

BIBLE CORRESPONDENCE FELLOWSHIP

First Corinthians

Lesson Five



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? _____

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)? _____

3. (vss. 3-4) What are the three significant points of the gospel as presented in these verses?
 1. _____
 2. _____
 3. _____

4. (vss. 5-7) What further evidence does Paul give to prove the resurrection of Christ? _____

5. (vs. 8) Who was the last to see Christ? _____

6. (vs. 9) Why did Paul feel that he was not worthy to be called an apostle? _____

8. (vs. 10) To what did Paul attribute anything which he had accomplished? _____

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? _____

10. (vss. 13-14) What would be the value of Paul's preaching if Christ had not been raised from the dead? _____

11. (vss. 15-18) What would be our fate if Christ were not resurrected? _____

12. (vs. 19) What would be the condition of believers if their hope was only for this lifetime? _____

13. (vs. 22) Describe the contrast between Adam and Christ brought out in this verse. _____

14. (vs. 23-25) What sequence of events does Paul give in these verses outlining the events associated with resurrection? _____

15. (vs. 26) What will be the last enemy to be destroyed? _____

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? _____

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? _____

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. _____

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

Natural Body

Resurrection Body

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

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? _____

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

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? _____

24. (vs. 52) How long will it take for our bodies to be changed? _____

25. (vs. 52) What will announce the Lord's coming (compare 1 Thessalonians 4:16)? _____

- 26 (vss. 52-53) What will happen to the dead and those alive at the moment the trumpet sounds? _____

27. (vs. 54) What will happen to death when we have been given resurrection bodies? _____

28. (vs. 56) What is the sting of death? _____
29. (vs. 57) Through whom do we have victory? _____
30. (vs. 58) What does Paul say about the value of our labor for the Lord? _____

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? _____

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? _____

3. (vs. 2) How much money were the Corinthians to set aside? _____

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. _____

5. (vs. 7) What condition does Paul place on these plans being realized? _____

6. (vss. 8-9) Why did Paul want to go to Ephesus? _____

7. (vs. 10) How should the Corinthians respond to a visit from Timothy? _____

8. (vss. 13-14) What instructions does Paul give the Corinthians in these verses? _____

9. (vs. 15) Whose household were the first converts (firstfruits) in Achaia (Greece)? _____
Read 1 Corinthians 1:16 and identify Paul's relationship to them. _____

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

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

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? _____

13. (vs. 24) How does Paul close the letter? _____

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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