

Series: Together Toward Maturity

Inductive Bible Study Guide: 1 Corinthians 15:20-34



Step 1: Observation – What does the passage say?

Read **1 Corinthians 15:20–34** carefully. Paul explains the **cosmic significance of Christ’s resurrection** and what it means for believers.

Observation Prompts

- What title does Paul give to Christ’s resurrection?
 - What order does Paul describe for resurrection?
 - What enemies will Christ defeat?
 - What examples does Paul give of people living in light of the resurrection?
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Read the passage and note what you see:

What does Paul say about Christ as the “**firstfruits**” in **verses 20–23**?

What sequence of events does Paul describe in **verses 24–28**?

What example does Paul give in **verse 29**?

What arguments does Paul make about daily sacrifice and danger in **verses 30–32**?

What warning and instruction does Paul give in **verses 33–34**?

Step 2: Interpretation – What does the passage mean?

Paul explains that Jesus’ resurrection is not an isolated miracle—it is the **beginning of the final resurrection harvest**.

Just as death entered the world through Adam, life and resurrection come through Christ. His victory over death guarantees the ultimate defeat of every enemy, including death itself. Paul also shows that belief in the resurrection changes how believers live—giving them courage to endure hardship and pursue righteousness.

Questions to Explore:

What does it mean that Christ is the “firstfruits” of those who have died?

How does Paul contrast Adam and Christ?

What does this passage reveal about God’s ultimate plan for defeating death?

Why does Paul connect the resurrection to the sacrifices he and others make?

What danger does Paul warn about in verse 33?

Word Study Suggestions:

- **Firstfruits (v.20):** the first portion of a harvest that guarantees more to come
- **Adam (v.22):** the first man whose sin brought death into the human race
- **Made alive (v.22):** receiving resurrection life through union with Christ
- **Reign (v.25):** Christ's sovereign rule as He defeats every enemy
- **Bad company (v.33):** harmful influences that corrupt character and weaken faith

Step 3: Application – How should I respond?

Believing in the resurrection should shape our **daily choices, priorities, and perseverance.**

Personal Reflection:

How does the promise of resurrection affect how I view suffering or hardship?

Do I live with an eternal perspective or a temporary one?

Are there influences in my life that weaken my faith or obedience?

What does it look like to “wake up from spiritual sleep” in my life?

Summary Truths:

- Christ’s resurrection is the first step in God’s final victory over death.
- Through Christ, life replaces the death brought by Adam.
- God’s kingdom will ultimately defeat every enemy.
- The hope of resurrection shapes how believers live now.

Optional Memory Verse:

“But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.” — 1 Corinthians 15:20 (ESV)

Prayer Prompt:

“Father, thank You that Christ’s resurrection guarantees our future hope. Help me live each day with confidence in Your ultimate victory over death.”

For Further Study (1 Corinthians 15:20–34)

- **Romans 5:12–19 — Adam and Christ contrasted: death through Adam, life through Christ**
- **Hebrews 2:14–15 — Jesus defeats the power of death**
- **Revelation 20:11–15 — The final defeat of death and God’s judgment**
- **2 Corinthians 4:14–18 — Hope in resurrection encourages perseverance**