

NO MORNING WAS EVER BRIGHTER

1 Corinthians 15:1–22, 54–58

Think of it like this. Think of two worlds. We live in one that is around us. We're born into it. We exist in it. We die in it. THIS world. And then there is another world that is beyond us. I put it in this simple statement: Embracing the reality of the world to come radically alters everything in the world in which we live.

—Pastor Charles R. Swindoll

SO what's the big deal about Easter? About Jesus' resurrection? One word . . . *hope*. In that single word rests a whole new world beckoning our participation. Death has been defeated. Sin has lost its power. What's broken gets mended. Newfound meaning and joy replace the minute-after-minute-after-minute monotony of ceaseless sweating and striving . . .

all because God is now at hand!

Life with God alters everything. If life with God is the core aim of Christianity, then Jesus' resurrection is the root truth of Christianity. Jesus was resurrected to settle once and for all that God is the God of the living. Those who put their faith in Christ enjoy new life now and will spend eternity with God in the land of the living.

These truths never get old. We celebrate them always, but during Easter, we especially focus on them—to return to our roots—in order to spiritually fortify ourselves. For this *Searching the Scriptures* study, we'll turn to the greatest chapter on the resurrection in God's Word: 1 Corinthians 15.



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Committed to Excellence in Communicating Biblical Truth and Its Application



PREPARE YOUR HEART

Posture your heart now to apply yourself to a deep study of God’s Word. May your study provide you a sharper view and a greater appreciation of God’s glory in the face of Jesus Christ.

I give You praise, dear Father, because Christ my Lord and my God is risen from the dead. I long to know Him and experience Him more deeply than I ever have. I need You to calm my heart and mind as I explore the bottomless depths of Christ’s resurrection. In Jesus’ name, I pray, amen.



TURN TO THE SCRIPTURES

In 1 Corinthians, Paul addresses topic after topic to correct and strengthen this enthusiastic, rambunctious congregation in Corinth. He warned them about division (1 Corinthians 1:10–4:21), rebuked their immorality (5:1–6:20), and answered their questions on subjects like marriage (7:1–40).

After a lengthy discussion on worship and spiritual gifts (11:2–14:40), Paul turned to his most important concern: *the resurrection from the dead*. The uninformed in the church were claiming there is no resurrection. Before we launch into Paul’s thinking, consider the subject yourself. What do we miss out on if there is no resurrection?

“But tell me this—since we preach that Christ rose from the dead, why are some of you saying there will be no resurrection of the dead?” (15:12). Let’s find out what Paul has to say.

It is the greatest chapter in all the Bible strictly addressing the resurrection. Many other chapters mention it, but this one develops the thought and follows it through. Paul sums up the gospel, the good news at the beginning of the chapter, and takes us all the way through to the point of resurrection and victory over the grave by the end of the chapter.
—Pastor Chuck Swindoll



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SEARCHING
THE
SCRIPTURES

STUDY



Observation: Matters of First Importance

Observation is nothing more or less than a disciplined, careful, repetitive reading . . . the kind of reading our hurry-up-and-get-it-done culture takes no time for.¹ But Pastor Chuck encourages us to fight the impulse to rush our observation of Scripture.

The Gospel—1 Corinthians 15:1–11

In 1 Corinthians 15:1–11, Paul opens with the gospel message he preached (1 Corinthians 15:1). These truths save us. These truths keep us. Read [15:1–11](#) and list those truths according to 15:3–8.

How did Paul establish his authority as a gospel preacher 15:8–11?



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If There Is No Resurrection—1 Corinthians 15:12–19

Good observation looks for repetition of words and phrases. Paul said “if” five times in these verses. Read *1 Corinthians 15:12–19*. As you do, note the conditional ifs and the results. Write below the one you find most surprising.

But Christ Has Been Raised—1 Corinthians 15:20–28

Read *1 Corinthians 15:20–28*. According to Paul, what does Christ’s resurrection mean for those who put their faith in Christ (1 Corinthians 15:22)? How does Christ’s resurrection testify to His supreme authority (15:24–28)?

Resurrection Power—1 Corinthians 15:50–58

Lastly, observe *1 Corinthians 15:50–58*. Jesus’ resurrection opens the door between humanity and God and secures the redemption of Christ’s followers. Paul uses other images to teach about the resurrection in this passage. Record those images below.



Victory over sin and death and the grave—that is why we celebrate like we do. That’s why we announce that “He is risen.” Because He was raised, we too will be raised. Because His body was glorified, ours too will be glorified. How good is that? —Pastor Chuck Swindoll



Interpretation: Abounding in Christ’s Work

Interpretation draws out a passage’s truth about God and life to help us think rightly and act wisely in every facet of our existence. After 57 verses on the subject of resurrection, Paul closes chapter 15 with some imperatives.

First Corinthians 15:58 begins with “Therefore” in the New American Standard Bible—or “So” in the New Living Translation. Anytime you see a “therefore” in Scripture, ask yourself what it’s *there for*.

Explain Paul’s practical life principles in 15:58 and how those principles connect with the truths of the resurrection in 15:1–57. Don’t forget to consult your Bible study resources, like [Constable’s Notes](#).²

In his commentary on 1 Corinthians 15:58, Pastor Chuck offers this helpful summary:

Paul concludes this discussion on our future hope not with another look forward but with a hard look inward and outward. In light of the hope of our resurrection—made sure by Christ’s resurrection—we are to be “steadfast, immovable,” abounding in God’s work with full assurance that there will be a reward for our labors (15:58). . . . God didn’t reveal details of the end times so we could get our prophecy charts right. He gave them so we could get our lives right.³





Correlation: The Morning It Happened

Mark recorded the shortest and simplest account of Jesus' resurrection. Read it now in *Mark 16:1–8*. Read it slowly and let the words capture your imagination. Put yourself in the place of the women. Experience what they experienced.

Mark's abrupt ending leaves us with the same directive the angel gave the disciples: *go to Jesus*. Because He arose, He's worthy of our trust. Because He's alive, we also will live.



Application: The End in the Middle

Living by the power of Jesus' resurrection through the Holy Spirit shines the new-living light of the future world in the old-living darkness of the present world. This new reality alters everything. Application helps us clarify and plan specifically how God would have us live according to that reality.

Begin application by jotting down the most important truth about Jesus' resurrection you discovered in this study. Why is that truth important to you? How would life be worse—or what would we be missing in our knowledge of God—without that truth?

Perhaps something came to your mind regarding your own life as you studied Paul's directive to be strong, immovable, and enthusiastic in our gospel labors in Christ. If so, write down one way you realized you could live confidently and strongly due to Jesus' resurrection.



We just explored the whole new world to which the hope of Jesus Christ beckons us. Jesus' resurrection made hope a living, personal reality that cannot be robbed from us. As a follower of Christ, your future no longer rests with this world doomed to decay and death. You worship the God of the living and will enjoy Him in the land of the living . . . forever!



A FINAL PRAYER

Let's close in celebration of God's gift of the resurrection life by meditating on Isaac Watts' (1674–1748) hymn below.⁴

Great God, I own thy sentence just,
And nature must decay;
I yield my body to the dust,
To dwell with fellow clay.

Yet faith may triumph o'er the grave,
And trample on the tombs;
My great Redeemer ever lives,
My God, my Saviour, comes.

The mighty conqueror shall appear,
High on a royal seat;
And death, the last of all our foes,
Lie vanquished at his feet.

Then shall I see thy lovely face
With strong, immortal eyes,
And feast upon thy wondrous grace
With pleasure and surprise.

ENDNOTES

1. To review Pastor Chuck Swindoll's *Searching the Scriptures* Bible study method, visit the website sts.insight.org or grab a *copy* of the book for your library. Pastor Chuck also uses the *New Unger's Bible Dictionary*. It's one of his favorite Bible study tools.
2. Pastor Chuck wrote an excellent *commentary* on 1 Corinthians that is a must-have for your library.
3. Charles R. Swindoll, *Swindoll's Living Insights New Testament Commentary: Insights on 1 & 2 Corinthians*, vol. 7 (Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House, 2017), 254.
4. Isaac Watts, "Great God, I Own Thy Sentence Just," Hymnary.org, https://hymnary.org/text/great_god_i_own_thy_sentence_just.

