

## 1 Corinthians 15:20-28

Read 1 Corinthians 15:20-28 (15:12-19 for context)

1. Why does Paul employ such a strong rhetorical argument in addressing the Resurrection?
2. How is Jesus the “firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep?” What is significant about this?
3. Paul employs language here about Adam and Jesus that he will later develop more fully in Romans 5. What important theological concepts can we see in this language and imagery?
4. Luther, in talking about this passage, uses the imagery of a baby being born: “For the main and best part of this has already come to pass, namely, that Christ, our Head, has arisen. But now that the Head is seated on high and lives, there is no longer any reason for concern. We who cling to Him must also follow after Him as His body and His members. For where the head goes and abides, there the body with all the members must necessarily follow and abide. As in the birth of man and of all animals, the head naturally appears first, and after this is born, the whole body follows easily.” (LW 28:110)
5. How do we, as the Body of Christ, follow Him at His Coming?
6. How is death the last enemy to be destroyed?
7. How does the image of Christ as a victorious and conquering war hero help us understand Paul’s descriptions of the End?
8. How does this passage connect with the other readings/theme for the day?