1 Corinthians 15:20-26, 35-58

"It has never at any time been possible to fit the resurrection of Jesus into any world view except a world view of which it is the basis."

- Lesslie Newbigin

1 Corinthians 15:20-26, 35-58

- 1. Resurrection Firstfruits 15:20-26
 - "Christ the firstfruits, then at this coming ..."
- 2. Resurrection Form 15:35-50
 - "...it is raised a spiritual body ... image of the man of heaven"
- 3. Resurrection Future 15:51-58
 - "the victory ... therefore, be steadfast immovable..."

Why is it worth it to keep going?

How does Jesus's Resurrection matter for our future?

1. Resurrection Firstfruits - 15:20-26

"Christ the firstfruits, then at this coming ..."

The First of the Whole

The Founder of our Salvation

so Focused on Christ

"Christ's resurrection is not only the first among many resurrections to come, like the first crocus of summer or the first migrating bird on the telephone wire. Christ is indeed the first of many to be raised, "the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep" (1 Cor 15:20), but he is also the one with whom all are raised (Eph 2:6; Col 3:1), such that he can proclaim to Martha, "I am the resurrection and the life" (John 11:25)."

- Christopher Watkin

"When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory." - Colossians 3:5

"For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known."

- 1 Corinthians 13:12

"Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is."

- 1 John 3:2

1. Resurrection Firstfruits - 15:20-26

"Christ the firstfruits, then at this coming ..."

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"In Christ's glory I would fix all my thoughts and desires, and the more I see of the glory of Christ, the more the painted beauties of this world will wither in my eyes and I will be more and more crucified to this world. It will become to me like something dead and putrid, impossible for me to enjoy."

- John Owen

2. Resurrection Form (bodily) - 15:34-50

"...it is raised a spiritual body ... image of the man of heaven"

Corporeal and Changed like Christ

Conformed to Image of Christ Crucified

so Confident in Christ

"For I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last he will stand upon the earth. And after my skin has been thus destroyed, yet in my flesh I shall see God."

- Job 19:25-26

"But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself."

- Philippians 3:20-21

2. Resurrection Form (bodily) - 15:34-50

"...it is raised a spiritual body ... image of the man of heaven"

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"For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified."

- Romans 8:29-30

"God did not abolish the fact of evil: He transformed it. He did not stop the Crucifixion; He rose from the dead." - Dorothy Sayers

"For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us."

- Romans 8:18

"For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison." - 2 Corinthians 4:17

2. Resurrection Form (bodily) - 15:34-50

"...it is raised a spiritual body ... image of the man of heaven"

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"The biblical view of things is resurrection, not a future that is just a consolation for the life we never had, but a restoration of the life we've always wanted. This means that every horrible thing that ever happened will not only be undone and repaired but will in some way make the eventual glory and joy even greater."

- Tim Keller

3. Resurrection Future (victory) - 15:34-50 "the victory ... therefore, be steadfast immovable ..."

Clothing Given

Conquering Given

so Continuing in Victory

"For while we are still in this tent, we groan, being burdened-- not that we would be unclothed, but that we would be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee."

- 2 Corinthians 5:4-5

3. Resurrection Future (victory) - 15:34-50 "the victory ... therefore, be steadfast immovable ..."

Clothing Given

Conquering Given

so Continuing in Victory

"The message of the resurrection is that this world matters!."

- N. T. Wright

"In all these ways, the resurrection does not detach Christians from the material reality and temporal preoccupations of this world, but it raises the bar of our hopes and aspirations for this world."

- Christopher Watkin

"The point of the resurrection...is that the present bodily life is not valueless just because it will die...What you do with your body in the present matters because God has a great future in store for it...What you do in the present—by painting, preaching, singing, sewing, praying, teaching, building hospitals, digging wells, campaigning for justice, writing poems, caring for the needy, loving your neighbor as yourself—will last into God's future. These activities are not simply ways of making the present life a little less beastly, a little more bearable, until the day when we leave it behind altogether (as the hymn so mistakenly puts it...). They are part of what we may call building for God's kingdom."

- N. T. Wright

Why is it worth it to keep going?

How does Jesus's Resurrection matter for our future?

"It's precisely when your ultimate conviction is that there is no eternal that you're most prone to absolutize the temporal."

- James K. A. Smith