



1 Corinthians 15:35-49_ The Resurrection Body!

Nov 9, 2014

Text: 1 Cor 15:35-49

1. The last time we were in 1 Corinthians 15, we spoke of the need for every church and every believer to avoid deception.
2. In context, apparently some false teachers had convinced some Corinthians the believers would not be raised from the dead.
3. As we said a couple of weeks ago, Paul issued a firm rebuke: “Wake up from this drunkenness (a good metaphor of deception!)! Stop listening to this bad doctrine and stop sinning! Stop listening to people who have no knowledge of God even if they think they do! You should be ashamed you allowed this to happen! You should be ashamed you allowed these men to teach and upset the Body!” In other words: DO NOT BE DECEIVED.
4. Having sufficiently, over the course of this chapter so far, dealt with the false teaching, Paul slowly shifts to describing our glorified body.
5. Indeed, the last great element of our Salvation in the “Ordo Salutis” or order of Salvation...after our Calling, Election, Conversion Justification, Sanctification, and being Preserved by the power of God...the end of our faith...our final glorious state....will be the glorification of our bodies and our forever being with the Lord, seeing Him as He is, worshipping Him in complete holiness and fullness, enjoying His presence forever!
6. “Glorification is the final step in the application of redemption. It will happen when Christ returns and raises from the dead the bodies of all believers for all time who have died, and reunites them with their souls, and changes the bodies of all believers who remain alive, thereby giving all believers at the same time perfect resurrection bodies like his own.” Wayne Grudem

(1Co 15:35 ESV) But someone will ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?"

- Great question! With this overwhelming, amazing, undeserved kind of glory awaiting the believer, “What will it be like?” is a fair question?

(1Co 15:36-37 ESV) You foolish person! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. And what you sow is not the body that is to be, but a bare kernel, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain.

- Still in rebuke mode towards doubters ☺, Paul gives a simple analogy. Similar to our Lord’s example in John 12, Paul begins this discussion by appealing something they would understand: the death of a seed that eventually produces life...something beautiful “rising from the dead” if you will.
- *Joh 12:23-25 ESV And Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. (24) Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. (25) Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life.*
- Our sovereign and omnipotent God often chooses to make life out of death, and show His immeasurable power in the process, making the new life **better** than the old.
- This truth is the goal of the analogy Paul is using.
- The Expositors Bible Commentary states, “Even outside the circle of Christian thought these analogies in nature have always been felt to remove some of the presumptions against the Resurrection and to make room for listening to evidence in its favor. The transformation of the seed into the plant and the development of the seed to a fuller life through apparent extinction,

the transformation of the grub into the brilliant and powerful dragonfly through a process which terminates the life of the grub-these and other natural facts show that one life may be continued through various phases, and that the termination of one form of life does not always mean the termination of all life in a creature. We need not, these analogies tell us, at once conclude that death ends all, for in some visible instances death is only a birth to a higher and freer life. Neither need we point to the dissolution of the natural body and conclude that no more perfect body can be connected with such a process, because in many cases we see a more efficient body disengaged from the original and dissolving body. Thus far the analogies carry us.”

(1Co 15:38-41 ESV) But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body. For not all flesh is the same, but there is one kind for humans, another for animals, another for birds, and another for fish. There are heavenly bodies and earthly bodies, but the glory of the heavenly is of one kind, and the glory of the earthly is of another. There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for star differs from star in glory.

- Using another analogy, Paul refers to different kinds of natural bodies to again highlight the majesty of God in creation and the power of God in **transformation** from the earthly to the heavenly.
- God chooses the body, each in its own kind, but there is a difference between the perishable and the imperishable, the earthly and the heavenly. In other words, even the stars in the sky demonstrate that difference!
- The point here is to say to a skeptic in Corinth, “Just because you cannot imagine what our bodies will be like in glory, doesn’t mean they won’t be glorified. You cannot explain our God’s power over earthy and heaven. You cannot explain the difference from bodies that die and bodies that go on. What makes you think you can perceive and adequately explain what we will become?”
- “The kind of flesh you now wear may be unfit for everlasting life, but there may await you as suitable and congenial a body as your present familiar tenement. Consider the inexhaustible fertility of God, the endless varieties already existing in nature. The bird has a body which fits it for life in the air; the fish lives with comfort in its own element. And the variety already existing does not exhaust God’s resources. We read at present but one chapter in the history of life, and what future chapters are to unfold who can imagine?” -EBC

(1Co 15:42-44 ESV) So is it with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable; what is raised is imperishable. It is sown in dishonor; it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness; it is raised in power. It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body.

- With our hearts and minds duly calibrated that God’s power is inexhaustible and limitless and that man’s intellectual barriers aren’t the point at all...
- Paul proclaims again that the sowing of the seed of our bodies into the earth (death), will result in the breaking forth of our newer, better bodies from the ground (resurrection)! That which dies will rise to immortality! Hallelujah!
- Our natural bodies die a “**sin** death.” They get old and decay and die because of Adam’s sin. They die in dishonor.
- They are raised, because of the finished work of Christ and His defeat of Satan, in glory!
- We are weak because of our transgressions and iniquity. We will be raised in power because the cause of our weakness will be gone! Worthy is the Lamb who died for our sins!

(1Co 15:45-47 ESV) Thus it is written, "The first man Adam became a living being"; the last Adam became

a life-giving spirit. But it is not the spiritual that is first but the natural, and then the spiritual. The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven.

- The first Adam is obviously Adam, the first man who ever lived.
 - The last Adam is **Christ**, who gives life by His Spirit, is Christ! Breathe in and be encouraged by the truth of these verses.....
1. *Joh 5:21 ESV For as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, so also the Son gives life to whom he will.*
 2. *Joh 5:25-26 ESV "Truly, truly, I say to you, an hour is coming, and is now here, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. (26) For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself.*
 3. *Joh 6:63 KJV It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.*
 4. *Rom 8:11 ESV If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.*
 5. *Php 3:20-21 ESV But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, (21) who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.*
 6. *Joh 11:25 ESV Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live...*

(1Co 15:48 ESV) As was the man of dust, so also are those who are of the dust, and as is the man of heaven, so also are those who are of heaven.

- So friends for this reason, the **salvation** given to us by His grace and the sure reality of our now and coming redemption, we can say like Paul....
- *Rom 8:18-24 ESV For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. (19) For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. (20) For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope (21) that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. (22) For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. (23) And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. (24) For in this hope we were saved...*
- We have an eternal reason to rejoice, even in the midst of suffering. We have a Kingdom confidence to be bold in our witness, even during rising persecution. We have this everlasting truth to stand upon, even when everything else seems unstable! Truly...

(1Co 15:49 ESV) Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven.

- Amen! Praise to our God! As we said recently....
- Oh the wonder of the mercies and providence of God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, who has provided for us, such a great salvation! What an awesome Gospel! It would have been just fine for God to condemn us all to hell. We deserve it. It would have been just for God to save us from hell, but not honor us with more than just some form of existence. We don't deserve any honor or any glory.

- *But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ--by grace you have been saved--and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. (Eph 2:4-7 ESV)*

"Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!" "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen."

A Few Applications:

The Doctrine of Glorification, which our Text describes, can among other things:

1. **Provide church and family real joy and lasting peace.** To those of you who are struggling in marriage or discipling your children, or dealing with health or money problems, be encouraged. A Day of glory is approaching! Don't quit! Don't give up! Our God will help us!
2. **Help both the church and family see that His commandments are not burdensome.** Dare we compare the trials of obedience in this hour to the glory that is yet to be revealed? What are our present distresses compared to enjoying Him forever? What are our cultural skirmishes compared to the triumphant victory this is our in Christ Jesus? What are our persecutions compared to the fullness of His passion for us?
3. **Awake church and family to the need to preach the Gospel and make disciples.** For these glorious truths point forward to a Resurrection...some will rise to life, others to judgment and death. Indeed, "Do not marvel at this, for an hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear his voice and come out, those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to the resurrection of judgment." (John 5:28-29 ESV)

In truth friends, knowledge of our future Glorification, like the rest of the Gospel, transforms us from the inside out. It nourishes our souls and calms our fears. It gives us boldness in our present situation, for it declares, our citizenship is in heaven! It fans the flames of our love for Christ, who has gone to prepare a place for us. And it gives us hope and encouragement.

May Christ be glorified in this understanding.

Amen.