

“The Gospel of the Resurrection”

1 Corinthians Chapter 15

Part 1 – The Resurrection of Christ (verses 1-28)

Part 2 – The Resurrection of Saints (verses 29-58)

Definition: Resurrection (*Greek = anastasis*; to rise up; to stand up)

Verse 12 begins a discussion on the “resurrection of the dead”. (*anastasis nekron*) (the standing up of a corpse)

Part 1 – The Resurrection of Christ (verses 1-28)

1Cr 15:1 **1) The Gospel of the Resurrection** vs 1-4a

Now I make known to you, brethren, the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received, in which also you stand,

1Cr 15:2 by which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain.

- Paul makes known the gospel. Gospel means - GOOD NEWS. (*Greek = euaggelion*) A common word used in everyday language of good tidings
 - If a man tells me he knows how I can be a millionaire. He tells me to get a job and work, work hard and in a hundred years I'd be a millionaire. That doesn't sound like GOOD NEWS.
 - If another man told me that I can be a millionaire because a man who loved me had died and left me a million dollars. All I had to do is receive it. Now this would be GOOD NEWS.
 - Good News isn't what I might get if I work hard.
 - Good News is what I have because of what someone else did.
- Verse 3-4 tells us what the Gospel is. Verse 1-2 tells us what we do with the Gospel.
 1. It is **Preached** - It is an announcing.
It is a proclamation. A bold declaration of fact.
It is to be made known.
(Matt 4:23; 9:35; 11:5; 24:14; 26:13 Mk 4:14; 14:9; 16:15; Lk 4:18; 7:22; 9:6; 20:1 (taught in synagogue and PREACHED the gospel) Acts 8:25; 14:7+21; 16:10)
Romans 1:15+16 "So, as much as in me is, I am ready to preach the gospel to you that are at Rome also. For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek."
 2. It is **Received** - To take as ones possession something offered or bestowed.
As a gift is received verses a reward is earned.
 3. It is to be **Stand** upon - It is solid and sure.
It can bear the weight of our lives.
 4. It is that which **Saves** - It is the Announcement Made,
It is the Gift Received,
It is the Firm Foundation,
It is the very creed of our salvation.
 5. It is to be **Held Fast** - Held in a grip as if your very life depended upon it.
 6. It is to be **Believed** - More than an opinion.
More than a conviction.
It is a profound confidence in a tenet demonstrated by steadfastness and manner of life.

1Cr 15:3 For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures,

1Cr 15:4 and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day

- Paul makes it clear that he did not design this gospel. He had received it himself.
 - *The man doesn't make the gospel; the Gospel makes the man.*
- He also states that it is of FIRST IMPORTANCE. Everything else in this Christian Journey is second to the Gospel. There is not anything as important as the Gospel.
- Things that are second to the Gospel
Love, Spiritual Gifts, The Ministry, Family Values, Fruit of the Spirit, the Church, Biblical Teaching, Worship (Traditional or Contemporary), Communion, Baptism, Prayer, Outreach, Social Projects

IF THERE IS NO GOSPEL, THESE THINGS ARE VAIN AND OF NO VALUE.

What Then Is This First Important Gospel?

- Here is the Gospel " The DEATH, BURIAL and RESURRECTION OF JESUS CHRIST.
 - **Christ** - The Messiah a promised deliverer. Not just anyone. But the long awaited deliverer. It is important that it was our deliverer who died. Not just a good man. This demonstrates that it was part of the divine plan of God.
 - **Death** - "*died for our sins according to the Scriptures*"
Much is said about the brutality of Jesus' crucifixion. Truly it is interesting that crucifixion on a cross was one of the most horrific forms of capital punishment ever devised. It wasn't just putting someone to death. It was a torturous drawn out process that would serve to punish the criminal and to deter any others who would even consider wrongdoing.
We could talk about the scourging. The flesh being ripped from his body.
We could talk about the nails piercing the wrists severing the large median nerve causing fiery pain to shoot through his arms.
We could talk about the suffocation He suffered as the weight of His body hanging with arms stretched out. This causes the respiratory muscles to be fixed in an inhalation state. To breathe properly He would have to pull up on the nails in His wrists and push up on the nails in His feet causing excruciating pain until He could bear it no longer and release himself to suffocate once again.
More importantly is the reason He died. This awful death isn't to be pitied but to be PREACHED.
He Died for Our Sins. Sin is a word that is a must in preaching the gospel. Not another man's sin. My Sin. Your Sin. Upon that cross the Father put upon him the sin of the whole world. And we thought the wooden cross was agonizing.
This bearing of our sin was the CUP the lord Jesus asked to pass if there was any other way. Jesus took the wrath and fury of Almighty God.
Psalm 75:8 "For a cup is in the hand of the LORD, and the wine foams; It is well mixed, and He pours out of this; Surely all the wicked of the earth must drain and drink down its dregs."
Jeremiah 25:15 "For thus saith the LORD God of Israel unto me; Take the wine cup of this fury at my hand, and cause all the nations, to whom I send thee, to drink it."
This was a legal transaction that purchased our entrance into eternal life.
So when we say we have been REDEEMED we know what the payment was.
Isaiah 53:3-5 "He is despised and rejected by men, A Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him. Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted. But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed."
 - **Burial** - This was the evidence of death. He was entombed in the tomb of a wealthy man Joseph of Arimathaea. A great stone was rolled against the sepulchre. Also Pilate, at the request of the chief priests had put soldiers at the tomb to make sure no one tampered with the body. **Matthew 27:57-60**
 - **Resurrection** - The resurrection is a critical element of the Gospel.
 1. Jesus bore the wrath of our sin. 2 Corinthians 5:21 says God made Jesus to be sin, the representation of all sin. There He conquered sin. But He did not become a sinner. He was God's Holy One and death and the grave could not hold Him. He remained perfect and the perfect Savior. The resurrection is the proof.
 2. If the cross is the payment for our sins, the resurrection is the receipt. A receipt is a proof of purchase. Without the resurrection there is death and burial but no proof that redemption was accomplished.

2) The Witness of the Resurrection vs 4b-11

Deuteronomy 19:15 "*at the mouth of two witnesses, or at the mouth of three witnesses, shall the matter be established.*"

1Cr 15:5

according to the Scriptures,

- Witness #1 - The Scriptures
 - **Psalm 22** "*My God, my God, why have You forsaken me? Far from my deliverance*

are the words of my groaning. ... But I am a worm and not a man, A reproach of men and despised by the people. All who see me sneer at me; They separate with the lip, they wag the head, saying, Commit yourself to the LORD; let Him deliver him; Let Him rescue him, because He delights in him. ... I am poured out like water, And all my bones are out of joint; My heart is like wax; It is melted within me. My strength is dried up like a potsherd, And my tongue cleaves to my jaws; And You lay me in the dust of death. For dogs have surrounded me; A band of evildoers has encompassed me; They pierced my hands and my feet. I can count all my bones. They look, they stare at me; They divide my garments among them, And for my clothing they cast lots."

- Isaiah 53 "For He grew up before Him like a tender shoot, And like a root out of parched ground; He has no stately form or majesty That we should look upon Him, Nor appearance that we should be attracted to Him. He was despised and forsaken of men, A man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; And like one from whom men hide their face He was despised, and we did not esteem Him. Surely our griefs He Himself bore, And our sorrows He carried; Yet we ourselves esteemed Him stricken, Smitten of God, and afflicted. But He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; The chastening for our well-being fell upon Him, And by His scourging we are healed. But the LORD was pleased To crush Him, putting Him to grief; If He would render Himself as a guilt offering, He will see His offspring, He will prolong His days, And the good pleasure of the LORD will prosper in His hand. As a result of the anguish of His soul, He will see it and be satisfied; By His knowledge the Righteous One, My Servant, will justify the many, As He will bear their iniquities."
- Other passages like Hosea 6:2; Jonah 1:17; Psalm 16:10. Imagery like Genesis 22 and the resurrection of Isaac after God had reckoned his son dead.

and that He appeared to Cephas,

- Witness #2 - Peter Luke 24:34 "The Lord has really risen and has appeared to Simon."

then to the twelve.

- Witness #3-13 - The Other of Christ's Disciples
 - John 20:19-20 "So when it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and when the doors were shut where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, "Peace be with you." And when He had said this, He showed them both His hands and His side. The disciples then rejoiced when they saw the Lord."

1Cr 15:6

After that He appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time, most of whom remain until now, but some have fallen asleep;

- Witness #14-513 - The Brethren
 - Matt 28:10, 16-17 "Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and take word to My brethren to leave for Galilee, and there they will see Me." But the eleven disciples proceeded to Galilee, to the mountain which Jesus had designated. When they saw Him, they worshiped Him; but some were doubtful."
- "Remain until now, but some have fallen asleep" - He is telling the Corinthians, some are still alive. Some have died. You can talk to them yourselves.

1Cr 15:7

then He appeared to James,

- Witness #514 - James, Jesus Brother
 - John 7:3-5, Jesus' brothers are hostile to him. In Acts 1:14 James is with the disciples. In Acts 15 James is a leader and spokes person at the Jerusalem Council. Here Paul says there was a meeting between Jesus and James. Whatever was said it changed James.

then to all the apostles;

- He has already mentioned the Twelve. Is Paul suggesting that there are other apostles other than the Twelve?

1Cr 15:8

and last of all, as to one untimely born, He appeared to me also.

- Witness #515 - To Paul
 - Acts 9 Paul's encounter with the Lord on the Damascus Road. Verse 17 "So Ananias departed and entered the house, and after laying his hands on him said, "Brother Saul, **the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you** on the road by which you were coming, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit."

1Cr 15:9 For I am the least of the apostles, and not fit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.

- This is not just prideful humility. This is a true condition Paul walked in. The death of Christians he was responsible for weighed upon him.

1Cr 15:10 But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me did not prove vain; but I labored even more than all of them, yet not I, but the grace of God with me.

- If it wasn't for grace.
 - Paul would not be changed.
 - Paul would not Labor
- This is why we preach the gospel. For it changes men. It IS the power of God unto salvation.
- Paul raises the standard for all ministers. "*I Labor Even More than All of Them*" Work Hard in the Ministry.
 - Is it hard to preach the Gospel? YES! But it must be done.

1Cr 15:11 Whether then *it was I or they*, so we preach and so you believed.

- So Here is the Gospel:
 - You and I have violated God's moral Law. We have become SINNER. That is the ugly truth.

Romans 3:23 "*For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.*"
 - The Penalty for sin is tough. It is death.

Romans 6:23a "*...The wages of sin is death...*"
 - God, in His great LOVE made a way for you and me to commute (exchange) our death sentence.

Romans 5:8 "*God demonstrates His own love for us, in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us!*"
 - All that is required is to repent of our pride that we can fix our situation ourselves and believe what Jesus accomplished for us.

Romans 10:13 "*Whosoever will call upon the Lord shall be saved.*"

Romans 10:9,10 "*...If you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Jesus from the dead, you shall be saved; for with the heart man believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.*"
- It is now your turn. You must believe!

1Cr 15:12 **3) If There Be Not the Resurrection** vs 12-19

Now **if** Christ is preached, that He has been raised from the dead, how do some among you say that there is no resurrection of the dead?

- The Corinthians **DID** believe that Jesus was raised from the dead.
- The problem is that they didn't believe in our resurrection
- They may have been influenced by Cultural Beliefs.
 - Greek Beliefs did not embrace a resurrection of the body.
 - Acts 17 Paul was preaching in Athens. He had their attention until he brought up the resurrection. Acts 17:32 "*Now when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some began to sneer, but others said, "We shall hear you again concerning this."*
 - Epicureans believed that the body and soul is a collection of energy and materials that are dispersed upon death.
 - Stoics believed the body returns to the earth and the soul lives on but returns to an original source.
 - Resurrection of this body was actually undesirable because the concept that the flesh was inferior to the spirit and at death the PERFECT spirit live on unencumbered.
 - The Jews were influenced by Greed thought. The Sadducees, an political/religious group in Jerusalem, believed there is no resurrection
- Today there are many who believe
 - Fewer than half of Americans mentioned Jesus' death and resurrection when asked about the significance of Easter, according to a survey released last month by Christian researchers the Barna Group

- Unitarian Universalists and more liberal congregations emphasize the inspirational side of the resurrection, as a story of new life and the power to rise above hate and injustice.
- In Christianity today we encounter from **Deist** doctrine (that God the creator is disassociated with man and a body resurrection is not a concern of God) to the **Circle of Life** crowd who believe the body feeds the grass that nourishes the cow that produces milk and meat for man who dies and is buried to feed the grass that ...
- Or the popular belief that **we become Angels**.

1Cr 15:13 But **if** there is no resurrection of the dead, not even Christ has been raised;

1Cr 15:14 and **if** Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is vain, your faith also is vain.

1Cr 15:15 Moreover we are even found *to be* false witnesses of God, because we testified against God that He raised Christ, whom He did not raise, **if** in fact the dead are not raised.

- IF THERE IS NO RESURRECTION
 - Christ has not been raised
 - Preaching is in vain
 - Our Faith is in vane
 - Christians are FALSE WITNESSES - They Preached the resurrection. If the resurrection was not so then they are liars.

1Cr 15:16 For **if** the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised;

1Cr 15:17 and **if** Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins.

1Cr 15:18 Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished.

1Cr 15:19 **If** we have hoped in Christ in this life only, we are of all men most to be pitied.

- IF THERE IS NO RESURRECTION
 - Christ has not been raised
 - Faith is worthless
 1. You are still in your sins
 - The Cross is the Payment for sins. The Resurrection is the receipt.
 - If Christ is not raised, then He did not conquer death.
 - If He could not conquer death than He is not God.
 - If he is not God then He is not the perfect sacrifice.
 - If He is not the perfect sacrifice then our sins are not completely paid for.
 - If are sins are not paid for, we are still in our sin,
 - Of we are still in our sins, then we are not saved.
 2. Those who have died have perished
 3. Our only life is this one.
 4. We are to be pitied.
 - While being a Christian solves many a problem in this life, it also introduces others into our life.
 - The scriptures promise trials for those who believe.
 - **1 Thessalonians 3:4** "For indeed when we were with you, we kept telling you in advance that we were going to suffer affliction"
 - **Philippians 1:29** "For to you it has been granted for Christ's sake, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake"
 - Our stance on integrity and moral behavior is a discipline that has no benefit for the reward of eternal life is removed.
 - "Everything depends on our retaining a firm hold on this doctrine in particular; for if this one totters and no longer counts, all the others will lose their value and validity." (Martin Luther)
 - "If Jesus rose, then this gospel is what it professes to be; if He rose not from the dead, then it is all deceit and delusion." (Spurgeon)

The Resurrection is not just a side issue that has little or no importance to the Christian. It is the center of our faith. Upon it balances our entire hope and purpose.

1Cr 15:20 **4) The Truth of the Resurrection** vs 20-28

But now Christ **has been** raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who are asleep.

- We have seen the importance of the resurrection in the gospel. We have seen it as the central message that Christianity rests upon.
- Paul Now declares "Christ Has Been Raised from the dead."
- First Fruits
 - Leviticus 23:9-14 is the instruction about the Feast of First Fruits.
 - It was the first day after the Passover. A green shoot is cut from the crops and offered as a wave offering to the God. It is an offering that is a precursor to the greater harvest to come.
 - It is interesting that the Lord Jesus is the Passover Lamb and on the third day, (day after Passover - Sunday) He rose from the tomb. THE FIRST FRUIT.
 - THE GREEK WORD for first fruits, "*aparche*", was commonly used to say "*first pay*" as an entrance fee to an event. **Jesus is our "*aparche*" our entrance fee to eternal life and resurrection.**
- Difference between raised from the dead and resurrected.
 - There were those, such as Lazarus (John 11) who were raised from the dead, only to die again.
 - Resurrection is being raised from the dead with our bodies glorified to never see death again.

1Cr 15:21 For since by a man *came* death, by a man also *came* the resurrection of the dead.

1Cr 15:22 For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be made alive.

- The family of man originates from Adam. Through his sin ALL men experience death. Death meaning cessation of life in this world. All men will die.
- It is interesting that at creation God made different kinds of trees, plants, animals, birds. But when He made man He created only one. I believe the point was to be made that ALL men come from one. Who he was is who we are.
- As Adam died, We too die.
- Just as through ONE man death comes. Through ONE man resurrection comes. This is a wonderful design from God so you and I cannot be confused.
 - Adam brought death to all men. You and Me included.
 - Christ brought resurrection to all men. You and Me included.
- Are ALL Resurrected? Yes and No! Some to a resurrection of Life and some to a resurrection of judgment.
 - All Are Raised from the earthly Grave.
 - **John 5:28-29** "*Do not marvel at this; for an hour is coming, in which all who are in the tombs will hear His voice, and will come forth; those who did the good deeds to a resurrection of life, those who committed the evil deeds to a resurrection of judgment.*"

1Cr 15:23 But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, after that those who are Christ's at His coming,

1Cr 15:24 then *comes* the end, when He hands over the kingdom to the God and Father, when He has abolished all rule and all authority and power.

1Cr 15:25 For He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet.

- There is an order. The entrance fee must be paid. It would be inappropriate for us to enter before the "*FirstFruits*" are paid.
- This is the design of God even foretold in Genesis, Leviticus and throughout the Old Testament.
- Christ abolishes ALL (on earth and spiritual) rule and authority and power. Except God's Alone.

1Cr 15:26 The last enemy that will be abolished is death.

- Death is an ENEMY.
- Death came in the Garden with Adam.
 - When Adam was created, he was not created for death. But because of sin, death came.
 - At creation of Adam, was his body the glorified body as we hope for? Did death change his body at sin? Did Adam and Eve recognize this as "Nakedness"?

- Jesus came to abolish our nakedness of death in you and me.

- Death is the LAST Enemy

1Cr 15:27 For HE (the Father) HAS PUT ALL THINGS IN SUBJECTION UNDER HIS (Christ's) FEET. But when He (the Father) says, "All things are put in subjection," it is evident that He (the Father) is excepted who put all things in subjection to Him. (Christ)

1Cr 15:28 When all things are subjected to Him(the Father), then the Son Himself also will be subjected to the One (the Father) who subjected all things to Him, so that God may be all in all.

- The Father is saying,
 - I put everything under Jesus Authority (except Me).
 - Jesus will (according to verse 24) returns everything to the Father's Authority.
 - The reason for this is for the Complete Salvation of Mankind.
 - Jesus is the ONE and ONLY authority who can and will redeem man.
 - It is His work on Calvary that purchases us back to God.
 - It is His resurrection that defeats our death.
 - It is His final goal to resurrect us in body to a glorified state unto the Father.

Part 2 - The Resurrection of Saints (verses 29-58)

1Cr 15:29 **5) More Proof of the Resurrection** vs 29-34

Otherwise, what will those do who are baptized for the dead? If the dead are not raised at all, why then are they baptized for them?

- This one verse raises difficulty in understanding due to the lack of additional scriptural evidence for the "baptism for the dead. The following are three samples of interpretation and application of this verse.
 1. There were Christians that vicariously baptized for the dead in the early church. Paul doesn't condemn this practice and in this passage Paul refers to the practice in defense of the resurrection of the saints.
 - The Church of Jesus Christ and Latter Day Saints practice "*baptism for the dead*" They are vigilant and tracing their ancestry and performing these baptisms which are mandatory for entrance to the Kingdom of God.
 - There are no additional instructions in scripture for "baptism for the dead" and even Church Fathers (Irenaeus, Tertullian) wrote against the Gnostic heresy and a practice of baptism of the dead.
 2. The baptism for the dead is our baptism, for Paul teaches that we are dead in the first Adam but through the identification we have in Christ's death, burial and resurrection we are made alive in the second Adam - Christ.
 - This is a very weak interpretation for Paul does not include himself or others when he speaks of "those", "they" and "them"
 3. Paul is referring to a pagan custom that these Christians would be aware of. Paul is referring not to "we" or "us" but to "those", "they" and "them".
 - It is interesting that there was a religious sect not Jewish or Christian but were followers of Adam, Noah and John the Baptist. This sect was the Mandaeans. Mostly from Iran and Iraq. They detested Abraham because of circumcision and regarded Jesus as a false prophet. In the days of Pontius Pilate the Mandaeans were persecuted and 365 of them were killed. The Mandaeans held a baptism for those who died.
- Unfortunately the simplicity of what Paul was stating is lost in the complexity of false religions. Paul was simply stating that even the pagans believe in a resurrection, yet you Corinthians are debating it.
 - 1 Corinthians 1:14-17 Paul says "*I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, so that no one would say you were baptized in my name. Now I did baptize also the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized any other. For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel, not in cleverness of speech, so that the cross of Christ would not be made void.*"
 - Paul wasn't doing a teaching on baptism. That was not his emphasis in ministry nor is it the context of this passage.

1Cr 15:30 Why are we also in danger every hour?

1Cr 15:31 I affirm, brethren, by the boasting in you which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die daily.

1Cr 15:32 If from human motives I fought with wild beasts at Ephesus, what does it profit me? If the dead are not raised, LET US EAT AND DRINK, FOR TOMORROW WE DIE.

- Paul uses his motives as a proof for the resurrection.
 - Danger Every Hour - Hazards and Persecutions of a travelling Preacher.
 - Dying Daily - Living sacrificially for others
 - Dealing with deadly animal dangers - there is no other evidence that Paul encountered animals or was part of any Roman Games in Ephesus.
- Paul is stating "Why would I do this if there was no resurrection?" There is NO PROFIT.
- If there is no resurrection, we may as well "PARTY LIKE HELL", because when it is over its over.
- Many would argue if Paul's relentless drive for the gospel in the face of jeopardy proves the resurrection, Does our relentless drive for comfort and entertainment prove we do not believe in a resurrection? At the very least it shows the world that we prefer this life than the one to come.

1Cr 15:33 Do not be deceived: "Bad company corrupts good morals."

1Cr 15:34 Become sober-minded as you ought, and stop sinning; for some have no knowledge of God. I speak *this* to your shame.

- Paul is quoting from a secular play "*Thais*" by Menander. It is true that the good is more easily corrupted rather than the corrupted made good.
- Our mothers were usually right. That those friends we were so loyal to really were not that good for us.
- Paul encourages the Christians to think straight and stop sinning. As a Christian the bondage of sin in our lives is broken. Jesus broke the bondage. It is something we must decide to do to stop sinning.
- Because the Corinthians have knowledge of Christ and the Resurrection, it is shameful for them to continue in sin. Just as it is for ALL Christians. Even You and Me.

1Cr 15:35 **6) The Nature of Our Resurrection** vs 35-49

But someone will say, "How are the dead raised? And with what kind of body do they come?"

- Paul is anticipating two questions.
 - The first he does not answer. HOW? It is not answered because the answer is BY GOD. Paul answered Agrippa in Acts 26:8 "*Why should it be thought a thing incredible with you, that God should raise the dead?*"
 - The second he calls those who ask the question "foolish" yet he goes on to answer. It must be important to know and should be obviously known.

The Seed

1Cr 15:36 You fool! That which you sow does not come to life unless it dies;

1Cr 15:37 and that which you sow, you do not sow the body which is to be, but a bare grain, perhaps of wheat or of something else.

1Cr 15:38 But God gives it a body just as He wished, and to each of the seeds a body of its own.

- A seed is planted. When the seed germinates and grows it isn't a bigger better seed that comes forth. It is a stalk, a plant a tree that bears seed.
- What comes forth from this seed is altogether different than the seed.
- Our resurrected bodies are not just bigger better seed (body) after this one. It is altogether different yet it will come from this seed (body)
- God will give it a body as He determines. I am confident that He will do right by Him and by us.
- Spurgeon "*Truly it is never a pleasant sound, that rattle of the clay upon the coffin-lid, 'Earth to earth, dust to dust, ashes to ashes,' nor to the farmer, for its own sake, would it be a very pleasant thing to put his grain into the dull cold earth; yet I know no farmer ever weeps when he sows his seed.*"

The Suit

1Cr 15:39 All flesh is not the same flesh, but there is one *flesh* of men, and another flesh of beasts, and another flesh of birds, and another of fish.

1Cr 15:40 There are also heavenly bodies and earthly bodies, but the glory of the heavenly is one, and the *glory* of the earthly is another.

1Cr 15:41 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.

- We can see in creation different bodies suited for the habitation of that particular body.
 - Man - sensitive to elements have need of shelter
 - Beasts - fur that protects them from elements
 - Birds - feathers of a light structure that provide warmth, and assists in flight
 - Fish - scales and oils that are suited for aquatic live and movement
- So it is with the resurrection. This body we have known is suited for this earthly habitation. The heavenly body we will have will be suited for a heavenly glory.
- Some have taught that verse 41 teaches that this imagery of the diverse celestial bodies there are categories of differing glory in heaven. More likely that Paul is still demonstrating that we can see in nature differing glory because of it purpose, and the same is true between our present body and our resurrected body.

The Stages

1Cr 15:42 So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown a perishable *body*, it is raised an imperishable *body*;

1Cr 15:43 it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power;

1Cr 15:44 it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual *body*.

- Paul gives four comparisons with our present body to the resurrected body.

| <u>This Present Body</u> | <u>Resurrected Body</u> |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Sown Perishable | 1. Raised Imperishable |
| 2. Sown in Dishonor | 2. Raised in Glory |
| 3. Sown in Weakness | 3. Raised in Power |
| 4. Sown Natural | 4. Raised Spiritual |

- When a Christian dies he/she is SOWN. If you have ever seen a dead body it is the most frail, uncomely, unattractive sight. Death of this body is truly described as perishable, dishonoring, weak and very natural.
- Just as that is true, our resurrected bodies will be Imperishable, glorious, powerful, and spiritual.

The Second

1Cr 15:45 So also it is written, "The first MAN, Adam, BECAME A LIVING SOUL." The last Adam *became* a life-giving spirit.

1Cr 15:46 However, the spiritual is not first, but the natural; then the spiritual.

1Cr 15:47 The first man is from the earth, earthy; the second man is from heaven.

1Cr 15:48 As is the earthy, so also are those who are earthy; and as is the heavenly, so also are those who are heavenly.

1Cr 15:49 Just as we have borne the image of the earthy, we will also bear the image of the heavenly.

- Adam, the first man was created, natural, earthy, a living SOUL.
 - Genesis God created "BARA" 3 times.
 - Genesis 1:1 Created the heavens and earth. Plants, earth and seas; the material
 - Genesis 1:21 Created Living Creatures. Living Souls more than material.
 - Genesis 1:27 Created Man Living Being and Ch2:7 Breathed life into man. More than simple material, more than a beast, But the Image of God.
- All mankind have been FIRST born in the pattern and nature of the first Adam.

- But there is one who is the Last Adam. He is a life giving Spirit. Heavenly in nature.
- Man is first born of the earth (the first Adam) but if one trusts in the Last Adam they can become born of the heavenly.
- **Philippians 3:20b-21** "we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ; **who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself.**"
- Our resurrected bodies will be like the heavenly last Adam. The resurrected Jesus.
 - Luke 24:39-40 Jesus had flesh and bone, possibly still bore scars in hands & feet
 - Luke 24:42-43 Jesus could eat same food we eat
 - Luke 24:31,36-37 Jesus appeared & vanished at His will. Not bound by natural laws

1Cr 15:50 **7) Our Need of Resurrection** vs 50-58

Now I say this, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

- The nature of the first Adam cannot live or survive in the heavenly kingdom of God.
- The body of life in the heavenly kingdom of God does not have as its fundamental existence based upon perishable flesh and blood.
- We are flesh and blood. In Luke 24, Jesus says he is Flesh and Bone. A seemingly small difference but quite possibly a very distinct difference we will realize when we are wearing the changed body.
- Perishable (KJV = corruption) because it is susceptible to sickness, disease and death.
- It needs a change.

1Cr 15:51 **Behold, I tell you a mystery; we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed,**

- A mystery is a revealed truth that was once hidden.

1Cr 15:52 **in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.**

1Cr 15:53 **For this perishable must put on the imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality.**

- WE WILL BE CHANGED!!
- A moment is the smallest amount of time. A twinkling of an eye is the speed of light. It will not be a process. It will not be in phases. It will be in an instant.
- What will Happen?
 - Dead Raised Imperishable
 - Perishable will PUT ON imperishable (PUT ON means change of the same not a replacement)
 - Mortal will PUT ON immortality.
- Truly our need is for a different body system. One that is imperishable and immortal. This happen at the cool of God at the last trumpet sound.
- **1 Thessalonians 4:16-18** "For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words."

1Cr 15:54 **But when this perishable will have put on the imperishable, and this mortal will have put on immortality, then will come about the saying that is written, "DEATH IS SWALLOWED UP in victory.**

- When the change occurs something incredible happens.
- Paul makes a BOLD statement. **DEATH IS DEFEATED.**
- Sigmund Freud said "there is the painful riddle of death, for which no remedy at all has yet been found, nor probably ever will be" Paul is announcing the exact opposite.
- **1 Corinthians 15:26** Jesus is the conqueror "The last enemy that will be abolished is death."

1Cr 15:55 "O DEATH, WHERE IS YOUR VICTORY? O DEATH, WHERE IS YOUR STING?"

1Cr 15:56 The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law;

1Cr 15:57 but thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

- Mockingly, Tauntingly, Paul questions death "Where is your victory? Your Sting?"
- The sting is found in sin. The law is what gives sin the power to sting.
- But the stinger is removed. Death is defeated through JESUS CHRIST.
- The saddest reality known to man is that there are men that will face death without the victory. They are left with "no remedy" that Freud declared. While the whole time, Victory through Jesus Christ was right in front of them. They only needed to trust in Him.

1Cr 15:58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not *in vain* in the Lord.

- Knowing that Death is Defeated; Knowing the Truth of the Resurrection and if this body meets the limit of what this container can do, Yet we who trust in the Victory of Christ will PUT ON imperishable and immortality then:
 - Be Steadfast (showing diligence)
 - Be Immovable (unable to be shaken by turmoil)
 - Abounding in the Work of the Lord
 - Your Toil (*testimony, lifestyle in a disbelieving world*) isn't in Vain (*without value/reward*)

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