

1 Cor 15:35-58 – Resurrection, pt. 4 (Why It Matters Later)
Midweek: Corinthians
4/25/18

Introduction to the series:

- 4 Parts:
 - The Necessity
 - The Evidence
 - Why it Matters Now
 - Why it Matters in the Future
- Just as the death of Jesus was necessary for the covering of our sins, the resurrection was necessary for the defeating of death. Both were required.
- The Resurrection took place:
 - Jesus actually died
 - The Tomb was actually empty
 - Jesus actually appeared to 500+ people
 - The Disciples were actually changed
- The Resurrection Matters Now
 - Dead to Sin
 - Alive in Christ

Introduction: (Being told the end of a Movie)

The Future Resurrection = The Final Hope

- The Hope of Renewal (15:35-49)
- The Hope of Victory (15:50-57)
- Living in the Final Hope (15:58)

The Final Hope of Renewal (15:35-49)

- Misconceptions of the Afterlife
 - We will become Angels/Guardian Angels
 - Psalms – Made a little lower than the angels
 - 1 Cor 6 – Judge the angels!
 - Spirits in the Sky
 - Norman Greenbaum
 - Playing Harps at the Feet of Jesus
 - What sort of heaven is this?
 - Our view of the future dictates how badly we want the future to come.
 - I'm convinced that our view of the end of time is far too small.
 - When we are hesitant to pray for Jesus to return, we hold this world too high and we miss

Specific: The Renewal of the Body

- Christ is the first fruits
 - The Israelites couldn't harvest the full crop until they had given up the first fruit of their crop

1 Cor 15:20

²⁰ But as it is, Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

1 Cor 15:23

²³ But each in his own order: Christ, the firstfruits; afterward, at his coming, those who belong to Christ.

- This means that Jesus was the first example of what resurrection day will look like!
- Jesus as the First Fruits for us
 - What does this mean for us?
- HE IS OUR EXAMPLE!!!
 - We WILL NOT BE SPIRITS IN THE SKY.
 - We will be restored and bodily – experiencing God as creator and we are the restored creation.
 - What was Jesus doing?
 - Lk 24:13-35 – Road to Emmaus
 - Conversations
 - Walking
 - Jn 20:11-18 – Jesus the Gardener
 - Looked like another person
 - Acts 10:41
 - ate and drank with him
- Guarantees eternal life beyond.
 - What good is salvation if our sins were forgiven and death was final?
 - He had to have been resurrected so that a full harvest will follow.
- Why?
 - The goodness of the material God created is not eradicated
 - A Restoration of Eden
 - There is no Easter without Good Friday, and there is no Good Friday, without Easter!

- What do we know about the resurrected body?

1 Cor 15:35-38

³⁵ *But someone will ask, “How are the dead raised? What kind of body will they have when they come?”* ³⁶ *You fool! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies.* ³⁷ *And as for what you sow—you are not sowing the body that will be, but only a seed, perhaps of wheat or another grain.* ³⁸ *But God gives it a body as he wants, and to each of the seeds its own body.*

- Paul makes the argument that this body we are currently living in will be the seed of the resurrected body to come.
 - Think of a seed:
 - 3 parts:
 - Shell
 - Nutrients
 - Embryo
 - They can lie dormant for years
 - But, when placed in the right condition, watered, they:
 - Sprout, the seed is no more but
 - Takes Root
 - And Springs Up
 - Yes, it’s from that seed, but blossoms into fullness
 - So is the resurrection body!
 - This body dies, is buried, and at the right time:
 - A far better, fuller, version of what we live in now.
 - Further:

1 Cor 15:39-41

³⁹ *Not all flesh is the same flesh; there is one flesh for humans, another for animals, another for birds, and another for fish.* ⁴⁰ *There are heavenly bodies and earthly bodies, but the splendor of the heavenly bodies is different from that of the earthly ones.* ⁴¹ *There is a splendor of the sun, another of the moon, and another of the stars; in fact, one star differs from another star in splendor.*

- The world is filled with different kinds of bodies, the universe is filled with different stars
 - Why is it weird to think of the resurrected body being a body, but different from the earthly body?
 - The flesh resembles each other in part
 - The stars resemble each other in part
 - But they are different
- So it is with the earthly body vs. the heavenly body!
 - Listen:

⁴² So it is with the resurrection of the dead: Sown in corruption, raised in incorruption;⁴³ sown in dishonor, raised in glory; sown in weakness, raised in power;⁴⁴ sown a natural body, raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body.

- The earthly body: corruption, dishonor, weakness, natural
- Resurrected body: incorruption, glory, power, spirit-filled
- The glorious hope of the resurrection is that we will have new bodies!
 - Our aches, pains, sickness, and the like are constant reminders of our frailty and our need for renewal!
- Yes Paul says bodily training is of value – 1 Timothy 4
 - But he follows that up
 - *train yourself in godliness. ⁸ For the training of the body has limited benefit, but godliness is beneficial in every way, since it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come.*
- Which is why:
 - 2 Cor 4:16
 - *¹⁶ Therefore we do not give up. Even though our outer person is being destroyed, our inner person is being renewed day by day. ¹⁷ For our momentary light affliction is producing for us an absolutely incomparable eternal weight of glory. ¹⁸ So we do not focus on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.*
- We must know:
 - Our present pains are disproportionate to our future glory
 - That is not a glory independent of the Father – but wholly dependent on the Lord.

General: The Renewal of Creation

⁴⁵ 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, then the spiritual. ⁴⁷ The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. ⁴⁸ Like the man of dust, so are those who are of the dust; like the man of heaven, so are those who are of heaven. ⁴⁹ And just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we will also bear the image of the man of heaven.

- Man of dust: Adam in creation!
 - Man of heaven: similar, but different
- Further, this alludes to the renewal of creation!
 - When heaven comes down:

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ² I also saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared like a bride adorned for her husband. ³ Then I heard a loud voice from the throne:^[a] Look, God's dwelling^[b] is with humanity, and he will live with them. They will be his peoples,^[c] and God himself will be with them and will be their God.^[d] ⁴ He will wipe away every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; grief, crying, and pain will be no more, because the previous things^[e] have passed away.

⁵ Then the one seated on the throne said, “Look, I am making everything new.” He also said, “Write, because these words^[1] are faithful and true.”

- Heaven come down:
 - Making things new means:
 - God dwelling finally with man
 - No more tears
 - For the God of joy is constantly present
 - No more Grief
 - For there is no more death
 - No more crying
 - For sin is no more
 - No more Pain
 - For our bodies are new and incorruptible
 - No more injustice
 - For the just one has judged perfectly
 - No more racism
 - For all people will be one nation
 - No more bad politics
 - For there will be one perfect King
 - No more hate
 - For God is love
 - The New Creation promise is a life with none of these things:
 - Why do we hesitate to pray for his coming?
 - Our hearts should long for this.

The Final Hope of Victory (15:50-57)

- How is this possible?
 - Think if he gave us a new body, but victory wasn't done?
- That's like taking a brand-new vehicle and throwing it in the middle of a monster truck jam – and then getting mad your car is smashed.
- Listen:

1 Cor 15:50-57

⁵⁰ What I am saying, brothers and sisters, is this: *Flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor can corruption inherit incorruption.* ⁵¹ Listen, I am telling you a mystery: *We will not all fall asleep, but we will 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 will be changed.* ⁵³ *For this corruptible body must be clothed with incorruptibility, and this mortal body must be clothed with immortality.* ⁵⁴ *When this corruptible body is clothed with incorruptibility, and this mortal body is clothed with immortality, then the saying that is written will take place:*

Death has been swallowed up in victory.

⁵⁵ *Where, death, is your victory?*

Where, death, is your sting?

⁵⁶ *The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law.* ⁵⁷ *But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ!*

- How is all of this possible?
 - Because Jesus defeated sin, death and the enemy – and the final resurrection will stop all of that
- The picture of Jesus in a boxing ring with Satan
 - Revelation 12:7-8
 - ⁷ Then war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon. The dragon and his angels also fought, ⁸ but he could not prevail
 - Yes, the cost was high!
 - But victory was definitive – There is no question who won or who is going to win!!

1 Cor 15:24-26

²⁴ Then comes the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father, when he abolishes all rule and all authority and power. ²⁵ For he must reign until he puts all his enemies under his feet. ²⁶ The last enemy to be abolished is death.

- - Has someone ever told you the end of a movie?
 - I see dead people
 - It changes everything
 - Sure, you can watch in suspense, get trapped in the story
 - But the end doesn't change
 - That influences tremendously how you read the book
 - Christ has won.
 - Victory is His.
 - He is King.
 - He is Coming.
 - This pushes us to Live with the end in mind:

Living in the Final Hope (15:58)

1 Cor 15:58

⁵⁸ Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, be steadfast, immovable, always excelling in the Lord's work, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.

- Possible responses:
 - Do you believe that Jesus wins in the end? Come talk to me after.
- Further: (Also, 1 Peter 4)
 - Be steadfast
 - Be faithful – Continue!
 - Immoveable
 - Standing Firm in the truth of the Gospel
 - Always excelling in the Lord's work
 - Doing much for the Kingdom
 - Your labor is not in vain
 - Our obedience to Jesus is admitting Jesus has the victory.
- How can one be excited about death?
 - Because we know it is the seed planted before the harvest to come.