

## WHY Believe In Life AFTER This Life



*“<sup>53</sup> For our dying bodies must be **transformed** into bodies that will never die; our mortal bodies must be **transformed** into immortal bodies.”* 1 Corinthians 15:53 NLT

- Do you believe there is existence after this life?

Hollywood action star Arnold Schwarzenegger was asked what he believes happens to a person after death. His answer was, **“Nothing! You’re six feet under. Anyone that tells you something else is a [expletive] liar.”**

The church at Corinth had many problems. One was doubts about the resurrection and the afterlife (chapter 15). Many today struggle with the same issues. Paul wrote chapter 15 (The Resurrection Chapter) to offer answers about the resurrection and life in eternity.

Bible teacher, Warren Wiersbe, writes: **“Corinth was a Greek city, and the Greeks did not believe in the resurrection of the dead. When Paul had preached at Athens and declared the fact of Christ resurrection, some of his listeners actually laughed at him (Acts 17:32). Most Greek philosophers considered the human body a prison, and they welcomed death as deliverance from bondage. This skeptical attitude had somehow invaded the church, and Paul had to face it Head-on.”** *The Wiersbe Bible Commentary*, p.492.

### Central Lesson

**This life is not the end! We are eternal being who will spend forever in heaven or hell.**

### PAUL ANSWERS TWO MAJOR QUESTIONS

#### ► QUESTION #1 - Why **BELIEVE** In the Resurrection? (15:12-34).

*“<sup>12</sup> 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?**”*

##### 1. The Resurrection Is Essential to the **GOSPEL** (15:1-4).

*“<sup>1</sup> Let me now **remind** you, dear brothers and sisters, of the Good News I preached to you before.... <sup>3</sup> I passed on to you what was **most important** and what had also been passed on to me. Christ **died for our sins**, just as the Scriptures said. <sup>4</sup> He was **buried**, and he was **raised from the dead** on the third day, just as the Scriptures said.”* (15:1-4).

Christ’s death, burial, and resurrection are essential to the Gospel. To reject the resurrection is also to reject the Gospel. They must be taken together.

##### 2. The Resurrection Is Supported by **EYE-WITNESS** Testimony (15:5-11).

*“<sup>5</sup> He was seen by Peter and then by the Twelve. <sup>6</sup> After that, he was seen by more than 500 of his followers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. <sup>7</sup> Then he was seen by James and later by all the apostles. <sup>8</sup> Last of all, as though I had been born at the wrong time, I also saw him.”*

##### 3. The Resurrection Is the **FOUNDATION** of Christianity - The Resurrection & Christianity Stand or Fall Together (15:12-19).

Paul explained the logical consequence of no resurrection and afterlife.

- Christ was not resurrected (vs.13, 16)
- Our preaching & faith is useless (v.14, 17)
- The Apostles are liars (v.15)
- We are still guilty of our sins (v.17)
- All who have died are lost (v.18)
- Our lives have no hope and are pitiful (v.19)

#### 4. The Resurrection of Christ Will **PRECEDE** Other Resurrections (15:20-24).

*<sup>23</sup> But there is **an order to this resurrection**: Christ was raised as the first of the harvest; then all who belong to Christ will be raised when he comes back.”*

Paul’s list is a partial list. Other passages include other resurrections:

- (1) Christ the first-fruit (1 Cor. 15:20, 23).
- (2) The Rapture resurrection (1 Cor. 15:23; 1 Thess. 4:13-18).
- (3) The Two Witnesses (Revelation 11:3, 7-12).
- (4) The Tribulation Saints (Revelation 20:4).
- (5) The Lost Before the Last Judgment (Revelation 20:4-5, 13-15).

#### ► QUESTION #2 - What **KIND** of Resurrection Bodies Will We Have? (15:35-58) *“<sup>35</sup> But someone may ask, **“How will the dead be raised? What kind of bodies will they have?”**”*

A. Illustration - Planting A Seed That Dies But Grows Into A Plant. Our mortal bodies die but are changed into eternal bodies (15:35-49).

B. Description of Our Resurrected Bodies (15:50-58).

1. Bodies that are **COMPATIBLE** with an eternal heaven (15:50). Our present bodies are not suited for eternity.

*“<sup>50</sup> What I am saying, dear brothers and sisters, is that our physical bodies cannot inherit the Kingdom of God. **These dying bodies cannot inherit what will last forever.**”*

2. Bodies **INSTANTANEOUSLY** resurrected (15:51-52).

*“<sup>51</sup> But let me reveal to you a wonderful secret. We will not all die, but we will all be transformed! <sup>52</sup> It will happen **in a moment, in the blink of an eye**, when the last trumpet is blown. For when the trumpet sounds, those who have died will be **raised** to live forever. And we who are living will also be transformed.”*

3. Bodies transformed into **ETERNAL** bodies (15:53). A spiritual metamorphosis that changes our bodies from Mortal to Immortal.

*“<sup>53</sup> For our dying bodies must be **transformed** into bodies that will never die; our mortal bodies must be **transformed** into immortal bodies.”*

4. Bodies that are **VICTORIOUS** over both sin and death (15:54-57). Conquest Over Our Greatest Enemy - Sin & Death.

*“<sup>57</sup> But thank God! He gives us **victory over sin and death** through our Lord Jesus Christ.”*

#### ► Paul’s Conclusion - Be **STRONG & STEADY** in Serving God (15:58).

*“<sup>58</sup> So...be **strong and immovable**. Always work enthusiastically for the Lord, for you know that nothing you do for the Lord is ever useless.”*

**Conclusion: This life is not the end! We are eternal being who will spend forever in heaven or hell.**

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- Receive Christ as your Savior. ► As a Christian, dedicate your life to Christ. ► Invite someone to next Sunday’s study. ► Attend a small group. ► Read the Bible this week. ► Pray for friends that need Jesus.