

In the preceding passage Paul had shared the teaching of the apostles, that Christ had died for our sins, was buried, and rose from death on the third day. He then gave us the most complete list in Scripture of the eyewitnesses who had seen the risen Christ, ending with himself. He had met the glorified Christ on the road to Damascus which resulted in his about-face from a Christian persecutor to a Christ proclaimer. This review of the essentials of the faith was an introduction to renounce an idea that was infiltrating the Corinthian church that taught that there is no bodily resurrection.

*<sup>12</sup> Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? <sup>13</sup> But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised.* 1 Corinthians 15:12,13 Sadducees and Gnostics taught that there was no resurrection. Sadducees did not believe in an afterlife at all (Mark 12:18<sup>i</sup>). Gnostics taught that only the spirit would go on, for they thought of all physical things as evil. While Gnosticism developed in a later era, some of the ideas behind it were already present at the time.

Imagine how hard it was to keep the churches on track without Bibles or pastors who were prepared and had grown up with a biblical foundation. Paul taught in the preceding passage that the core of the gospel is that Christ was raised from the dead - positive proof that His sacrifice for our sins was accepted and that death and hell are defeated (Revelation 1:18<sup>ii</sup>)! But if you believe the dead are not raised, how can you say Christ was raised and for what purpose?

Perhaps some Corinthians were saying, as is claimed by the skeptics today, that Jesus never rose? The person making the case for resurrection is a man who saw Jesus alive with his own eyes which were then blinded by the sight of His glory (Acts 9:4-9<sup>iii</sup>). Apostle Paul had no doubt whatsoever in his own experience and in the experience of the other apostles.

*<sup>14</sup> And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain.* 1 Corinthians 15:14 The resurrection is the cornerstone of our faith. It shows Jesus is the Messiah and that His sacrifice was accepted by God. Why believe in Him at all if this life is all there is? If we are only temporal beings, what reason do we have to sacrificially serve, to love, to hope? Are we just animals as the world would have us believe? Then we should all act like animals. Imagine the nightmarish condition the world would be in if it were so. What we are recently seeing in the streets of major cities is the product of that kind of teaching. Wherever atheistic thought prevails, the same results are evident. Nietzsche and other renowned atheist foresaw that if religion was abandoned, man would have to create a new one to maintain civilization.

*<sup>15</sup> We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified about God that he raised Christ, whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. <sup>16</sup> For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised.* 1 Corinthians 15:15,16 The apostles' role was to testify of the risen Christ (Acts 1:21,22<sup>iv</sup>)! If that is not true, the whole gospel is a lie, and they are not proclaiming the true God. This doctrine that was circulating among the Corinthians was undermining the very foundation of the gospel.

*<sup>17</sup> And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins.* 1 Corinthians 15:17 If the sacrifice of Jesus was not proven to be accepted by the resurrection, then we are still in sin and will face the wrath of a holy God who never

provided a way to be made right with Him (Romans 4:25<sup>v</sup>)! If the power of resurrection to live a new life now is not available to us, we are condemned to live in the flesh (Ephesians 1:19,20). Denying resurrection is to deny the power of God in our present lives and holiness after our deaths (Romans 1:17<sup>vi</sup>).

If on the other hand they were holding to Greek thought that the body is merely mortal matter and the soul eternal, then a disembodied ghost like soul with little or no way to express itself would upon death go to be with the gods. But God created the human body in Eden. What God makes is good (Genesis 1:31<sup>vii</sup>). Denying the resurrection is to deny the power of God to undo the curse of sin (Romans 8:19-21<sup>viii</sup>). But the God of the Bible *is* all-powerful (Matthew 19:26<sup>ix</sup>), as Jesus demonstrated by the resurrection of the dead as a part of His ministry (Mark 5:41,42<sup>x</sup>; John 11:43,44<sup>xi</sup>). Not only can he restore the body but the soul as well, which is the mind, will, and emotions conformed to Christlikeness. The image of God will be restored in the body and the soul (1 John 3:2<sup>xii</sup>).

*<sup>18</sup> Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished.* 1 Corinthians 15:18 If there is no resurrection our loved ones who have died and those who have gone before us are just gone to oblivion or are doomed to suffer the wrath of a just God. What a thought of hopelessness! Most of the world has an innate sense that this life is not the end. Modern education tries to convince us that this is all there is. But with so many telling of a life beyond death after being resuscitated, even the skeptics are reconsidering.

One popular idea is that we work off our bad karma in multiple incarnations. That is Hindu and Buddhist teaching. It does recognize a need for justice, for the scales of right and wrong to be balanced. But if that was the case, people should be getting kinder and kinder with each round. We humans have been around a long time and man's inhumanity to man has changed in style but not in sheer ugliness. If it were possible to pay off our sins by our deeds, Jesus would not need to have died (Matthew 26:42<sup>xiii</sup>).

*<sup>19</sup> If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied.* 1 Corinthians 15:19 If our hope in Jesus is only for this life, we are to be pitied above all, for if we suffer for Christ in this life and then we die and are judged guilty, what kind of blessing is that? What kind of love would have us live under persecution, die, and be doomed or just not exist?

The reason that it is better to live for Christ in this life is that we experience His love, grace, forgiveness of sins, and the power to express that life to others. We live for a purpose with the hope of serving God in this life and future resurrection at which time His work in us will be completed and we will be like Him (Philippians 3:21<sup>xiv</sup>). He even promises to share His glory with those who suffer for Him (Romans 8:17<sup>xv</sup>).

Paul endured all the suffering he experienced with the hope of this glorious result after death. Like Jesus, he endured for the joy that was set before him (Hebrews 12:2<sup>xvi</sup>). We need to do the same. Is your life difficult? It would not come close to what Jesus endured for us, or even Apostle Paul's suffering (2 Corinthians 11:23-28<sup>xvii</sup>). We should follow their examples and live in faith each day with abiding joy in our hearts knowing what awaits us when we finish our course. I like to call it graduation. **What we believe about resurrection determines the attitude of our hearts in the trials of life.**

Consider how this verse contradicts all the claims by false teachers who say that following Jesus will make you successful. If their definition of success is doing God's will not matter the cost I would agree with them, but more often it is about material gain

or recognition from the world. The prosperity teachers abound because the old nature loves to hear their message of becoming wealthy or important. Very few of God's servants are recognized by the world. The vast majority are shunned by the world because their lives of devotion and selflessness are repugnant to those who live only for the present moment (Luke 16:15<sup>xviii</sup>).

*<sup>20</sup> But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.* 1 Corinthians 15:20 Praise God that Jesus did rise! Jesus rose as the firstfruits of a great harvest of souls who will make up His bride. Firstfruits were the first portion of a crop to ripen. It was given to the Lord in faith that He would bless the rest of the crop to be harvested successfully. To *not* give it as an offering was to doubt God. In other words, Jesus' death and resurrection are an offering accepted by God, which is the guarantee of our own resurrection that will follow.

*<sup>21</sup> For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. <sup>22</sup> For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive.* 1 Corinthians 15:21,22 Adam sinned, and mankind inherited his sin nature upon which is the punishment of death (Genesis 2:17<sup>xix</sup>). But accepting the death of Jesus on our behalf means our punishment has already been dealt out. We go from death to life presently. We are entitled to spiritually rise with Jesus now and live in freedom from the bondage of sin (Romans 8:11<sup>xx</sup>)! To die to our old Adamic nature with Jesus on the cross is to have eternal life right now (1 John 5:12<sup>xxi</sup>). Our dead bodies will also rise when the last trumpet sounds (1 Corinthians 15:51,52<sup>xxii</sup>). Just as all of us are affected by Adam's sin, so all who are in Christ are affected by His resurrection spiritually and physically (Romans 5:15,16<sup>xxiii</sup>)!

"The point made by the Apostle Paul concerning this parallelism between Adam and Christ was to highlight the fact that Christ, like Adam, is the progenitor of a new humanity."<sup>xxiv</sup> As Paul taught in Ephesians, Jew and Gentile are made one new man. They are no longer two races of people with different destinies, but we become children of God by faith in what Christ has done (Ephesians 2:14-16<sup>xxv</sup>). We join the family of God and are citizens of heaven (Philippians 3:20<sup>xxvi</sup>). The Bible begins with the fall of man and concludes with restoration from the fall through resurrection made possible by our Savior. It is the grand finale! The Kingdom of God is established in righteousness and the lion will lie down with the lamb. Nothing will ever hurt or destroy in all His holy mountain (Isaiah 11:6-9<sup>xxvii</sup>).

I am often asked about the time between our deaths and the resurrection of our bodies. Upon death our spirit goes to be with God (Philippians 1:23<sup>xxviii</sup>). When Jesus returns and the last trump sounds, our bodies will be reconstituted like the metamorphosis of a butterfly. Our bodies will rise to meet the Lord and our spirits in the air (1 Thessalonians 4:14-16<sup>xxix</sup>). From some of the Lord's parables it appears that our spirits in the heavenly realm will be recognizable until that happens. Remember the story of the rich man and Lazarus (Luke 16:19f). Many accounts have been documented of people who while clinically dead saw their departed loved ones. But we will not receive our eternal bodies until the return of Christ which we refer to as the rapture.

*<sup>23</sup> But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ.* 1 Corinthians 15:23 Everything in God's time and order. All the grain does not ripen at once. Mariko and I grow fruit and harvest it as it ripens. Some fruit ripens first, then the rest over about a month's time. We will all be ripe when Jesus

returns. Hallelujah! Many people will be ripe for wrath after a life of resisting God's goodness and grace. Those who belong to Christ by accepting His grace will be ripe for glory. When I speak with those who are either dying or have a health condition which could take their lives, I find those who are truly in Christ are at peace. They may have concerns about those whom they are leaving behind, but some are even excited to go and be with Christ.

*<sup>24</sup> Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power.* 1 Corinthians 15:24 The governments of man will be so corrupt and vile that we will be pleading for Jesus to take over and free us from the reign of man (Matthew 24:10-12<sup>xxx</sup>). No more nukes. No more biased judges. No more corrupt politicians. This is the message that bothered Rome. It sounded to Romans like sedition, for Caesar was the father of the fatherland. But Paul is not talking of an army of man, but of the Second Coming of Christ. Governments are not the benevolent rulers and bestowers of all things good. God is the giver of everything and is ushering in a kingdom infinitely greater than Rome or any government of man (James 1:17<sup>xxxi</sup>)! Every worldly rule, authority, and power will be destroyed, and Christ will reign supreme (Daniel 2:44,45<sup>xxxii</sup>). Then He will hand over the eternal kingdom to the Father. When God is all in all, death is no more. The life of God will permeate all that remains. All will be as it was meant to be from the beginning as the saints enjoy fellowship with our perfected brothers and sisters but most of all with the Son of God, the Word made flesh (John 1:14<sup>xxxiii</sup>; Revelation 19:13<sup>xxxiv</sup>).

*<sup>25</sup> For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. <sup>26</sup> The last enemy to be destroyed is death. <sup>27</sup> For "God has put all things in subjection under his feet." But when it says, "all things are put in subjection," it is plain that he is excepted who put all things in subjection under him. <sup>28</sup> When all things are subjected to him, then the Son himself will also be subjected to him who put all things in subjection under him, that God may be all in all.* 1 Corinthians 15:25-28 Jesus is sovereign over this fallen world, but He has endowed mankind with free will. Free will has consequences. The day will come when every enemy including death will be defeated (Psalm 110:1<sup>xxxv</sup>). Everything except God is under Jesus' authority. When all is subdued, Jesus will present all to the Father. Then God will be all in all for evil will no longer be. All will conform to the perfect will of God. Everything will be life and light (I John 1:5<sup>xxxvi</sup>). The rebels against the goodness of God will be where they belong because true justice will be forever. We will never again fear the greedy, the violent, or oppressors. That truth either frightens you or is your heart's longing, depending on your relationship with Christ.

*<sup>29</sup> Otherwise, what do people mean by being baptized on behalf of the dead? If the dead are not raised at all, why are people baptized on their behalf?* 1 Corinthians 15:29 If we have no hope in the coming day when all is subject to God, what does baptism mean? Why should we endure hardship for Christ?

*There is no evidence that this means the church baptized people in proxy for people who had died as the Mormon church does. In the second century some Gnostic groups did baptize for dead people in hopes that it secured their place in heaven. The Corinthians may have been doing that as they seem to have had other early Gnostic ideas. But Paul is not sanctioning it but asking why they would do that if they don't believe in resurrection. Without condoning or condemning them, he is pointing out the inconsistency in their belief.* <sup>xxxvii</sup>

From another perspective, they surely understood from Paul's teaching that salvation is by grace alone through faith alone. Baptism is an outward sign telling the world you died with Christ (perhaps the meaning here) and are now alive in Christ. It also declares that you have been and will be buried with Him and also are and will be raised with Him. Paul may be arguing that the important sacrament of baptism is meaningless if there is no resurrection.

*<sup>30</sup> Why are we in danger every hour? <sup>31</sup> I protest, brothers, by my pride in you, which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die every day!* 1 Corinthians 15:30,31 If this life is all there is, why would the apostles subject themselves to persecution and hardship? Why not just enjoy the pleasures of life since it soon ends with no reward or future with Christ? Is Jesus seeking a bride who will soon die and be no more? What and when is the wedding feast of the Lamb (Revelation 19:7<sup>xxxviii</sup>)? What does Daniel 12:2<sup>xxxix</sup> mean?

*Those who do not believe in the resurrection live in the tension between trying to preserve their life and longing for experiences that are dangerous to their lives. They will not heroically step out and risk their lives for others as that might be the end of their existence. But those who believe in the resurrection can face life keeping simple pleasures in their place while facing life's challenges without fear. Ironically, it is the resurrection that gives Christians what hedonism and self-exploration falsely promise: the ability to live and enjoy life to the full without fear. Christians will be able to conduct themselves with moral composure (an unwillingness to overvalue trivial matters).<sup>xl</sup>*

We should die to ourselves every day to serve the Lord because He loves us, and we want to please Him. We should be longing for the day we see Him face to face, when our sin nature is gone forever, and we can look into His eyes and feel His embrace, and to hear Him without our mind getting in the way wondering if it is truly His voice. On that day we can tell Him how grateful we are for all He has done, for all the grace and love with which He has blessed us. Oh, what a day! Hand in hand we will walk through the beauty of His new creation, and He will tell us of how He guided us and the fruit that came from His hand on our lives. We will sing Jesus Lover of My Soul, and He will sing over us (Zephaniah 3:17<sup>xli</sup>). Our hearts will be bursting with love for Him and there will be no competition for our love for Him. Then He will give us something to do to express our love, and we will do it in His power and with all that is in us while feeling His joy as we serve Him. Maranatha! This is why we die daily now. This conviction of resurrection helps us refuse sin and embrace His will, even when we must die to ourselves to do so.

*<sup>32</sup> What do I gain if, humanly speaking, I fought with beasts at Ephesus? If the dead are not raised, "Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die."* 1 Corinthians 15:32 This is the only account that suggests Paul may have fought with beasts. Was he in an arena? A Roman citizen would certainly not be forced into an arena. Is he referring to people? Or was this a wild animal he encountered on the road there? We just don't know.

The Greek thought that the soul perishes with the body encouraged hedonism, getting the most out of life by enjoying physical pleasures. Thus, the saying, "Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die!" If this is all there is, enjoy it while you can. While many deny that they believe this, they live as though they do.

The next most common idea was the Gnostic belief that the body is evil, but the soul is good. The death of the body was a good thing so the soul could be released. It is another belief that is common in our day even in the church. I had a long discussion with a pastor's daughter who held this view even after I shared many verses on the subject

with her. This view could be used to justify sinful behavior. It is the condition Paul was describing in Romans 7 without the hope given us in Romans 8. "Oh, well, I cannot help it as I am in this evil body. But someday I will be released." Or the view can result in super-spiritualism. That view ignores the physical and lives doing one spiritual routine after another, imagining visions and voices from beyond.

The third view is that both soul and body continue on at the resurrection. This is the view of the Bible. Many reject it because of the ugliness of death and decay. They cannot imagine that God who made us from the dust of the earth and can remake us the same way. Even though science tells us we are a mixture of elements, we are so wonderfully and intricately made that it is hard to imagine. They cannot believe death can be defeated, but Jesus showed it is possible when He raised people from death after their bodies began to decay, and in His own resurrection.<sup>xliii</sup> God can reverse the effects of time and entropy. We know it is scientifically possible, but we cannot imagine actually doing it, even though we have accounts of Jesus doing the same (See verses 20-23).

*<sup>33</sup> Do not be deceived: "Bad company ruins good morals." <sup>34</sup> Wake up from your drunken stupor, as is right, and do not go on sinning. For some have no knowledge of God. I say this to your shame.* 1 Corinthians 15:33,34 The Corinthians are apparently tolerating some false teachers who do not know God and are leading them astray. To keep company with these Sadducee or Gnostic types who do not know God and to listen to their teaching will corrupt your moral base. It is sinful behavior (Psalm 1:1,2<sup>xliii</sup>). It is a lack of discernment on the church of Corinth's part. They are listening to them because they wish to justify sinning, and our old nature loves to hear that.

"Wake up!" The church was spiritually asleep, like many churches today. Some compromising doctrine sneaks in through a teacher who looks so good and speaks so well. He sounds so reasonable and intelligent, but his teaching is different from the simple truths Jesus taught. It has a hint of pleasure seeking but with a spiritual sound to it. They tell us God wants us to be happy and even use Old Testament verses to back it. Paul is saying, "WAKE UP! Shame on you!" Even Jesus did not look forward to suffering and wanted some other way, but He yielded His will to the Father. That is the way of faith and belief in the resurrection.

They claimed to know spiritual mysteries and yet they let in this corrupting doctrine of no bodily resurrection. Paul calls that being in a drunken stupor. They were unable to reason and stay on the straight path. That is the natural outworking of the idea that this life is all there is. How do we face illness, loss of a loved one, pain, and criticisms? Every difficulty of life should be met head on knowing the resurrection is coming. This is not all there is! We are just passing through (1 Peter 2:11,12<sup>xliiv</sup>). Hallelujah! We are almost home. Die daily and the final death will be your graduation.

Questions:

1 Why is Paul addressing resurrection? 2 What are the implications if resurrection is not true? 3 What would that mean regarding our sins? Those who died? 4 How does our thought toward resurrection affect our lives? 5 What does it mean that "Christ is the firstfruits from among the dead"? 6 What does our resurrection signal? 7 Give the two interpretations of "baptized for the dead"? 8 Why is Paul saying he dies every day? To what? 9 What are we looking forward to? 10 What was the final word of warning?

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<sup>i</sup> **Mark 12:18 (ESV)**

<sup>18</sup> And Sadducees came to him, who say that there is no resurrection. And they asked him a question, saying,

<sup>ii</sup> **Revelation 1:18 (ESV)**

<sup>18</sup> and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades.

<sup>iii</sup> **Acts 9:4-9 (ESV)**

<sup>4</sup> And falling to the ground he heard a voice saying to him, “Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?” <sup>5</sup> And he said, “Who are you, Lord?” And he said, “I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. <sup>6</sup> But rise and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do.” <sup>7</sup> The men who were traveling with him stood speechless, hearing the voice but seeing no one. <sup>8</sup> Saul rose from the ground, and although his eyes were opened, he saw nothing. So they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. <sup>9</sup> And for three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

<sup>iv</sup> **Acts 1:21,22 (ESV)**

<sup>21</sup> So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, <sup>22</sup> beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us—one of these men must become with us a witness to his resurrection.”

<sup>v</sup> **Romans 4:25 (ESV)**

<sup>25</sup> who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification.

<sup>vi</sup> **Romans 5:17 (ESV)**

<sup>17</sup> For if, because of one man’s trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ.

<sup>vii</sup> **Genesis 1:31 (ESV)**

<sup>31</sup> And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

<sup>viii</sup> **Romans 8:19-21 (ESV)**

<sup>19</sup> For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. <sup>20</sup> For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope <sup>21</sup> that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God.

<sup>ix</sup> **Matthew 19:26 (ESV)**

<sup>26</sup> But Jesus looked at them and said, “With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.”

<sup>x</sup> **Mark 5:41-42 (ESV)**

<sup>41</sup> Taking her by the hand he said to her, “Talitha cumi,” which means, “Little girl, I say to you, arise.”

<sup>42</sup> And immediately the girl got up and began walking (for she was twelve years of age), and they were immediately overcome with amazement.

<sup>xi</sup> **John 11:43-44 (ESV)**

<sup>43</sup> When he had said these things, he cried out with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out.” <sup>44</sup> The man who had died came out, his hands and feet bound with linen strips, and his face wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Unbind him, and let him go.”

<sup>xii</sup> **1 John 3:2 (ESV)**

<sup>2</sup> Beloved, we are God’s children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is.

<sup>xiii</sup> **Matthew 26:42 (ESV)**

<sup>42</sup> Again, for the second time, he went away and prayed, “My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done.”

<sup>xiv</sup> **Philippians 3:21 (ESV)**

<sup>21</sup> who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.

<sup>xv</sup> **Romans 8:17 (ESV)**

<sup>17</sup> and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

<sup>xvi</sup> **Hebrews 12:2 (ESV)**

<sup>2</sup> looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

<sup>xvii</sup> **2 Corinthians 11:23-28 (ESV)**

<sup>23</sup> Are they servants of Christ? I am a better one—I am talking like a madman—with far greater labors, far more imprisonments, with countless beatings, and often near death. <sup>24</sup> Five times I received at the hands of the Jews the

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forty lashes less one.<sup>25</sup> Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I was stoned. Three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I was adrift at sea;<sup>26</sup> on frequent journeys, in danger from rivers, danger from robbers, danger from my own people, danger from Gentiles, danger in the city, danger in the wilderness, danger at sea, danger from false brothers;<sup>27</sup> in toil and hardship, through many a sleepless night, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure.<sup>28</sup> And, apart from other things, there is the daily pressure on me of my anxiety for all the churches.

<sup>xviii</sup> **Luke 16:15 (ESV)**

<sup>15</sup> And he said to them, "You are those who justify yourselves before men, but God knows your hearts. For what is exalted among men is an abomination in the sight of God.

<sup>xix</sup> **Genesis 2:17 (ESV)**

<sup>17</sup> but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."

<sup>xx</sup> **Romans 8:11 (ESV)**

<sup>11</sup> If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.

<sup>xxi</sup> **1 John 5:12 (ESV)**

<sup>12</sup> Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

<sup>xxii</sup> **1 Corinthians 15:51-52 (ESV)**

<sup>51</sup> Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,<sup>52</sup> in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed.

<sup>xxiii</sup> **Romans 5:15-16 (ESV)**

<sup>15</sup> But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if many died through one man's trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift by the grace of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for many.<sup>16</sup> And the free gift is not like the result of that one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brought justification.

<sup>xxiv</sup> Prior, *The Message of 1 Corinthians*, p 267 -as quoted in Preaching the Word - 1 Corinthians: The Word of the Cross.

<sup>xxv</sup> **Ephesians 2:14-16 (ESV)**

<sup>14</sup> For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility

<sup>15</sup> by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace,

<sup>16</sup> and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility.

<sup>xxvi</sup> **Philippians 3:20 (ESV)**

<sup>20</sup> But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ,

<sup>xxvii</sup> **Isaiah 11:6-9 (ESV)**

<sup>6</sup> The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together; and a little child shall lead them.<sup>7</sup> The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.<sup>8</sup> The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den.<sup>9</sup> They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

<sup>xxviii</sup> **Philippians 1:23 (ESV)**

<sup>23</sup> I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better.

<sup>xxix</sup> **1 Thessalonians 4:14-16 (ESV)**

<sup>14</sup> For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep.<sup>15</sup> For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep.<sup>16</sup> For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

<sup>xxx</sup> **Matthew 24:10-12 (ESV)**

<sup>10</sup> And then many will fall away and betray one another and hate one another.<sup>11</sup> And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray.<sup>12</sup> And because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold.

<sup>xxxi</sup> **James 1:17 (ESV)**

<sup>17</sup> Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.

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<sup>xxxii</sup> **Daniel 2:44-45 (ESV)**

<sup>44</sup> And in the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that shall never be destroyed, nor shall the kingdom be left to another people. It shall break in pieces all these kingdoms and bring them to an end, and it shall stand forever, <sup>45</sup> just as you saw that a stone was cut from a mountain by no human hand, and that it broke in pieces the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver, and the gold. A great God has made known to the king what shall be after this. The dream is certain, and its interpretation sure.”

<sup>xxxiii</sup> **John 1:14 (ESV)**

<sup>14</sup> And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

<sup>xxxiv</sup> **Revelation 19:13 (ESV)**

<sup>13</sup> He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and the name by which he is called is The Word of God.

<sup>xxxv</sup> **Psalms 110:1 (ESV)**

<sup>1</sup> The LORD says to my Lord: “Sit at my right hand, until I make your enemies your footstool.”

<sup>xxxvi</sup> **1 John 1:5 (ESV)**

<sup>5</sup> This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.

<sup>xxxvii</sup> **ESV study notes**

<sup>xxxviii</sup> **Revelation 19:7 (ESV)**

<sup>7</sup> Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his Bride has made herself ready;

<sup>xxxix</sup> **Daniel 12:2 (ESV)**

<sup>2</sup> And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.

<sup>xl</sup> Steven Um, *Preaching the Word - 1 Corinthians: The Word of the Cross*, p.271

<sup>xli</sup> **Zephaniah 3:17 (ESV)**

<sup>17</sup> The LORD your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing.

<sup>xlii</sup> He never did decay (Psalm 16:10), but those He raised must have.

<sup>xliii</sup> **Psalms 1:1-2 (ESV)**

<sup>1</sup> Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; <sup>2</sup> but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night.

<sup>xliv</sup> **1 Peter 2:11-12 (ESV)**

<sup>11</sup> Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul. <sup>12</sup> Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation.