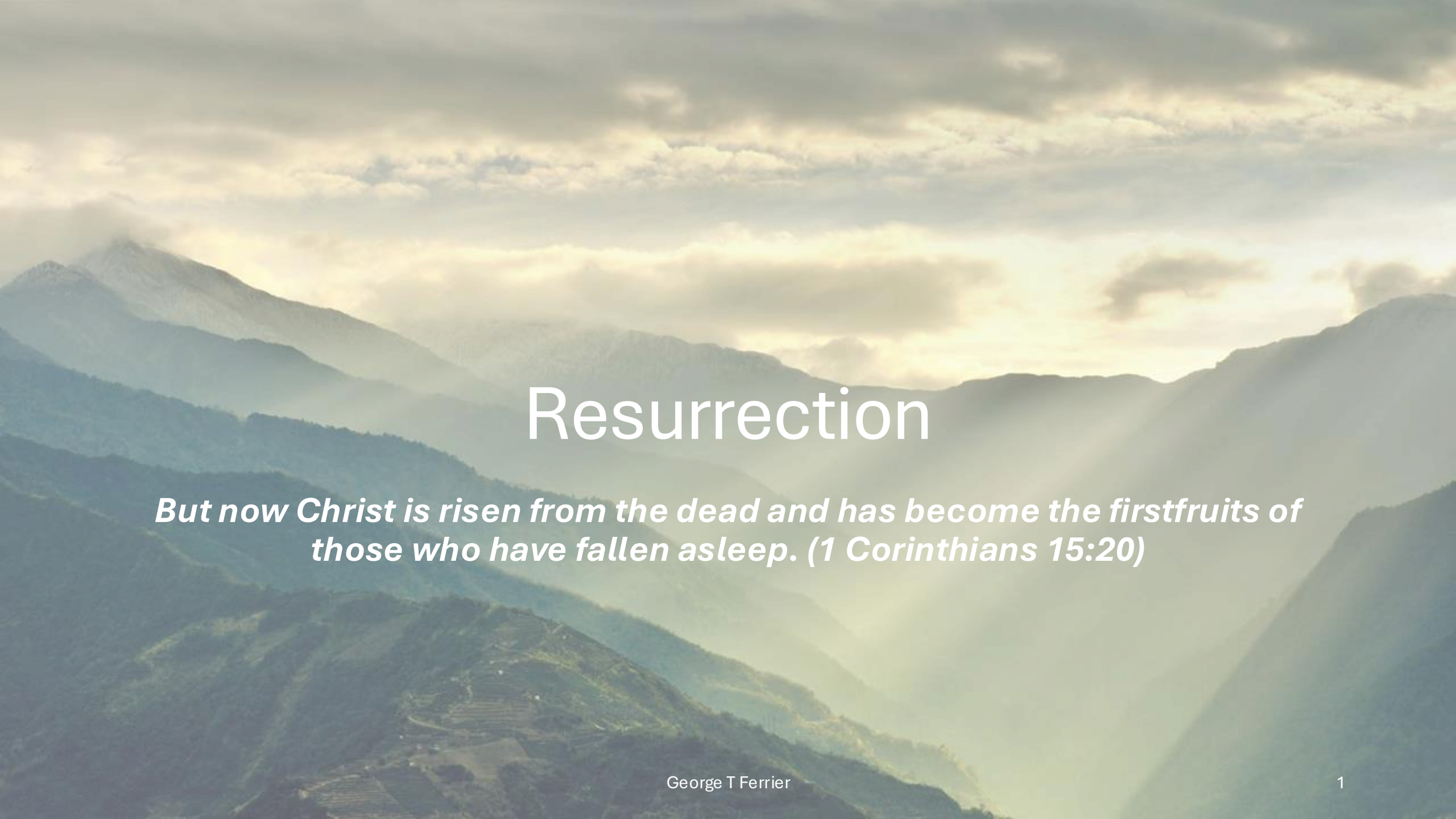




Resurrection

But now Christ is risen from the dead and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. (1 Corinthians 15:20)

Two Categories of Resurrection

- *“Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice and come forth—those who have done good, to the **resurrection of life**, and those who have done evil, to the **resurrection of condemnation**.”* (John 5:28-29)
- A large gap of time between these two resurrections

(1) Resurrection of Life or First Resurrection

- *Christ is pre-eminent in resurrection*
- *And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, **that in all things He may have the preeminence.*** (Colossians 1:18)
- Christ the Firstfruits
- *But now Christ is risen from the dead and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.* (1 Corinthians 15:20)
- ***I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore.** Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death.* (Revelation 1:18)

Ranking in the First Resurrection

- But each one in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those who are Christ's at His coming. (1 Corinthians 15:23)
- First Christ (1) then the Church, His bride (2)
- “But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning **those who have fallen asleep**, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God **will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus**. For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. **For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven** with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And **the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain** shall be caught up together with them **in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air**. And thus, we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words.” (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18)

Ranking in the First Resurrection

- Those who have fallen asleep only relates to the believer (John 11.11)
- It also only relates to the body
- Sleep is temporary, one rises again
- So, we are always confident, knowing that while we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord. We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord. (2 Corinthians 5:6, 8)
- For I am hard-pressed between the two, having a desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far better. (Phil. 1:23)

Ranking in the First Resurrection

- *Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, **though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die.** Do you believe this?"*
(John 11:25-26)
- The resurrection to those who have believed and died (25)
- The life to those who have believed and are alive (26)

Ranking in the First Resurrection

(3) OT Saints

*Now at that time Michael, the great prince who stands guard over the sons of your people, will arise. And there will be a **time of distress such as never occurred since there was a nation until that time; and at that time your people, everyone who is found written in the book, will be rescued.** "Many of those who sleep in the dust of the ground will awake, these to everlasting life, but the others to disgrace and everlasting contempt. (Daniel 12:1-2)*

Ranking in the First Resurrection

(3) Tribulation Saints

*And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. **And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection.** Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ and **shall reign with Him a thousand years.** (Rev. 20:4-6)*

(2) Resurrection of Condemnation

...But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished... (Rev. 20:5)

Unbelieving dead of all ages

*Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face **the earth and the heaven fled away**. And there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and **Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them**. And they were judged, each one according to his works. **Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.** (Revelation 20:11-15)*