

# The Better Way

Volume XXXIX, Issue 8

February 18, 2024

## SPRING CHURCH OF CHRIST

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### SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

#### SUNDAY

Bible Study.....9:00 a.m.  
Worship.....10:00 a.m.  
Afternoon Worship.....1:00 p.m.

#### WEDNESDAY

Bible Study.....7:30 p.m.  
(via Zoom Meetings)

#### ELDERS

David P. Brown  
Ken Cohn  
John West

#### DEACONS

Bret Bailey  
J. D. Gunter  
Eric Paluka

#### EVANGELIST

David P. Brown

#### SECRETARY

Sonya West

## WILL THE BODY BE RAISED

*Guy N. Woods*

The fifteenth chapter of First Corinthians is undoubtedly one of the most thrilling and important portions of divine revelation in all the Scriptures. It is a detailed and irrefutable argument for the resurrection; and, consequently, for Christianity, itself. The chapter, with irresistible logic and divine affirmation, shows conclusively that Christ rose from the dead and, from this premise, deduces the resurrection of all men. This is done by (1) an appeal to the Scriptures (1 Cor. 15:1-4); (2) by the testimony of eyewitnesses numbering hundreds who saw the Lord *after* His resurrection; and (3) by the absurdity of the opposite position (verses 5-34).

Pagans, in the first century, regarded the doctrine of the resurrection of the body, as ridiculous (Acts 17:32) and others, in the church, contended that the resurrection was already past and that all that awaited the faithful was a spiritual resurrection (2 Tim. 2:14-19). Still others believed the body to be the seat of evil—the source of mankind's ills—and they longed for the day when they would divest themselves of the body, never to enter it again. Their argument was a philosophical one, and the apostle ingeniously replied in similar fashion:

**But if there is no resurrection of the dead, neither hath Christ been raised: and if Christ hath not been raised, then is our preaching vain, your faith also is vain. Yea, and we are found false witnesses of God; because we witnessed of God that he raised up Christ: whom he raised not up, if so be that the dead are not raised (1 Cor. 15:12-19).**

Earlier in the chapter, the apostle had established the doctrine of the resurrection of the body by (a) inspiration and (b) eyewitnesses (the most conclusive and convincing evidence possible), and he now attacks the reasoning of the advocates of the false doctrine of no bodily resurrection, and demolishes it. His method was by negative demonstration, and the form of his argument was by a series of hypothetical premises each of which became a conclusion: If there is no resurrection, *Christ did not rise*; if Christ did not rise, Paul's preaching, which the Corinthians had earlier accepted and by which they had been saved, was in vain, he and his associates were false witnesses, the faith of the Corinthians was in vain, they were yet in their sins, and all who

**“are fallen asleep in Christ have perished.”** This was the awful alternative which Paul offered the Corinthians. Were they willing to accept it? They were not, of course; yet such irresistibly followed from the premises they had advanced in their denial of the resurrection of the body. The apostle thus used their own views to prove their position, on the resurrection, to be false.

Having shown the negative proposition, touching the resurrection of the body, which the Corinthians held to be false, the apostle proceeded to establish the truth of the positive view: **“But now hath Christ been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of them that are asleep. For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead”** (1 Cor. 15:20, 21). Christ had been raised; Paul’s opponents in Corinth conceded this, and the apostle had proved it, anyway. Christ, the firstfruits **“of them that are asleep,”** points to the conclusion which obviously follows. The wavesheaf was the firstfruit of harvest (Lev. 23:10); a pledge of the full harvest to follow; Christ was but the early fruit of the eventual universal harvest of all mankind—some to life, others to eternal condemnation (Dan. 12: 2; John 5:28, 29).

There will be *a resurrection of the body*—the tabernacle of the spirit (2 Cor. 5:1). **“It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body”** (1 Cor. 15:44). The words, **“natural body,”** describe our tenement of flesh when it is buried; the phrase, **“a spiritual body,”** describes its condition when it is raised. There are those in our day, who object to the doctrine of the resurrection of the body on the ground that it is not possible for a material thing—the physical body—to be changed into an immaterial thing. Aside from limiting God, this objection is refuted in changes about us equally great, and appealed to by Paul, in support of the resurrection of the body (1 Cor. 15:36-44). It is easy to fall into grave error regarding the resurrection by imagining difficulties or

impossibilities which, though insoluble to men, disappear where God’s power is involved. For example, the following statement, from a recent publication, evidences a view to which some in the church today subscribe:

An effort has been made to teach that the resurrection is a restoration of the present body, or at least some portions of it, by the reunion of the material elements of which it was composed at the time of its death.

Well, is not this exactly what the word *resurrect* suggests? It derives from the Latin prefix *re* “again”; *surgere*, “to rise.” Hence, to be resurrected, is to be “raised up again.” If the body, in no sense, as the foregoing quotation implies, comes forth, how can there be a *resurrection*? If that which comes forth from the tomb is no part of, and sustains no direct relationship to, the body which was buried, its coming forth must be a re-creation, rather than a re-surrection. Paul illustrates the change to occur in our bodies with the seed which is planted, decomposes, and then springs forth to new life. According to the theory indicated in the quotation above, which denies the actual resurrection of our present bodies, all of the grain placed in the ground remains there, and the sower reaps other grain from some other place bearing no direct relationship to that planted! The antecedent of the pronoun “it,” is the same in both clauses: **“It [the body] is sown a natural body”**; **“It [the body] is raised a spiritual body,”** being changed, of course, from a mortal, to an immortal substance. We rejoice to believe that we shall *come forth* from the tomb in the likeness of our Lord. It should not be forgotten that the prints of the nails were still in His hands! (1 John 3:1ff; Phi. 3:21; John 20:24-29).~

**Deceased**

(*Gospel Advocate*—April 3, 1975)

**Jesus has prepared a place for you;  
are you prepared for that place?**

# Spring Church Of Christ

*Contending For The Faith Lectureship*



## Lessons On Christian Living

February 24, 2024

**9:00 AM:** *Teach Us To Pray* – Weldon Blake

**10:00 AM:** *Exercising Your Christian Influence* – J. D. Gunter

**11:00 AM:** *Are You Being Fashioned According To This World?* – Jonathan West

**LUNCH PROVIDED BY THE SPRING CONGREGATION**

**1:30 PM:** *The Importance of Bible Study* – Bruce Stulting

**2:30 PM:** *Into Our Hands The Gospel Is Given* – Jack Stephens

**3:30 PM:** *Examine Yourself* – Jose Gamez

**LECTURESHIP DIRECTOR:** David P. Brown

**ELDERS:** David P. Brown, Kenneth D. Cohn, John West

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**LIVE VIEWING @ [www.churchesofchrist.com](http://www.churchesofchrist.com)**



# A Study Of THE GOSPEL OF JOHN



Teacher:

*David P. Brown*

WEDNESDAY NIGHT  
BIBLE CLASS VIA ZOOM

A Study In  
**THE MAJOR PROPHETS**

Jeremiah Ezekiel  
Lamentations Daniel  
Isaiah

Sunday Morning Bible Class  
*David P. Brown*

## VISIT OUR WEBSITE

[www.churchesofchrist.com](http://www.churchesofchrist.com)

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS

- **Saturday, February 24th:** Spring CFTF Lectureship
- **Sunday, February 25th:** Monthly meal
- **Tuesday, March 26th:** Ladies' Bible Class
- **Saturday, May 11th:** Graduation Banquet
- **Saturday, May 25th:** Fish Hatchery Rd Lectureship (Part #2)
- **Mon-Wed, July 15th-17th:** VBS at Spring
- **Saturday, September 28th:** Fall Fellowship
- **Saturday, October 26th:** Fish Hatchery Rd. Lectureship (Part #3)

## THOSE TO SERVE

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2024**

**Announcements** Ken Cohn  
**Scripture Reading** Eric Paluka  
Rev. 8:8-13

**Song Leader** Jonathan West  
**Prayer** Zack Nero/Steven Johnson (A.M.)  
Eric Paluka/Joshua West (P.M.)

**Speakers** David Brown

**Lord's Table (A.M.)**  
(Luke 23:32-38)

Steven Johnson Gary Blasingame  
Andrew Paluka Jonathan West

**Lord's Table (P.M.)**

Stephen Cohn Ben Gunter

**Audio/Video Monitor** Steven Johnson  
**Camera/Door Monitor** Andrew Paluka

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2024**

*(via Zoom Meetings)*

**Announcements** Bret Bailey  
**Speaker** Eric Paluka  
**Bible Class Teacher** David Brown

**FOR FEBRUARY**

**Prepare Communion** Mercier  
**Lock Buildings** Blasingame  
**Prepare Bulletin Board** TBA

## IN NEED OF PRAYERS

Bob Terry, Glenda Hackworth, Zack Nero, Cynthia Jackson, Elnora Oxendine, Edith Young, Bernice Hastings, Charles & Ann Nero, Nathaniel Rimmer, Chuck & Nancy Verkist, Freda Smith, Noah Hackworth, Orlinda Chumbley, Carmen Hardy, and Roelf & Janice Ruffner.

## TEST YOUR BIBLE KNOWLEDGE

Who said: "And be sure your sin will find you out"?

**Answer to last week's question:**  
Gad and Reuben; Num. 32