adam became the head of mankind when the Lord created him as the first person of the human race. As the head of mankind, once Adam sinned, all _____ was brought under death.

- Jesus, as our commander, rose from the dead first and then when He returns, His people will be raised with _____ bodies.

III. Death is defeated. 1 Corinthians 15:24-28

In **Revelation 5**, John weeps because _____ was found in all creation who is worthy, until the Lion of Judah is revealed.

- Paul is communicating, a time is coming when all things will be finalized and presented by Jesus to God the Father, giving glory to Him who authored this _____ plan to redeem man.

*"These (**Matthew 27: 52-53**) were but preliminary skirmishes and mere foreshadowing's of the grand victory by which death was _____."* (Spurgeon)

IV. Effects of denying the resurrection. 1 Corinthians 15:29-34

If there is no resurrection, what is the point of hoping the dead can be _____?

- Paul was going to continue to preach Jesus' resurrection as the only hope for all mankind, no matter what those in charge had to say; but, there was a _____ to standing up for the resurrection.

To resist the Lord's process of _____ by renewing our minds is to **neglect the knowledge of God**, and also remaining willfully ignorant of the truth is sin.

Small Group Discussion

Looking back at your notes from this week's sermon, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

1. Read **1 Corinthians 15:20**. What are firstfruits? How is Jesus the firstfruits of resurrection? How do we honor the Lord with firstfruits?
Leviticus 23:9-10, Romans 6:5-6, 2 Corinthians 9:7, James 1:17-18
2. Read **1 Corinthians 15:21-23**. How did physical death come from man? Does every person go through a resurrection?
John 5:24-30, John 11:1-27, Romans 5:12-19
3. Read **1 Corinthians 15:24-28**. How and when are death defeated by Jesus? What does Jesus do with all the things that were made subject to Him? Is Jesus less than God the Father?
Matthew 27:50-53, John 14:6-9, Ephesians 1:9-10, Colossians 1:19, Colossians 2:9-10, Revelation 5, Revelation 20:11-15
4. Read **1 Corinthians 15:29-32**. Why did Paul mention baptism for the dead? What does Paul say we should do if the dead do not rise?
5. Discuss the 7 points from C.H. Spurgeon about dying daily.
"Every day carefully consider the certainty of death. By faith put your soul through the whole process of death. Hold this world with a loose hand. Every day seriously test your hope and experience. Come every day, just as you did at conversion, to the cross of Jesus, as a poor guilty sinner. Live in such a manner that you would not be ashamed to die at any moment. Have all your affairs in order so that you are ready to die."
6. Read **1 Corinthians 15:33-34**. Why should we as followers of Christ heed this warning? What are the potential dangers of people with a bad influence? What does Paul say is the answer in **verse 34** to avoid compromising our faith?
Matthew 5:13-16, John 17:11-15, Romans 12:2