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Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

The Oaks Baptist Church
Grand Prairie, Texas

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Studies in 1 Corinthians

Date	Lesson	Text
12/05	Introduction	
12/12	Why Can't We Get Along	1:1-17
12/19	Remember the Cross	1:18-2:2
12/26	NO CLASS - CHRISTMAS	
01/02	Spiritually Mature	2:14-3:16
01/09	Servant Leadership	4:1-21
01/16	Immoral World	5:1-13 and 6:9-20
01/23	Marriage & Singleness	7:1-35
01/30	Life's Grey Area	8:1-13 and 9:19-26 and 10:14-33
02/06	Worship	11:2-16
02/13	Lord's Supper	11:17-34
02/20	Are You Gifted	12:4-31
02/27	Greatest Way to Live	13:1-13
03/06	Place to Proclaim	14:1-29
03/13 - 03/20	Intern Teaching	
03/27	Hope	15:3-57
04/05	Summary and Review	

Food for Thought

A Sure Hope

Rejoice in glorious hope!
Our Lord the Judge shall come
and take His servants up to their
eternal home. Christ's resurrection is
the guarantee of our own.

*But now Christ has been raised from
the dead, the first fruits of those who
are asleep. (1 Cor 15:20 NASB)*

From "Our Daily Bread", Apr 11, 2004)

No Hope Without This 1 Cor 15:3-20, 35-44, 50-57

What This Lesson Is About

After reminding his readers of the essential elements of the gospel which he has preached, Paul assures them of the reality of the resurrection of believers and responds to questions concerning the nature of the resurrection body. He ends the passage on a victorious note, "Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."

Explore The Bible Passage

Although the main theme of 1 Corinthians 15 is the resurrection, we shouldn't fail to notice the capsule summary of the gospel in verses 3-8, and Paul's affirmation of his own apostleship in verses 9-11. In verses 12-20, Paul reassures those believers at Corinth who have expressed doubts about the resurrection of those who die in Christ. In verses 35-44, he comments on the nature of the resurrection body, and continues his discussion of this theme in verses 50-57.

Take A Closer Look

Some folks seem to think that almost anything said from the pulpit is "gospel preaching." But, in a thumbnail sketch of the essence of the gospel which he had preached at Corinth (verses 3-4), Paul includes just three essential points: Christ died for our sins. He was buried. He was raised on the third day. This is not to say that preaching should not touch upon a great many other subjects; but it is to say that gospel preaching never strays very far from the doctrine of salvation through the death and resurrection of Christ. Verses 5-8 remind us that the resurrection of Christ is as well documented by eye-witness testimony as most of the things we read in history books. Verse 12 suggests that Paul is responding to questions that have come to him from the Corinthians ("...how can some of you say...?"). In the passage that follows (verses 12-20), he makes it absolutely clear that the resurrection of Jesus is not a peripheral doctrine. The entire structure of the Christian faith rests upon that truth (verses 14, 17). But, beyond this, belief in the resurrection of those who die in Christ is inseparably related to belief in the resurrection of Christ himself (verses 13, 15-16). The resurrection of Christ was not an isolated event. He was the "first fruits" of those who have died. [In Old Testament times, the first sheaf of barley to be reaped was brought to the Temple as an offering to the Lord (Lev. 23:10, 11). Just as the first-fruits were a sign of the harvest to come, so the resurrection of Jesus signified the resurrection of believers yet to come.] In verses 35-44 Paul uses the analogy of a seed to explain an important truth about the nature of the resurrection body. As the plant bears little resemblance to the seed, the resurrection body will be quite different from the earthly body. But, just as the seed and plant share the same essential nature, our personal identity will be the same in our resurrection body as it was in our earthly body. The "immortality" mentioned in verses 53-54 should not be confused with the notion that the human "soul" is inherently exempt from death. What is meant here, as one Bible translator puts it, is that "this nature of ours that will decay must be changed into a nature that will live forever."

(adapted from "Studies in 1 Corinthians" by Lucien Coleman)

NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

WHAT IS THE GOSPEL (1 COR 15:3-11)

The gospel is the good news that Jesus died for us (1 Peter 3:18)

The gospel is the good news that Jesus was buried for a short while (Luke 23:52-54)

The gospel is the good news that Jesus has risen by resurrection (Matt 28:5-6)

The gospel is revealed to man through the Holy Spirit (1 Peter 1:12)

The Gospel is all about righteousness and faith (Rom 1:17)

It is through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel (Eph 3:6)

The gospel teaches that Jesus destroyed death and brought life and immortality to light (2 Tim 1:10).

The gospel was written to teach and provide hope (Rom 15:4)

THE RESURRECTION A REALITY (1 COR 15:12-20)

The resurrection is a reality and a goal of our faith (Phil 3:10-11)

The resurrection is a reality and an essential doctrine (Heb 6:1-3)

The resurrection is a reality because it is a trustworthy truth (2 Tim 2:11)

The resurrection is a reality because Jesus promised the taking away of the saints (Luke 17:34-35)

The resurrection is a reality because that is what Jesus is returning for (Heb 9:28)

IT WILL BE A DIFFERENT BODY (1 COR 15:42-44)

Sown in corruption and raised in incorruption (vs 42)

Sown in corruption because the old body needs redemption (Rom 8:22-23)

Sown in corruption because the wages of sin is death (Rom 6:23)

Raised in incorruption so that the new body will never perish (1 Peter 1:3-4)

Raised in incorruption so that the new body will be like Jesus' glorious body (Phil 3:19-21)

Raised in incorruption because the curse has been lifted (Rev 22:3)

Sown in dishonor and raised in glory (vs 43)

Sown in dishonor because not everyone will be sanctified (2 Tim 2:20-21)

Sown in dishonor because someone will fulfill destructive plans (John 17:12)

Raised in glory because God predestined some for glorification (Romans 8:30)

Raised in glory because when Jesus comes, He will be glorified in His holy people (2 Thessalonians 1:10)

Sown in weakness and raised in power (vs 43)

Sown in weakness because the spirit is willing, but the body is weak (Matthew 26:41)

Sown in weakness because in our natural state, we are weak (Romans 6:19)

Raised in power because God's power is at work in Christians (Ephesians 3:20)

Raised in power because God gave us His Holy Spirit who is the Spirit of power (2 Timothy 1:7)

Sown in natural body and raised in a spiritual body (vs 44)

The natural body is made of flesh and blood (Ephesians 6:12)

The natural body shares humanity with Jesus (Heb 2:14)

The natural body is made of dust (Gen 3:19)

The spiritual body was also created by God (Heb 12:9)

The natural body dies (Ps 89:48)

A spiritual body is a part of the spiritual dwelling of God (1 Peter 2:5)

IT WILL BE A CHANGED BODY (1 COR 15:50-57)

The necessity for a change (vs 50)

Because flesh and blood will not inherit the kingdom of God, only those born again (John 3:3)

Because the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God (1 Cor 6:9-10)

Because the flesh is weak (Rom 6:19)

Because in the flesh, sinful passions are aroused (Rom 7:5)

The two ways of effecting change (vs 51-52)

For those still alive when Jesus comes

Those alive will be raptured (1 Thess 4:17)

God's angels will gather His people everywhere (Matt 24:31)

For those dead in Christ when Jesus comes

Those dead in Christ will rise first (1 Thess 4:16)

Those dead in Christ will also come back with Jesus (1 Thess 4:14)

The nature of the change (vs 53)

The actual change is not known, but we will be like Jesus (1 John 3:2)

The change will involve being a part of the first resurrection (Rev 20:6)

The change is promised for those who seek immortality through Jesus (Rom 2:7)

The change was made possible by Jesus who destroyed death and brought eternal life through the gospel (2 Tim 1:10)

The victory associated with the change (vs 54-57)

The victory is for the children of the resurrection (Luke 20:35-36)

The victory is for those who overcome the world through faith (1 John 5:4)

The victory is for those who have been rescued by Jesus (Rom 7:24-25)