

## **CGYG & LIFE Bible Study: 1 Corinthians 15:20-34**

**For Discussion:** What place does the anticipation of eternity hold in your decision-making today? How consistent are your life choices with how you expect life to be at that time? What do they reveal about your priorities?

### **Read 1 Corinthians 15:12-34**

**For review:** In 1 Corinthians 15:1-19, Paul began addressing a teaching among the Corinthians that denied the bodily resurrection of the dead. In his response, he first affirmed through the evidence of fulfilled Scripture and eyewitness testimony the common ground they shared in the gospel, especially the belief in Jesus' resurrection. Then taking their erroneous position, Paul showed how incompatible it was with core Christian belief. Without a general resurrection there could not have been Jesus' resurrection, rendering all promises of hope that are dependent on His victory over death null and void. Continuing from there, Paul provides further details of the events surrounding the final defeat of death and Christ's victory over all opposition to establish the full rule of God over His kingdom, in which all His resurrected followers will live with their everlasting Lord.

### **Read 1 Corinthians 15:20-28**

**What are the firstfruits (Lev. 23:10-11)? What is the significance of Christ being the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep (Rom. 6:3-5, 8:29)?**

**In what ways does the life and work of Christ parallel that of Adam – v.21-22 (Rom. 5:12-19)?**

**Why is Jesus' humanity important for His ministry and what He needed to accomplish – v.21 (Heb. 10:4, Gen. 3:15, 1 Tim. 2:5, Heb. 4:15-5:2)?**

**What will the future reign of God be like (Ps. 8:6, 110:1, Heb. 2:5-9)? What kind of life does this call us to live while we await its consummation?**

**Read 1 Corinthians 15:29-34**

**After describing the kingdom that Christ's followers are to anticipate, Paul points out several areas of life that show an implicit assumption of the continuation of life after death. What are these things that rely on an afterlife in order to have meaning?**

**Given the destructive potential of the false teaching they were facing, what did Paul exhort the Corinthians to do (Rom. 12:2)? How are we to handle our relationships to be salt and light and not be influenced by the world?**

### **Reflection and application**

Those who are in Christ have assurance of their future resurrection because they are fellow members of the harvest of which He is the firstfruits. The resurrection that began when Christ rose from the grave will one day be ours as well. At that time, Christ will usher in a universal reign under God the Father that will endure uncontested in peace and security for eternity. Even with such a glorious life to look forward to, our lives today are still meaningful. Paul exhorted the Corinthians to be mindful of their thinking and the company they kept so that they could live rightly. Let us also resolve daily to do the same in preparation for the coming resurrection, receiving encouragement from the hope of not only an endless life, but a life as a member of God's victorious kingdom, whose enemies have been defeated, never again to hinder or harass its citizens.