

Summit Woods Baptist Church
First Corinthians Sermon Study Equipping Class

1 Corinthians 15:20-28

Remember to begin your study early in the week so that you have time to really think (and keep thinking) about the passage without being rushed.

❖ Day 1

For these lessons, the sermon text is provided in a format that visually helps display the structure of the paragraph or section of text. The main verbs are underlined. Commands are double-underlined. Generally, the main indicative clauses remain to the left, and the other clauses are either directly underneath when they have equal priority to what comes before, or are tabbed to the right when the clause supports, develops, or draws a conclusion from a neighboring clause.

1 Corinthians 15:20–28

20 But now Christ has been raised from the dead,
the first fruits
of those who are asleep.

21 For since by a man came death,
by a man also came the resurrection of the dead.

22 For as in Adam all die,
so also in Christ all will be made alive.

23 But each in his own order:
Christ the first fruits,
after that those who are Christ's at His coming,
24 Then comes the end,
when He hands over the kingdom
to the God and Father
when He has abolished all rule
and all authority
and power.

25 For He must reign
until He has put all His enemies
under His feet.

26 The last enemy
that will be abolished is death.

27 For "He has put all things in subjection
under His feet."
But when He says,
"all things are put in subjection,"
it is evident that He is excepted
who put all things
in subjection
to Him.

28 When all things are subjected to Him,
then the Son Himself also will be subjected
to the One
who subjected all things
to Him
so that God may be all
in all.

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1. Read through 1 Corinthians 15:20-28. How does this passage relate to the previous section in 15:12-19?
2. Does “first fruits” mean that Jesus was the first person to ever be raised from the dead? What does the concept of “first fruits” mean?
3. Read through the Old Testament concept of “first fruit” offerings in Leviticus 23:3, 10-14. What is the first fruits offering?
4. What would the concept of “first fruits” mean in light of Jesus’ resurrection being the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep?

❖ Day 2

Read 1 Corinthians 15:20-28 again.

5. Review again in 15:3-20 and note the times “fallen asleep” has been used. What does it mean and why does Paul use this terminology?
6. According to 15:21 what was the origin of humanity’s physical death. And who is the “man” Paul is referring to who brought death and how do you know? How did death come to humanity through this man?
7. And who is the “man” Paul is referring to who brings resurrection from the dead and how do you know?

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8. Why is it significant that a “man” brings resurrection (15:21) and how might this reflect what the main problems among the Corinthians are?

9. How many died in Adam according to 15:22?

10. How many will be made alive according to 15:22? Is this the same “all” as die in Adam? How do we know?

❖ Day 3

Read 1 Corinthians 15:20-28 again.

11. Verse 23 describes an order of events to the coming physical resurrection. List the order described here.

12. Read 1 Thessalonians 4:13-16. Describe the resurrection of the saints recorded here. When does this resurrection take place and where do those resurrected and caught up go?

13. According to 1 Corinthians 15:24-28, list the order of events that will take place when the dead in Christ have been raised:

14. What is the final enemy of Jesus to be subjected? And what is the significance of death being the final enemy destroyed?

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15. Notice the phrase in verse 27, “but when it says, ‘all things are put in subjection under his feet.’ This is a reference to Psalm 8:6-8. Who is the psalm speaking of specifically and how is it applied to Jesus?

16. In what way will Jesus become subject to the Father, especially if they are one?

17. What do you think it means that God will be “all in all?” How did you arrive at that answer? What does this not mean?

18. Read over the passage again. And make a list of ways this should help a Christian think about his or her present circumstances. Their future.

19. What difference should this passage make in your life now? What tends to keep you from living confidently in light of what the physical resurrection of Jesus promises and secures for us?

20. How could this passage impact the way you worship Christ?

21. How would you sum up 15:20-28 in one sentence?

In preparation for Sunday, pray trusting in the power and reign of the resurrected Christ.