

OUR RESURRECTED BODIES

1 Cor. 15:35-38; 42-44; 50-53

I. INTRODUCTION-

- a. The Bible teaches that one day the body of every believer who has died will be resurrected and reunited with their soul which went to be with Jesus when they died.
- b. In these verses the Apostle Paul is describing some of the contrasts between our current physical body and our resurrected body, the body we are going to have after the resurrection of the believer.
- c. In these verses, Paul is describing the tremendous upgrade our resurrected body will be over our current physical body. He is describing what our physical bodies will be like when they receive the ultimate extreme makeover from God.
- d. Someone said that when a believer dies their present body is laid in the grave like an old discarded book which has had its pages torn out but one day that very same body will appear again whole and in a new and more eloquent edition, revised and corrected by the author.

II. THE TIMING OF THE RESURRECTION-

- a. In these verses, Paul says the physical resurrection of most believers will occur at the event we call the Rapture of the church.
- b. The Rapture of the church is described in *1 Corinthians 15:51-52 (NKJV)* “Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed—52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.”
- c. The Bible teaches that at the Rapture of the church the physical body of every believer in Christ who has died to that point will be raised from the dead, glorified and then caught up into the sky to be rejoined with their soul which has been with Jesus since their death.
- d. Then every believer in Christ who is alive when the Rapture happens will be changed and glorified and caught up to be with the Lord in Heaven.

III. THE DESCRIPTION OF THE RESURRECTED BODY OF BELIEVERS-

- a. In these verses, Paul describes what our resurrected body will be like.
- b. Paul teaches that our resurrected body will be the very same physical body that we have now. It will be our same body that is placed in the grave at our death. But, when God raises our body out of the grave at the resurrection it will be radically changed.

- c. Paul says as the plant that comes out of the ground is radically different from the seed that was planted in the ground, so our resurrected body that comes out of the grave will be radically different from our body that was planted in the grave at our death. It will be the same body but radically different.
- d. In this passage, Paul describes four qualities of our resurrected body that will be radically different from our present body.

IV. #1, OUR PRESENT BODY IS SUBJECT TO CORRUPTION BUT OUR RESURRECTED BODY WILL BE INCORRUPTIBLE.

- a. *1 Corinthians 15:42 (NKJV) "So also is the resurrection of the dead. The body is sown (buried) in corruption, it is raised in incorruption."*
- b. From the moment we are born our present body is in the process of dying. Our present body is subject to accidents, disease, deterioration, pain and the effects of aging. Our present body is wearing out and one day it will stop working.
- c. And no matter what we try we cannot stop what is happening to our present body. We can do our best to slow it down and camouflage it but we can't stop it.
- d. Our present body will one day die and be buried in corruption. But as a believer when this body is resurrected it will be raised incorruptible.
- e. Our resurrected body will be indestructible and incapable of deterioration or decay. It will never get old and it will never get tired. Our resurrected body will not be subject to accidents, disease or age. It will be free from pain, decay and death. It will never give out. It will never wear out.
- f. Our resurrected body will outlive the stars. It will be perfect and indestructible.

V. #2, OUR PRESENT BODY HAS BEEN POLLUTED AND CONTAMINATED BY SIN BUT OUR RESURRECTED BODY WILL BE GLORIOUS AND PERFECT-

- a. *1 Corinthians 15:43 (NKJV) "It is sown (buried) in dishonor, it is raised in glory..."*
- b. Our present body has been polluted and contaminated by the effects of our sin. In that sense our present body will be laid in the grave in dishonor. But our resurrected body will glow with the glory of God.
- c. The Bible says that our resurrected body will be as glorious as the glorious body of our risen Savior. *Philippians 3:20-21 (NKJV) "For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, 21 who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself."*

- d. Our present body may be contaminated with sin but in the resurrection it will be transformed so that it will be like the glorious body of the Lord Jesus Christ.
- e. The gospels contain many accounts in which the Lord Jesus appeared to His disciples in His resurrected body and we can learn a lot of what our resurrected body will be like as we study those passages.
- f. We know that the resurrected body of Jesus was real, tangible and physical, made of flesh and bones. *Luke 24:39 (NKJV) "Behold My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself. Handle Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see I have."*
- g. As the glorified body of Jesus was real and made of flesh and bones so shall ours be. Only after the resurrection our flesh and bones, minds and body will be glorified!
- h. We know that the resurrected body of Jesus functioned in many ways like it did before He died. After His resurrection Jesus talked, walked, touched, listened, remembered, reasoned, interacted with, fellowshiped with and taught His disciples just as He had done before His death.
- i. And, did you know that Jesus ate with His disciples after His resurrection? *Luke 24:42-43 (NKJV) "So they gave Him a piece of a broiled fish and some honeycomb. 43 And He took it and ate in their presence."*
- j. We will eat in Heaven! Not because we have too but we will eat for the pure pleasure of eating.
- k. Also, in His resurrection Jesus was identifiable. The disciples knew that the Jesus who was with them after the resurrection was the very same Jesus who was with them before His death and resurrection.
- l. Neither death nor the resurrection will change or destroy our present identity. Who we are now will be who we are for all eternity.

VI. #3, OUR PRESENT BODY IS WEAK BUT OUR RESURRECTED BODY WILL BE INCREDIBLE IN ITS POWER AND CAPABILITIES-

- a. *1 Corinthians 15:43 (NKJV) "...It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power."*
- b. Our present body is limited in its power and capabilities and the longer we live the weaker we become. Eventually our body will succumb to the weakness of our flesh.
- c. But in the resurrection we will be raised in power. Our resurrected body will have incredible capacities and abilities without limitation.

- d. On one occasion in His resurrected body Jesus entered a room without going through the door. He just appeared in the midst of His disciples.

VII.#4, OUR PRESENT BODY IS EARTHLY BUT OUR RESURRECTED BODY WILL BE FIT AND PREPARED FOR HEAVEN-

- a. *1 Corinthians 15:44 (NKJV) "It is sown a natural body (earthly body), it is raised a spiritual body (Heavenly body). There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body."*
- b. Our present body is a natural body fit for life here on earth. Paul said we could not live in Heaven in our current body. *1 Corinthians 15:50 (NKJV) "Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption."*
- c. But our resurrected body will be made fit for eternal life in the glorified atmosphere and environment of Heaven.
- d. Our present body is natural and suited for life on this earth but our resurrected body will be spiritual and suited and prepared for life in Heaven.

VIII. CONCLUSION-

- a. Paul said that not all Christians will die but all true Christians will be changed.
- b. Those who are alive when the Rapture happens will experience the effects of the resurrection without having to die. They will be changed on the way up.
- c. *1 Corinthians 15:51-52 (NKJV) "Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed-in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed."*
- d. Your only hope of Heaven is the Lord Jesus Christ.