

**Life Group Notes**  
**Sunday 21 May 2017**

**Speaker:** Sean Green

**Passage:** 1 Corinthians 15:12-34

**Title:** The Resurrection

Chapter 15 begs the question *'Why has Paul given so much attention to addressing confusion and false teaching about the resurrection?'*

**Read 1Cor15v12-19.** Paul wants the Corinthians to know that what happened to Christ, will happen to His followers. This is an unbreakable link. Because Jesus was raised from the dead, so will His followers. Conversely, if Jesus wasn't raised, neither will His followers be. Paul explores the imaginary scenario of Jesus not being raised from the dead. In this case, their faith and his preaching is rendered useless and the apostles are false witnesses. Worse still, those who have died believing in Christ are lost because sin still reigns. All hope is extinguished. Those who follow Christ are to be most pitied.

**Read 1Cor15v20-28.** Paul also wants the Corinthians to know the unbreakable link between Christ's first and second coming. His first coming guarantees His second because His mission is to sort out the mess from the first garden. His first coming was in the middle of history, his resurrection was the first fruits of a great harvest. Now He reigns and His kingdom is coming, but is not yet here fully. He will come again and in that moment death (which is already defeated), will be finally destroyed. This will trigger the resurrection of his followers. Everything will be renewed and Jesus will hand it all back to His heavenly father. The shalom of God will be eternally restored, never to be threatened again.

**Read 1Cor15v29-34** Paul doesn't want them to be misled by false teaching. He asks them to think it through: if there is no resurrection why does he endanger his life, delaying gratification until the age to come? Even the strange practice of baptizing for the dead affirms the resurrection. Paul ends by warning them to be careful who they allow to influence them because 'bad company corrupts good character'.

**Suggested questions:**

1. Which of the two 'unbreakable links' most captured your attention?
2. How do you picture life in the renewed heaven and earth?
3. What do you think this quote means:

*'Resurrection means an endless hope, no resurrection means an end to hope'. Garland*