

BIBLE CORRESPONDENCE FELLOWSHIP

First Corinthians

Lesson Five



Answer Key

Please memorize the following verse and be prepared to write it out at the end of this lesson.

Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed (1 Corinthians 15:51-52).

CHAPTER FIFTEEN

The fifteenth chapter of 1 Corinthians is one of the most powerful in all of scripture. The first verses give the most concise summary of the gospel of salvation in the Bible. It also contains information about the nature of our resurrection and the bodies we will have after we have been changed and we are with the Lord.

THE GOSPEL OF SALVATION

Read 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 _____ Check

1. (vs. 1) What did Paul want to declare (remind) to the Corinthians believers? **The gospel that he preached to them**
2. (vs. 2) What could this gospel do for them if they kept it in their memory (held firmly to it) (see also Romans 1:16)? **They would be saved**
3. (vss. 3-4) What are the three significant points of the gospel as presented in these verses?
 1. **Christ died for our sins**
 2. **He was buried**
 3. **He rose from the dead**
4. (vss. 5-7) What further evidence does Paul give to prove the resurrection of Christ? **He appeared to Peter and the twelve and later to more than 500 people and to James and the apostles**

5. (vs. 8) Who was the last to see Christ? Paul
6. (vs. 9) Why did Paul feel that he was not worthy to be called an apostle? Because he persecuted the church
8. (vs. 10) To what did Paul attribute anything which he had accomplished? To the grace of God

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE RESURRECTION

Read 1 Corinthians 15:12-34 _____ Check

9. (vs. 12) What were some in Corinth saying about the resurrection of the dead? They were saying that there was no resurrection of the dead
10. (vss. 13-14) What would be the value of Paul's preaching if Christ had not been raised from the dead? It would be in vain (useless)
11. (vss. 15-18) What would be our fate if Christ were not resurrected? We would still be in our sins and those that have already died have no hope of resurrection
12. (vs. 19) What would be the condition of believers if their hope was only for this lifetime? They would be pitiful of all people
13. (vs. 22) Describe the contrast between Adam and Christ brought out in this verse. All men died as a result of Adam and all men can be made alive because of Christ
14. (vs. 23-25) What sequence of events does Paul give in these verses outlining the events associated with resurrection? Christ the firstfruits, when he comes all that belong to him will be raised, the end will come Christ will destroy all powers and hand the kingdom to the Father, he will reign until all enemies have been destroyed
15. (vs. 26) What will be the last enemy to be destroyed? death

Note: These few verses (23-28) give a brief synopsis of the end times events. After the believers are raised in the rapture the end times will come (seven years Tribulation). Christ will reign until all enemies have been destroyed, including death and Hades (Revelation 20:14) at which point Christ will turn all things over to the Father

16. (vs. 29) What practice does Paul refer to in this verse? Being baptized for the dead

Note: The practice of baptism for the dead is not mentioned anywhere else in the Bible and there is no further explanation of what Paul was referring. This is one part of the Scripture the meaning of which will remain a mystery until we see the Lord and are able to ask Him to explain it to us.

17. (vs. 34) What does Paul tell the Corinthians not to do by associating with those that taught there was no resurrection? They were to stop sinning

THE RESURRECTION BODY

Read 1 Corinthians 15:35-49 _____ Check

18. (vss. 35-41) Briefly summarize what Paul is trying to say in these verses. A seed must die before it grows to become a plant. Likewise, every created thing has its own unique type of body.

19. (vss. 42-44) List the distinctions Paul points out between the natural body (the one sown) and the resurrection body.

Natural Body

1. Sown in corruption (perishable-NIV)
2. Sown in dishonor
3. Sown in weakness
4. Sown a natural body

Resurrection Body

- Raised in incorruption (imperishable-NIV)
- Raised in glory
- Raised in power
- Raised a spiritual body

20. Read verses 45-49 carefully and note the distinction between the earthly character of Adam and the heavenly character of Christ. _____ Check

THE RAPTURE

Read 1 Corinthians 15:50-58 _____ Check

21. (vs. 50) What cannot inherit the kingdom of God? Flesh and blood

22. (vs. 51) What word does Paul use to describe the events he is about to discuss? A mystery

Note: The Greek word translated “mystery,” *musterion*, means something kept secret or hidden. The following truths that Paul is going to teach were things which were kept secret by God and were revealed only through the Apostle Paul.

23. (vs. 51) What will happen to believers at the time Christ comes? **We will all be changed**
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24. (vs. 52) How long will it take for our bodies to be changed? **In a moment (flash – NIV), in the twinkling of an eye**
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25. (vs. 52) What will announce the Lord's coming (compare 1 Thessalonians 4:16)? **The trumpet call of God**
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26. (vss. 52-53) What will happen to the dead and those alive at the moment the trumpet sounds? **They will be raised incorruptible (imperishable) and those alive will be changed and given incorruptible and immortal bodies.**
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27. (vs. 54) What will happen to death when we have been given resurrection bodies? **Death will have been swallowed up in victory**
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28. (vs. 56) What is the sting of death? **Sin**
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29. (vs. 57) Through whom do we have victory? **Through our Lord Jesus Christ**
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30. (vs. 58) What does Paul say about the value of our labor for the Lord? **It is never in vain**
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CHAPTER SIXTEEN

THE COLLECTION FOR THE POOR

Read 1 Corinthians 16:1-4 _____ Check

1. (vs. 1) To whom else did Paul give instructions about the collection of money? **To the Galatian churches**
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Note: This collection was to help the Jewish Christians that were in Jerusalem. They had experienced severe hardship because of the persecutions that had taken place. Paul collected money in all the churches he visited to help alleviate their hardships.

2. (vs. 2) When were the Corinthians to set aside money? On the first day of the week

3. (vs. 2) How much money were the Corinthians to set aside? An amount consistent with his income
(as God hath prospered him – KJV)

Note: These instructions reflect the principle of giving according to grace rather than law. Under the Law the Israelites had specific commandments to give ten percent of all they earned. Nowhere does Paul give such a law. However, he leaves it open for believers to give more than that if they have been so blessed.

PERSONAL MATTERS

Read 1 Corinthians 16:5-18 _____ Check

4. (vss. 5-7) What were Paul's plans concerning visiting the Corinthians. He planned to visit them after
passing through Macedonia and he hoped to be able to spend the winter with them

5. (vs. 7) What condition does Paul place on these plans being realized? That the Lord permits it

6. (vss. 8-9) Why did Paul want to go to Ephesus? There was a door of opportunity for him to work there

7. (vs. 10) How should the Corinthians respond to a visit from Timothy? They should freely accept him
and send him on his way in peace

8. (vss. 13-14) What instructions does Paul give the Corinthians in these verses? Be on guard, stand firm in
the faith, have courage, be strong and do everything in love – NIV; Watch ye, stand fast in the faith,
quit you like men, be strong. Let all your things be done with charity. – KJV

9. (vs. 15) Whose household were the first converts (firstfruits) in Achaia (Greece)? Stephanus

Read 1 Corinthians 1:16 and identify Paul's relationship to them. He baptized them

10. (vs. 19) In whose home did the church meet that sent greetings to the Corinthians? Aquila and Priscilla

11. (vs. 21) Who wrote down the final greetings of the letter? **Paul**

Note: It is believed that Paul had serious eye problems and that he dictated his letters to a secretary that copied down his words. However, he signed the letters himself as evidence that they were authentic.

12. (vs. 22) What does Paul say of those that do not love the Lord? **They are accursed (Anathema – KJV)**

13. (vs. 24) How does Paul close the letter? **He sends his love to them in Christ Jesus**

Write 1 Corinthians 15:51-52 from memory on the lines below.

Use the space below for any questions or comments:

☐ I would like to be contacted by a minister in my area that can help me better understand God's Word. If checked please include a telephone number _____

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