

# **Then Comes the End**

*Ray Stedman*

I. Introduction. Text: I Corinthians 15:20-34.

II. Our resurrection is tied in with Christ.

A. The first fruits were a prediction that the resurrection of Jesus would be a sample of the resurrection of man to come. (Leviticus 23)

B. Jesus was the first human being to be resurrected from the dead.

1. Unlike Lazarus' resurrection, Jesus' resurrection was not a mere resuscitation.

2. Jesus returned to a different level of life.

C. Believers die because they are still part of the race of Adam, but they are also in Christ so they will be raised in glory. Resurrection is just as certain as death.

D. The resurrection will happen at Christ's return. (I Thessalonians 4)

1. When the believer lays down his life here, he will step out of time into eternity and immediately experience the Lord's coming.

2. The first thing we experience at death is Christ.

III. Jesus reigns now. God allows evil temporarily for our growth.

IV. The last enemy that will fall is death.

A. We experience the effects of death now when we struggle against temptations.

B. Life is a continual experience of pain leading to joy in this present life, but there is coming a time when this body will die.

C. When we pass through death, we will never die again.

V. To worship Christ honors God.

A. There will come a time when we will understand the Trinity emotionally.

B. God will become everything to everyone.

VI. It is not clear what the baptism for the dead was, but Paul's point was to say that the resurrection of the dead had a profound impact on people.

VII. To believe that God raises the dead gives tremendous encouragement to bear suffering.

VIII. The hope of resurrection ought to determine one's lifestyle.

**Application questions:**

1. How was Jesus' resurrection different from that of Lazarus?

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2. Why must a believer still die if he has been saved?

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3. How would you describe what happens after death to someone differently in light of this passage?

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