

RESURRECTION BODY

(1 Cor 15:35-39; 40-49; 53-57)

A. As we close out this series of lessons on the resurrection, we want to notice some specific things Paul tells us about the resurrection body.

1. And keep in mind that with all Paul has revealed on this subject, he still couldn't tell us everything we would like to know (1 John 3:2-3).
2. He did however tell us that the resurrection body will be given when the last trumpet sounds on the last day at the last hour – at the end of time.
3. And he also told us that every person who has ever lived will be given a body, & that body will not be flesh & blood.

[The resurrection body will not be subject to weakness, sickness, disease, or to growing old (“In a land where we’ll never grow old.”) So, what kind of a body will it be?]

I. RESURRECTION BODY

A. A Different Body (15:35-39).

1 Cor 15:35-39 – But someone will say, “How are the dead raised up? And with what body do they come?” 36 Foolish one, what you sow is not made alive unless it dies. 37 **And what you sow, you do not sow that body that shall be** [it’ll be different] but mere grain — perhaps wheat or some other grain. 38 But God gives it a body as He pleases, & to each seed its own body. 39 All flesh is not the same flesh, but there is one kind of flesh of men, another flesh of animals, another of fish, & another of birds.

1. The Gnostics of the 1st Century had an aversion to the body (a dislike for it) because they thought it was inherently evil.
2. The Jewish Rabbis taught that the resurrection body will be identical to the earthly body; they misinterpreted Job.

Job 19:25-27 – For I know that my Redeemer lives, & He shall stand at last on the earth; 26 **And after my skin is destroyed, this I know, that in my flesh I shall see God**, 27 Whom I shall see for myself, & my eyes shall behold, & not another. How my heart yearns within me! **ASV – 26 And after my skin, (even) this (body), is destroyed, then without my flesh shall I see God;**

Barnes – It is, rather, that though *without a body*, or *though his body should all waste away, he would see God as his vindicator*.

The Rabbis also believed...Baruch (apocryphal book) – “The earth shall then, at the time of the resurrection, assuredly restore the dead; *it shall make no change in form*, but as it has received so shall it restore.”

3. But Paul plainly stated that the resurrection body will be a different kind of body.

a. Just as a seed is different from the plant the seed becomes.

b. Just as our flesh is different from the flesh of animals, fish & birds, with the emphasis on “different”.

1) The resurrected body will **NOT** be composed of a different kind of flesh, or a variation of the present physical body.

2) Paul said THAT body must die before the other body can live, & that you don’t reap the same body you sow.

c. Therefore, just as God provided us with bodies that are suitable for our physical existence here, at the resurrection He will give us bodies that are suitable for an eternal existence somewhere else.

1) And as we studied previously, the resurrected body will be prepared for either eternal life or eternal condemnation.

d. But THAT body will be different from the one you have presently; it will be a body that pleases God & serves His purpose.

B. A Glorious Body (15:40-49).

1 Cor 15:40-49 – There are also celestial bodies & terrestrial bodies; but the **glory** of the celestial is one, & the **glory** of the terrestrial is another. 41 There is one **glory** of the sun, another **glory** of the moon, & another **glory** of the stars; for one star differs from another star in **glory**. 42 So also is the resurrection of the dead. The body is sown in corruption, it is raised in **incorruption**. 43 It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in **glory**. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in **power**. 44 It is sown a natural body, it is raised a **spiritual** body. There is a natural body, & there is a **spiritual** body. 45 And so it is written, “The first man Adam became a living being.” The last Adam became a **life-giving spirit**. 46 However, the **spiritual** is not first, but the

natural, & afterward the **spiritual**. 47 The first man was of the earth, made of dust; the second Man is **the Lord** [some translations omit “the Lord”] **from heaven**. 48 As was the man of dust, so also are those who are made of dust; & as is the **heavenly Man**, so also are those who are **heavenly**. 49 And as we have borne the image of the man of dust, **we shall also bear the image of the heavenly Man**.

1. Look To The Sky (15:40-41): God created some glorious heavenly bodies that are very different in the range of their glory.
 - a. Consider the profound differences in glory or brightness between the sun, moon, stars & planets (from our perspective).
2. Look To The Ground (15:42-45): God always brings something greater out of the ground than what was sown into the ground.
 - a. Consider the humble beginnings of the giant redwoods in California: At Redwood National Park there is one called “Big Tree” is 304’ tall, & 21’ diameter.

3. Look To Heaven (15:46-49): God gave Jesus a natural body made of the earth; but now that He is in the spiritual realm, He has a spiritual body.

- a. Consider the fact that everyone who has ever “borne the image of the man of dust, ...shall also bear the image of the heavenly Man, a spiritual body.
- b. So no matter what a person’s eternal destination shall be (Heaven or Hell), the resurrected body will be a glorious body compared to the one we have now.

C. An Incorruptible Body (15:53-57).

1 Cor 15:53-57 – For this corruptible [perishable] must put on **incorruption**, & this mortal [liable to die] must put on **immortality**. 54 So when this corruptible has put on **incorruption**, & this mortal has put on **immortality** [resurrection] THEN SHALL BE BROUGHT TO PASS THE SAYING THAT IS WRITTEN: “Death is swallowed up in victory” (Isa 25:8). 55 “O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory” (Hos 13:14)? 56 The sting of death is sin, & the strength of sin is the law. 57 But **thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ**.

1. Back in verse 26, Paul referred to “death” as the “last enemy that will be destroyed”. Why is that?
 - a. Because death (like a wasp) injects a mortal “sting” into the flesh of every person.
 - b. There is not one person here that hasn’t been touched by the pain or sorrow of death.
 - c. Our final earthly step will be into the shadowy region of death. (We sing, “Only A Shadow Between” – life & the hereafter – and that shadow is death).
 - d. These bodies of ours are made to die.
 - e. They have death working in them at this very minute—they are ticking time bombs.
 - f. As much as we hate to admit it, these bodies were made to expire!
2. But for the faithful Christian there is a body awaiting that is incapable of decay (2 Cor 5:1-4).
 - a. And the reason we have a need for a body like that is because the place where we are going is eternal.
 - b. In the words of John Newton, “*When we’ve been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun; we’ve no less days to sing God’s praise that when we first begun.*”
3. For the true Christian, death will end in “victory”, through Jesus Christ, at the resurrection. How?
 - a. Because “the sting of death” will have been removed; death will never again cause us to feel any pain or to have any fear.
 - b. Because Jesus Christ through the apostles gave us the power (gospel) to overcome that which caused us to die (sin) (15:1-4; 57).

- c. So for the Christian, death is nothing more than a shadow ([Psalm 23:4](#)); in other words, death cannot harm a faithful child of God.

We don't like walking through dark places do we? But if we know that place well by having seen it clearly in the daylight, then we don't mind as much walking through it in the shadows.

[Now that we know the resurrection body will be better, glorious & immortal, then death is little more than minor inconvenience. Nevertheless, even the Lord faced it.

How do we make this subject pertinent to our lives?]

CLOSING ([15:58](#))

- A. “[Be Steadfast, Immovable](#)” – This means “to sit & to be firmly persistent”. Don't give up on your faith in the gospel of Jesus Christ.
1. If we truly understand what God has prepared for us then we would never let anything or anyone draw us away from Him.
 - a. And that includes our lusts, ambitions & family relationships.

- B. “[Always Abounding In The Work Of The Lord](#)” – This means to give your all to the Lord's work. Do you?
1. It is amazing how much planning & effort we put into things we look forward to doing (vacations).
 2. How can you tell those who are looking forward to the resurrection from those who are not? Those who are will be the ones “abounding in the work of the Lord.”
- C. “[Your Labor Is Not In Vain In The Lord](#)” – This means that everything you do in service to the Lord will amount to something valuable (accomplish something important, lasting).

1. But the other side of that is also true. Everything you do that is not in service to the Lord will amount to nothing (accomplish nothing of importance, lasting).
 - a. Most of what is done in this world—millions of hours, billions of dollars, all the energy & creativity—is in vain!
2. The only things you can do that will be meaningful in eternity are the things you do to serve the Lord & His people. **So, do those things!**

Are you ready for the Lord to return & raise the dead ([John 5:28-29](#))? He will be the judge of the living & the dead on that day ([Acts 10:42](#))!

Hear the gospel Christ; read it: Acts 2; 3; 13; 17; Rom 10:17

Believe Jesus to be Lord and Christ, the Son of God and Savior of men: Acts 2:36; John 3:16; 8:24; 20:30-31; Acts 4:12; Titus 1:4

Repent of your sins: Acts 2:38; 3:19; 17:30; 1 John 3:4

Confess your faith in Jesus Christ: Matt 10:32-33; Acts 8:37; Rom 10:9-10

Be baptized for the forgiveness of your sins & salvation: Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; Rom 6:3-4; Gal 3:27; 1 Pet 3:21

Be obedient to the Lord, He will be your Judge: Titus 2:11-12; Heb 5:9; 2 John 9; Rev 2
