



*"And now I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified." (Acts 20:32)*

May 21, 2017

## LET THE CHURCH, BE THE CHURCH Reductio Ad Absurdum of the Resurrection – Part 4

Read 1 Corinthians 15:20-28

*The key to understanding 1 Corinthians 15 in the face of those who deny the resurrection of the dead is to view the plan of God in terms of a series of necessary and inevitable chain of events that must take place.*

### BIBLICAL ESCHATOLOGY

#### #1. Christ as the Last Adam.(vv 21-22)



All who belong to Adam's race are born with this birth defect: sin and death. (Romans 5:12–21) All who are in the first Adam, are sinners and will die in their sins. But Christ came to establish a new race of people. (2 Corinthians 5:17)

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#### #2. The Resurrection of Christ. (v22)

The point he is making is that "Christ's resurrection *demands* our resurrection."<sup>1</sup>

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#### #3. The Reign of Christ in the Midst of His Enemies.(vv25–26)

The present reign of Jesus is better understood as Christ in the Command Post, sovereignly executing the battle plan and systematically waging war on all His foes. See Psalm 110:1–2. The warfare of Christ is significantly different than other religions.

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<sup>1</sup> Fee, G. D. (2014). *The First Epistle to the Corinthians*. (N. B. Stonehouse, F. F. Bruce, G. D. Fee, & J. B. Green, Eds.) (Revised Edition, p. 828). Grand Rapids, MI; Cambridge, U.K.: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company.

**#4. The Resurrection of the Dead. (vv22-23)**

This is the center of Paul’s argument to Corinth. If Christ is raised, then all in Christ will be raised. Period!

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**#5. The Defeat of All Kingdoms and Authorities. (v22-24)**

This is really important: the resurrection of Jesus Christ guaranteed that all rival kingdoms will ultimately be defeated. See Revelation 11:15.

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**#6. The Resignation of Christ’s Commission (vv27-28)**

A human illustration might help ...

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At that time, the special mission as Redeemer will be complete; and as a victorious conquering King, the Lord Jesus Christ will bring to the Father the glorious end of the military campaign. His task to quell the rebellion will be complete. He will return ‘home’ to sit as one with His Father on the eternal throne.

**#7. God Will Be All In All (v28)**

“Therefore, at the death of death the final rupture in the universe will be healed and God alone will rule over all beings, banishing those who have rejected the divine offer of life and lovingly governing all those who by grace have entered into God’s “rest.”<sup>1</sup>

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**APPLICATION**

If the resurrection did not occur, the Messiah’s kingdom was not established; the rebellion was not quashed; the dead are not raised; and God is not God.

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<sup>1</sup> Fee, G. D. (2014). *The First Epistle to the Corinthians*. (N. B. Stonehouse, F. F. Bruce, G. D. Fee, & J. B. Green, Eds.) (Revised Edition, p. 841). Grand Rapids, MI; Cambridge, U.K.: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company.