

# **“An Amazing Love Story Of Redemption!”**

## **1 Corinthians 15:20-34**

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**Teaching Aim:** To examine the amazing love story between God the Father and His Son Jesus Christ. To see how our salvation today is a part of that love story which began before the creation of the world. To understand the different roles within the Holy Trinity and to realize submission does not necessarily mean inferiority. To explore the issue of the baptism of the dead and see if it applies to us today?

### **DIGGING DEEPER INTO GOD’S WORD (*BIBLE STUDY*)**

#### **Part I: In Adam all die, in Christ all who are His are made alive (1 Cor. 15:20-23)**

1. What comforting news does Paul declare to the Corinthians in **verse 20**? What does the resurrection of Christ mean to you personally? In what way is Christ “*the firstfruits*” of those who have fallen asleep? (See **2 Cor. 4:13-14**) Who is Paul referring to in **verse 20** when he says, “*those who have fallen asleep*?” (See **John 11:11-14**) Why is sleep such a great analogy for our future bodily resurrection?
  
2. In what way did death come to all people through Adam (**vs. 21**)? (See **Gen. 2:15-17; 3:1-7**) Through what “*Man*” will the resurrection of the dead come? (See **Luke 24:1-7**)
  
3. If all people die in Adam, is Paul teaching “*universalism*” (*that everyone will be saved*) in **verse 22** when he said, “*even so in Christ all shall be made alive*”? Why or why not? The key word in this passage is the word “*in*.” What does Paul mean when he says, “*in Adam*”? What does it mean for someone to be “*in Christ*”? How should being “*in Christ*” affect our everyday living according to **2 Cor. 5:14-19**?
  
4. **Verse 23** in the NIV reads, “*But each in his own turn: Christ, the firstfruits, then, when he comes, those who belong to him.*” How is the NIV reading different from that of the NKJV? In what way does the placing of the comma after “*Christ*” change the meaning? What three resurrections do many pre-millennialists think **verse 23** is referring to? Which coming of Christ do you think is referred to here? (See **Rev. 19:11-21**)

**Part II: The end of time when Christ turns over the kingdom to the Father (1 Cor. 15:24-28)**

1. In **verse 24** Paul says, "*Then comes the end, when He [Jesus] delivers the kingdom to God the Father.*" When will this occur historically? What time period immediately follows this event? (See **Rev. 21 & 22**) What does it mean for Jesus to put an end to "*all rule and all authority and power*"? From a governmental perspective, what do you think the millennial reign of Christ will be like? (See **Psalm 2**)
2. **Psalm 110:1** is the most frequently quoted Old Testament verse in the New Testament. How does it relate to **verse 25**?
3. Why do you think Paul calls death an "*enemy*" (**vs. 26**)? Does death frighten you? Why or why not? Why do you think so many people are afraid of dying? Is it death or the uncertainties of the dying experience that scares people, even some believers? What should dying be to the believer in Jesus Christ? (See **2 Cor. 5:1-9; Phil. 1:21-23**) At what point in world history does the Bible indicate death will finally be destroyed? (See **Rev. 20:12-15**)
4. Who does the Bible say put everything under Christ's feet (**vs. 27**)? (See **Psalm 110:1**) What is the symbolism in being placed under another's feet? Who does the Bible teach is the only one who will not be under the authority of Christ?
5. When all things are put under the authority of Christ and the end comes, who does Christ willingly submit Himself to (**vs. 28**)? Does subordination necessarily mean inferiority? Why or why not? Are all three members of the Trinity equal in deity as well as dignity? God is one in essence, three in persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. What are some ways that the roles within the Godhead vary? (See **Luke 22:29-30; John 5:19-30; 8:28-29; 1 John 4:14; 1 Cor. 12:12-13**)

6. Today “*submission*” is considered to be a bad word in many circles of our culture. Is it really (**vs. 28**)? How should the willing submission of Christ to the Father be an example for each of us in the marriage relationship? (See **Eph. 5:22-23; Col. 3:18-19**) What kind of actions from the husband will lead wives to be more willing to submit to their husbands? (See **Eph. 5:25-27**)

**Part III: Why should anyone put their lives at stake if there is no resurrection? (1 Cor. 15:29-32)**

1. Was Paul affirming the Corinthian practice of “*baptism of the dead*” or simply acknowledging some were doing it in **verse 29**? Is there any other reference to “*baptism of the dead*” in the Bible? What modern cult practices “*baptism of the dead*”? What is their purpose behind performing the act? What logical conclusion is Paul trying to bring the Corinthians to in **verse 29**?
2. What can we learn about Paul’s life and his role as an apostle from **verse 30**? Have you ever suffered for your faith in Christ? If so how? (See **2 Cor. 6:3-10; 11:23-28**)
3. In what way do you think Paul was forced to “*die daily*” because of his faith in Christ (**vs. 31**)? Do you find yourself dying daily for Christ? If so how? (See **Mark 8:34-35; Luke 9:23-26**) Why is it important for us to do so?
4. Do you think Paul was implying he fought literal wild beasts in the arena at Ephesus and survived (**vs. 32**)? Why or why not? Who is Paul most likely referring to in **verse 32**? (See **Acts 19:21-31**) How does Paul’s comments relating to these enemies of the gospel in Ephesus relate to the resurrection of Christ?
5. In **verse 32** Paul quotes directly from **Isa. 22:13**. In this passage Isaiah shares that at a time when Israel should have been repenting and turning to God because of their sin, they chose instead to live for their own pleasure. Does this sound familiar to our culture today? What will the end result be if people don’t repent according to **Isa. 22:14**? How does the illustration in **1 Cor. 15:32** relate to us today? What would life be like if Christ did not rise from the dead?

6. In **verse 33**, Paul uses a familiar quotation to his readers in Corinth from the popular Greek poet Meander. How did this quotation apply to the church in Corinth? How does it apply to us today? Does Paul's use of this quotation mean that all of Meander's writings were inspired and equal to Scripture? What does it mean?
7. What warning did Paul send to the straying Corinthians in **verse 34**? Who is Paul referring to as "*not having the knowledge of God?*" Is there any relation between their lack of knowledge and the resurrection of Jesus Christ? Why was it such a shame that some of the Corinthians didn't believe in a literal resurrection of the dead? (See **vv. 16 & 17**) What would such a conclusion mean for us if true?
8. Do you feel that the church at large is in danger of being led astray today by false teachers? What will associating with false teachers do over time? How can your church do a better job at preparing believers to stand against the attacks of false teachers? What are some practical steps you can take to help you grow spiritually? Are you already practicing them? Why or why not?

#### **MINER'S CORNER – *Manna to live by!***

- Christ has indeed risen from the dead and is the guarantee of a future resurrection for all born-again believers!
- The sin nature is passed on through the seed of man at the moment of conception; nobody except Adam and Christ were born without a sin nature!
- Adam is the "*federal head*" (or "*representative head*") for all of his seed bringing death and destruction to each descendant!
- "*Evil company corrupts good habits;*" stay away from evil influences and keep your eyes on Jesus!
- Christ is the "*Federal Head*" (or "*Representative Head*") of all who are born-again bringing life and salvation to everyone who believes!
- At the end of time, Christ will give redeemed humanity and paradise restored back to the Father as a reciprocal gift of love to Him; at that time, Jesus will willingly submit Himself to the Father for all eternity in Trinitarian unity!