

1 Corinthians 15:20-44

1. Review

20-28

1. “Firstfruits of those have fallen asleep”
 - a. Leviticus 23:9-15
 - b. Revelation 1:5

2. First Adam and second Adam

3. We see there is an order what must take place:

Christ as the firstfruits (resurrection) —→ Christ comes back —→ Delivers the kingdom back to God the Father

4. Paul makes it clear that death is an enemy and it is the last enemy to be defeated.
 - a. This means death is something to grieve over, but we grieve as people who have hope.
5. There is one exception to subordinating everything to Christ and that is God the Father.

29

1. Some different ideas here:
 - a. A vicarious baptism on behalf of the dead.
 - b. Some take it metaphorically with “those being destroyed” referring to the apostles.
 - c. Some take it adjectivally “those who are being baptized for their [own] dying bodies”.
 - d. Luther suggested the translation should be “over” instead of “on behalf of”. Thus, they were “baptized over graves”.
 - e. Others have said “the dead” refer to Christians who have fallen asleep in the hope of the resurrection not all people.

30-34

1. We see once again that the resurrection shapes how we live.
2. “with beasts” is probably figurative.
 - a. Probably referring to hostile Jews who threaten his life.
3. Paul quotes Isaiah 22:13 where God calls for Israel to weep over their sins as the Assyrians surround Jerusalem. Instead, Israel decides to eat and drink.

4. Once again, Paul pulls from outside of Scripture to prove his point. This time he quotes Menander, a poet, who wrote the proverb, “evil associations corrupt good habits”.
5. It seems that their many blessings have made them complacent even drunk with pride that they have no knowledge of God.

35-44

1. Here we see they claim to not grasp the mechanics of the resurrection.
2. It will be the same body but gloriously different.
 - a. We see this with Christ. When he rose from the grave it was the same body but at the same time more glorious.
3. What is the first thing Paul points to as evidence of a bodily resurrection?
 - a. John 12:24
4. What’s the second analogy Paul uses?
5. What’s the third analogy Paul uses?
 - a. Ps 19:1
 - b. Dan 12:3
6. Thus, the God who can such variety of physical forms and of glory is not limited by our narrow conception of what he may or may not be able to do.
7. We then see this reversal of sin and death into something glorious

Perishable (breaks down/decays) —▶ imperishable

Sown (buried) in dishonor —▶ it will be raised glorified and radiant like Christ’s glorified body.

Weakness (illness and weariness) —▶ perfect body

Natural body (earthly limitations: death; saint and sinner) —▶ spiritual body (wholly enlivened and pervaded by the Holy Spirit)