

Week 09  
054/311

**Transforming Daily**  
**“... asleep in Christ ...”**  
*1 Corinthians 15:18*

“Asleep” in the Scriptures often refers to one’s death. Paul uses this terminology several times in his writings. In this case, that’s exactly what it refers to. In context, Paul uses it as leverage to shake the believer’s from their lethargic view of resurrection. Emotions are a great motivator. It’s one thing for the Corinthians to say that they, still being alive, don’t believe in the resurrection, but there’s a certain reality to remind them that if they are right, their passed loved one’s are condemned already (v.18).

The perspective of the Corinthians on this matter is not surprising. Throughout the writings of First and Second Corinthians, Paul was always having to correct their misperspectives and misguided ways. In 1 Corinthians 4, Paul addresses the issue of the dead rising from the grave with respect to what many call the rapture (sudden catching away). Paul’s attention was on the concern of the Corinthians still living asking about their relatives who had already died. In comparison, the difference here is that Paul used the word “perished” regarding those who have died, if the doctrine of resurrection, not rapture, is incorrect. There is some overlap in the application of the two texts, most specifically for the believers who already being dead would be raptured from the grave – resurrection. That’s why here Paul sharpened a finer point on the matter by saying that without the resurrection there is no rapture for them, in fact, they have already perished.

Many people betray their own beliefs by not learning and thinking through fundamental doctrines. Though doctrine can be broken down into specific categories, i.e., salvation, resurrection, crucifixion, etc., all parts are of one large system of theology. Bible colleges and seminaries call this unit of learning Systematic Theology. Again, many people betray their own beliefs by their words, if not in deed, by stating their feelings and rationalizations from their own perspective of personal experience and emotion. However, faith should always dominate reason. There is a place for reason. It is God given, but it should always be subordinate to faith.

How do you prioritize faith and reason? Does faith outrank reason? Do you believe in the doctrine of bodily resurrection? I hope so, because there is no guarantee that the rapture will occur before you and I are asleep in Christ.