



Bible Study – 1 Corinthians

August 19, 2026

1 Corin, Chpt 15 Cont.

When we die, do we go straight to Heaven?

2 Main Different Views

- **Conscious Presence:** - Most traditional Christian groups teach that a person is fully awake and with the Lord in spirit the moment they pass away.

They base this belief on the second letter of the Apostle Paul to the Church at Corinth - 2 Cor 5:8

⁸ We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.

Luke 23:43

And Jesus said unto him, "Verily I say unto thee, today shalt thou be with Me in Paradise."

- **Future Resurrection:** - Some groups and scholars note that Paul also looked forward to getting a new, perfect physical body when Jesus returns, and then go to heaven to be with the Lord, rather than just being an unembodied spirit.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-17

John 5:28-29

John 6:40

Paul says in 1st Corinthians 15, the dead in Christ will rise at His coming. And so, obviously, they haven't risen yet but for those who are sleeping in the Lord, their next conscious thought is the Presence of the Lord.

The dead sleep is a totally unconscious experience –
When they die the believer's next conscious thought is in the Presence of the Lord.

What is meant by "next conscious thought"?

Ref: 2 Corin 5:1-6; Gen 3:19

Questions & Discussions

Cont 1 Corin 15

NKJV -³⁵ But some man will say, How are the dead raised up? and with what body do they come?

NLB - ³⁵ But someone may ask, "How will the dead be brought back to life again? What kind of bodies will they have?"

Will the body that we have now be the body that will rise at the "Resurrection of the Dead?"

Selective verses 1 Cor 15:36, 38, 42, 45-46, 50-58

What happens to our mortal body?

Why do humans place so much importance and put so much resources in burials?

What about Cremation? Is Cremation a Sin?

Cremation

In the United States, the estimated cremation rate is approximately **62.8%** to **63.4%**, while the traditional burial rate stands at roughly **31.6%** to **33.2%**. Cremation surpassed traditional burial as the preferred choice in 2015 and continues to grow.

Current Rates and Projections

- **Cremation Rate:** ~63%
- **Burial Rate:** ~32%
- **Future Outlook:** According to the National Funeral Directors Association cremation is projected to climb to **82.3%** by 2045, while burial is expected to decline further. Similarly, the Cremation Association of North America projects continued upward movement across North America.

Why People Choose Cremation Over Burial

- **Cost:** ---Traditional burials often cost significantly more due to caskets, embalming, and cemetery plots, whereas basic cremations are much less expensive]
- **Flexibility:**--- Families have more time to plan memorial services and can choose to scatter, keep, or bury the remains.
- **Shifting Traditions:** -- Looser religious restrictions and increased geographic mobility

Will we be able to see and know our friends and family members in heaven?

It is taught by many bible teachers and theologians that we will recognize our family and friends. Certain verses are used to support their teachings;

(Genesis 25:8)

8 Then Abraham breathed his last and died in a good old age, an old man and full of years, and was gathered to his people.

(Genesis 49:33)

33 And when Jacob had finished commanding his sons, he drew his feet up into the bed and breathed his last, and was gathered to his people.

On the Mount of Transfiguration, did not Elijah and Moses know each other?

(Luke 9:28-33).

*In the story that Jesus told about the rich man and Lazarus, did not the rich man, after death, recognize Lazarus and Abraham? **(Luke 16:19-24).***

*When King David's infant son was taken from him, David felt his loss very keenly - but he also knew he would see him again. David declared, "Can I bring him back again? I will go to him" (2 **Samuel 12:23).***

When Jesus was transfigured (or changed) before the eyes of some of His disciples and they glimpsed His heavenly glory, we're told that Moses and Elijah appeared with Him - proof that we retain our individuality in heaven (see Luke 9:28-36).

However, there are those who believe earthly/mortal memories will go the way of our mortality. Only the memories of our spirit will stay with us. The memories of our spiritual relationship will keep us focused on our redemption, our redeemer, the God who made it all possible and the new home he has prepared for us. All of our affections will be used to glorify Him.

1Cor13: 12 For now [in this time of imperfection] we see in a mirror dimly [a blurred reflection, a riddle, an enigma], but then [when the time of perfection comes we will see reality] face to face. Now I know in part [just in fragments], but then I will know fully, just as I have been fully known [by God].

Discuss

Luke 20:27-38

Read Rev 21:1-5