

## The First Epistle of Paul to the Corinthians

### Christ the First Fruits of the Resurrection

1 Corinthians 15:20-24

#### 1. A Unique \_\_\_\_\_

All of the disastrous ramifications that would be in store for believers if Christ had not been raised (cf. vs.12-13) are not to trouble us because He has risen. His resurrection is not the first ever (cf. John 11:43), but His was the first of its kind where He is now beyond the reach of death (Rom. 6:8-9; cf. Acts 1:9; Rev. 1:18).

#### 2. A Unique \_\_\_\_\_

Scripture has many examples of where an individual's actions brought about ramifications which extended out to their families or the nation (cf. Josh. 7:;16; 2 Sam. 12:12-14). Prior to the time of Christ, the farthest reaching and most significant example of this is Adam and his sin in the garden (1 Cor 15:21; cf. Gen. 3:6).

While the Bible records Eve sinning before Adam, it is Adam's sin which resulted in death and condemnation coming to all men (Rom. 5:12). The obedient work of Christ (Rom. 5:19) and His resurrection from the dead (1 Cor. 15:22) have resulted in lasting ramifications for all who are His (cf. 1 Cor 15:23b).

#### 3. A Unique \_\_\_\_\_

Jesus' resurrection ensures the future resurrection of all of those who have fallen asleep in Christ (cf. v.18). This resurrection has not yet occurred (cf. 2 Thess 2:18), and it will occur during the time of His return (1 Cor. 15:23). Prior to the end (1 Cor. 15:24), the dead in Christ will rise first followed by the believers who are alive at that time (1 Thess 4:13-18). There will be another resurrection of the righteous who died during the great tribulation, while the unrighteous of all ages will be resurrected following the final rebellion (Rev. 20:4ff).