

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

JUNE 5TH, 2022 // BOOK OF 1 CORINTHIANS

OUR LABOR IS NOT IN VAIN (1 CORINTHIANS 15:29-34) BAPTISM OF THE DEAD

Paul is pointing out the ridiculousness of claiming there is no resurrection of the dead while **"they"** still were being baptized for those that have died.

- Paul asked, "...**what will they do...?**" When he says, "they," **he is describing a practice that is being done by others. He is not prescribing a practice that is to be done in the church.**

THEY DID NOT ENDURE IN VAIN

Paul drew from his experiences in Ephesus (Acts 19) and the experiences of the apostles when he asked for what other reason than the hope of a resurrection would they have endangered themselves every day.

- **Paul and the apostles would not have endured all that they had, without the hope of a resurrection of the dead.**

ETERNAL CONSEQUENCE

Paul refers to Isaiah 22:13 by claiming that if there is no resurrection, "then us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die."

- The reality of a future judgment and resurrection means **we are not afforded the opportunity to live life as if there are no consequences for our actions.**

"BAD COMPANY CORRUPTS GOOD MORALS"

Paul used a Greek poet's words to urge the Corinthians to stop allowing themselves to be led astray by contrary thoughts from those who are **"ignorant about God"** and instead **"come to [their] senses and stop sinning."**

- They were sinning by being conformed to this world instead of being transformed by the renewing of their minds (Romans 12:2).

SPIRITUAL BODIES (1 CORINTHIANS 15:35-49)

"BUT SOMEONE WILL ASK..."

Anticipating questions about the resurrection, Paul addresses two specific questions in this section: How are the dead raised, and what kind of body will the dead have when they are raised?

- Confusion probably stemmed from the Greek teaching that the soul is good, but the body is corrupt. Some Corinthians may have thought they would resurrect in the same bodies.

"YOU FOOL!"

Paul considered the doubt around the resurrection to be foolish since it ignored God's unmatched abilities.

- Paul spoke about this doubt in the same manner when he addressed Agrippa, an expert in all Jewish customs, in Acts 26:8 saying, **"Why do you consider it incredible that God raises the dead?"**

AN EASILY UNDERSTOOD EXAMPLE

A seed cannot grow (come to life) unless it is first buried. Our bodies are like seeds that must be buried (die) to "grow" into our resurrection bodies.

- When a seed grows it becomes something different, even though it sprouted from the seed. Similarly, when the physical body is buried, what is being "sowed" is the "seed" that will produce something different.

GOD IS CREATIVE!

Each creation is designed in a way that is perfectly suited for life in its environment.

- A fish's body is designed for the sea, a bird's body is designed for the air, our physical bodies are designed for life on earth, and our spiritual bodies will be designed for life in Heaven. As each star differs so too shall our spiritual bodies.

PHYSICAL BODIES VS. SPIRITUAL BODIES

Paul goes on to mention 4 ways that the bodies we will receive at the resurrection are different than our present mortal bodies.

- First, **our physical bodies are perishable**, subject to illness and death, but **our resurrection bodies will be imperishable** and not subjected to such conditions.

Second, since the fall of humanity our bodies have carried dishonor, but our resurrected bodies will be glorious.

- Our flesh is dishonoring to God because it is corrupted by sin and does not honor the Creator, whose image we were created in. However, **our new bodies will be fully glorifying to the image of God.**

Third, our earthly bodies suffer weakness, but our spiritual bodies will be full of power.

- At creation, we were given power and dominion over creation (Genesis 1:26-28). At our resurrection, **we will reign with Christ in great power over His creation** (2 Timothy 2:12), and we will no longer be subjected to the weakness of the flesh.

Fourth, our earthly bodies are natural whereas our resurrection bodies are spiritual.

- Spiritual does not mean immaterial, but that the resurrection is through the power of the Holy Spirit. Like Jesus, **our resurrection bodies will be material, yet our bodies will not be bound to the laws of nature** (Luke 24:31-43).

THE FIRST AND THE LAST ADAM

Adam gave us one kind of body, tainted by the effects of sin and death, but through Jesus (the last Adam) we are offered a different body that sin and death cannot touch.

- **"He will transform the body of our humble condition into the likeness of His glorious body,** by the power that enables Him to subject everything to Himself" (Philippians 3:21).

IMAGE BEARERS

Paul says, **"we have borne the image of the man of dust."** Though we are made in the image of God, we also bear the likeness of our ancestors.

- Since we are birthed of the earth in the likeness of the first Adam, we bear his corruptible image. However, **if we are born again and birthed of the spirit then we will bear the incorruptible image of Christ.**

VICTORY (1 CORINTHIANS 15:50-58)

NOT DESIGNED FOR ETERNITY

When Paul says, "flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God," he means that our present bodies are not designed for eternity.

- Our bodies that are subject to sickness, injury, and decay are not suited for Heaven, and **all the corruptible attributes of the flesh will cease to exist.**

"LISTEN, I AM TELLING YOU A MYSTERY..."

A "mystery" is something that cannot be understood by human knowledge unless it is revealed to us by God.

- Paul revealed that not everyone will fall asleep (die) before the resurrection. There will be those living at the return of Christ and will be transformed into their resurrection bodies without dying.

"... AT THE LAST TRUMPET..."

"In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet," follows Paul saying, "we will all be changed."

- This phrase is not meant to spark debate of the timeframe of a rapture, but to communicate that "the day of the Lord" will take place in a manner that **we must always be prepared and ready.**

"WHERE, DEATH, IS YOUR STING?"

The resurrection "swallows up death in victory," because our new resurrection bodies will never again be affected by death.

- Paul quotes Isaiah 25:8 and Hosea 13:14 to convey that **death is a defeated enemy that no longer has power over those who are in Christ.**

"VICTORY THROUGH OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST!"

Death results from sin and **"the power of sin is the law,"** but the resurrection proves that we are no longer under the penalty of the law, and we are set free from sin.

- The law brings death because it reveals our inability to adhere to it. Through Jesus Christ, **it is no longer about our ability to keep the law, but in what He has already done to fulfill it.**

FINAL APPLICATION

Since death has been defeated and we have the hope of a future resurrection life with Jesus, we are able to hold firmly to the Word, allowing nothing to move us.

- No matter how convincing the opposition sounds, we are to cling to truth, "always excelling in the Lord's work, because **[we] know that [our] labor in the Lord is not in vain.**"

INVENTORY

- **Do we allow those who are "ignorant about God" to affect our actions and beliefs?**
- The way we live our lives should testify to the hope we have in a future resurrection. **Instead, are we living lives that testify there are no consequences for our actions?**

ASLEEP IN CHRIST

- When a farmer places a seed in the ground, he does so in the hope that it will sprout out of the ground. Because of the hope of a resurrection, when a believer is placed in the ground, we sow a seed that will arise as a resurrection body.
- **"They are not lost, they are sown." – C. Spurgeon**

ANTICIPATING THE QUESTIONS...

- **What of those who are "asleep" before "the day of the Lord"?**
- **Are they in some sort of soul sleep or suspended animation?**
- No! They are with the Lord. The Bible tells us that to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord (2 Corinthians 5:8).