

DODGING BULLETS

1 Corinthians 15:12-26; 35-44; 50-55 (HCSB)

12 Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say, “There is no resurrection of the dead”? **13** But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised; **14** and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation is without foundation, and so is your faith. **15** In addition, we are found to be false witnesses about God, because we have testified about God that He raised up Christ—whom He did not raise up if in fact the dead are not raised. **16** For if the dead are not raised, Christ has not been raised. **17** And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins. **18** Therefore, those who have fallen asleep in Christ have also perished. **19** If we have put our hope in Christ for this life only, we should be pitied more than anyone.

20 But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. **21** For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead also comes through a man. **22** For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be made alive. **23** But each in his own order: Christ, the firstfruits; afterward, at His coming, those who belong to Christ. **24** Then comes the end, when He hands over the kingdom to God the Father, when He abolishes all rule and all authority and power. **25** For He must reign until He puts all His enemies under His feet. **26** The last enemy to be abolished is death. . .

35 But someone will say, “How are the dead raised? What kind of body will they have when they come?” **36** Foolish one! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. **37** And as for what you sow—you are not sowing the future body, but only a seed, perhaps of wheat or another grain. **38** But God gives it a body as He wants, and to each of the seeds its own body. **39** Not all flesh is the same flesh; there is one flesh for humans, another for animals, another for birds, and another for fish. **40** There are heavenly bodies and earthly bodies, but the splendor of the heavenly bodies is different from that of the earthly ones. **41** There is a splendor of the sun, another of the moon,