

In case they didn't 'get it' Paul goes through a similar sequence:

v16: \_\_\_\_\_

v17: \_\_\_\_\_

v18: \_\_\_\_\_

v19: \_\_\_\_\_

The Corinthians wanted to believe in all these blessings, but Paul says the whole thing crumbles without the physical resurrection of Jesus!

Verse 20 changes everything – “But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead”  
What does that mean for the sequences above? What does it mean for v19?



## THINK IT THROUGH

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This is a warning - there are truths that Christianity stands or falls on. If we kick out the resurrection we don't have a different version of the faith, we have no faith!

Paul writes this chapter to urge them and us to hold fast and to stand firm on the resurrection. Jesus really did rise from the dead. Our sins really have gone. We have an amazing hope – resurrection bodies to look forward to. Our faith is not in vain!



## TAKE ACTION

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Most of us would tick the box “I believe” when it comes to the resurrection, but do we really believe it so that it reshapes our lives? How might a solid belief in a future resurrection body change how we live tomorrow? (We will think more about this next time.)



## PRAY IT THROUGH

# WHY THE RESURRECTION MATTERS

## - Studies in Corinthians 15

SMALL GROUP SHEET WEEK BEGINNING  
8 APRIL 2012

**Part 1: 1 Corinthians 15:1-19**

Oakhall  
CHURCH WELCOMES YOU



## FOR STARTERS

An inescapable reality is that one day we will all die (unless Jesus returns first), and we would be foolish not to consider what will happen next. Philosopher Thomas Hobbes said, “When I die the worms will devour my body and I will commit myself to the great perhaps.” As far as he was concerned everything is guesswork except for the fact of the body’s decay. Others are not prepared to even consider the possibility of a continuing existence, and agree with Aristotle, ‘Death is a dreadful thing, for it is the end.’

So many in our society have no answers to the awkward questions posed by death. And it’s into this anxious confusion that the Christian gospel rings out a glorious message of certain hope – because Jesus Christ has been raised physically from the dead, all who trust in him will also be raised physically from the dead and will live with him for ever in new bodies in a new world! And this isn’t just some theoretical thing - this future hope ought to radically affect how we live our lives now. This is why the resurrection matters!

**Read: 1 Corinthians 15:1-19**



## BACKGROUND

Some people in the church in Corinth were saying, “There is no resurrection of the dead!” (v12). As Greeks they had a low view of the physical body and thought God was only interested in the soul / spirit and so they believed that the soul lived on forever but without a body. The idea that made everyone laugh then (and now) is the thought of a friend living after death in a new body. As a result they became focussed on their present physical life, which, as we will see, led to serious problems of immorality.



## INVESTIGATE

How does Paul begin his response (v1)? What is at stake / what is Paul’s great fear (v2)? It’s humbling to be given simple reminders, but like the Corinthians we need them.



## INVESTIGATE

What basic elements of the gospel does Paul remind them of (v3-8)? We might think that the Corinthians’ denial of a future bodily resurrection was just a minor flaw in their thinking, but what is Paul implying here?

Paul wants his readers then and now to realise that belief in the resurrection is not mere wishful thinking but is based on solid historical evidence. What evidence does he present (v5-8)?



## THINK IT THROUGH

It is common today to dismiss these resurrection appearances as hallucinations. How would you respond from this passage?

- Consider the number of appearances
- Consider the numbers present
- Consider the characters involved: Peter (one of Jesus’ best friends), James (Jesus’ own brother) and Paul (Jesus’ worst enemy)!
- What about Paul’s statement, “most of whom are still living”?

Paul wants his readers to be reassured – Jesus really rose in a physical body! Are we convinced?



## INVESTIGATE

In verses 12-19 Paul goes ten pin bowling! He takes what they don’t believe (physical resurrection), and uses it to knock over everything else they do claim to believe in. Notice and discuss what is at stake in the following verses:

IF THERE IS NO RESURRECTION FROM THE DEAD...

v13: \_\_\_\_\_

v14: \_\_\_\_\_

v15: \_\_\_\_\_