

The Architectural Structure of I Corinthians 15

by Bob Schlenker

- A₁) a) AA)** Now, brothers, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you,
BB) which you received
CC) and on which you have taken your stand.
- b) {2}** By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you.
c) Otherwise, you have believed in vain.
- A₂) a) AA)** **aa)** {3} For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance:
bb) that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures,
cc) {4} that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,
- BB)** **aa₁)** {5} and that he appeared to Peter,
bb₁) and then to the Twelve.
cc₁) AAA) {6} After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers at the same time,
BBB) most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep.
- aa₂)** {7} Then he appeared to James,
bb₂) then to all the apostles,
cc₂) AAA) {8} and last of all he appeared to me also,
BBB) as to one abnormally born.
- CC)** **aa)** {9} For I am the least of the apostles and do not even deserve to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.
bb) {10} But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me was not without effect.
cc) No, I worked harder than all of them--yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me.
- b) {11}** Whether, then, it was I or they, this is what we preach,
c) and this is what you believed.
- A₃) a)** {12} But if it is preached that Christ has been raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead?
b) {13} If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. {14} And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless
c) and so is your faith.

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- B₁**
- a₁**) {15} More than that, we are then found to be false witnesses about God, for we have testified about God that he raised Christ from the dead.
 - b₁**) **AA)** But he did not raise him if in fact the dead are not raised.
 - BB)** {16} For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either.
 - b₂**) **AA)** {17} And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins.
 - BB)** {18} Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost.
 - a₂**) {19} If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are to be pitied more than all men.
- B₂**
- a₁**) {20} But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.
 - b₁**) **AA)** {21} For since death came through a man,
 - BB)** the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man.
 - b₂**) **AA)** {22} For as in Adam all die,
 - BB)** so in Christ all will be made alive.
 - a₂**) {23} But each in his own turn: Christ, the firstfruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him.
- B₃**
- a₁**) {24} Then the end will come, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father after he has destroyed all dominion, authority and power.
 - b₁**) **AA)** {25} For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet.
 - BB)** {26} The last enemy to be destroyed is death.
 - b₂**) **AA)** {27} For he "has put everything under his feet."
 - BB)** Now when it says that "everything" has been put under him, it is clear that this does not include God himself, who put everything under Christ.
 - a₂**) {28} When he has done this, then the Son himself will be made subject to him who put everything under him, so that God may be all in all.

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- C₁) a₁) {29} Now if there is no resurrection,
 b₁) what will those do who are baptized for the dead?
 a₂) If the dead are not raised at all,
 b₂) why are people baptized for them?
- C₂) a₁) {30} And as for us, why do we endanger ourselves every hour?
 b₁) {31} I die every day--I mean that, brothers--just as surely as I glory over you in Christ Jesus our Lord.
 a₂) {32} If I fought wild beasts in Ephesus for merely human reasons, what have I gained?
 b₂) If the dead are not raised, "Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die."
- C₃) a₁) {33} Do not be misled: "Bad company corrupts good character."
 b₁) {34} Come back to your senses as you ought, and stop sinning;
 a₂) for there are some who are ignorant of God--
 b₂) I say this to your shame.

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- D₁)** **a)** {35} But someone may ask, "How are the dead raised?"
 b) With what kind of body will they come?"
- D₂)** **a)** **AA)** {36} How foolish! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies.
 BB) **aa)** {37} When you sow, you do not plant the body that will be, but just a seed, perhaps of wheat or of something else.
 bb) {38} But God gives it a body as he has determined, and to each kind of seed he gives its own body.
- b)** **AA)** **aa)** {39} *All flesh is not the same:*
 bb) *Men have one kind of flesh, animals have another, birds another and fish another.*
- BB)** **aa)** **AAA₁)** {40} *There are also heavenly bodies*
 BBB₁) *and there are earthly bodies;*
 AAA₂) *but the splendor of the heavenly bodies is one kind,*
 BBB₂) *and the splendor of the earthly bodies is another.*
 bb) {41} *The sun has one kind of splendor, the moon another and the stars another; and star differs from star in splendor.*
- D₃)** **a)** **AA)** {42} So will it be with the resurrection of the dead.
 BB) **aa₁)** The body that is sown is perishable,
 bb₁) it is raised imperishable;
 aa₂) {43} it is sown in dishonor,
 bb₂) it is raised in glory;
 aa₃) it is sown in weakness,
 bb₃) it is raised in power;
 aa₄) {44} it is sown a natural body,
 bb₄) it is raised a spiritual body.
 aa₅) If there is a natural body,
 bb₅) there is also a spiritual body.
- b)** **AA₁)** {45} So it is written: "The first man Adam became a living being";
 BB₁) the last Adam, a life-giving spirit.
 AA₂) {46} The spiritual did not come first, but the natural,
 BB₂) and after that the spiritual.
 AA₃) {47} The first man was of the dust of the earth,
 BB₃) the second man from heaven.
 AA₄) {48} As was the earthly man, so are those who are of the earth;
 BB₄) and as is the man from heaven, so also are those who are of heaven.
 AA₅) {49} And just as we have borne the likeness of the earthly man,
 BB₅) so shall we bear the likeness of the man from heaven.

