

**RESURRECTION
TRANSFORMS US TO BE
WITH GOD FOREVER**

1 CORINTHIANS 15

But thanks be to
GOD,
who gives us the
VICTORY
through our Lord
JESUS
CHRIST
1 Corinthians 15:57

INTRODUCTION

- Paul has explained that Resurrection is central to the message of the Gospel.
- He now uses the last portion of his letter to explain the nature of the Resurrection and what Christ does to transform believers into their eternal state.
- Paul shows the continuity between our natural bodies and our spiritual bodies, but also the change Christ do to make us fit for God's eternal kingdom.

THROUGH THE
RESURRECTION, CHRIST
SHOWS US OUR BODIES
ARE VALUABLE

1 CORINTHIANS 15:35-49

RESURRECTION BODIES

- After addressing the reality of the Resurrection and the theological importance of it, Paul now turns to questions regarding the nature of the Resurrection.
- He explains that our physical bodies will be different.
- The Corinthian believers want to know the relationship between the two bodily states, pre- and post-Resurrection.

RESURRECTION BODIES

- Paul explains the difference between our bodies before the Resurrection and after.
- Paul explains that the seed and the plant that comes from it have the same chemical makeup (same DNA), but look very different.
- There's no way to look at a seed and deduce merely from looking at the seed what the future plant will look like.

RESURRECTION BODIES

- This is the same with the Resurrection: our bodies now are the seeds.
- Our bodies must go into the ground before God brings forth the splendor and glory that will be our resurrected bodies.
- Paul makes sure to say in his defense in verse 38 that God knows what He is doing and is capable of bringing to existence our resurrected state.

ADAM AND CHRIST

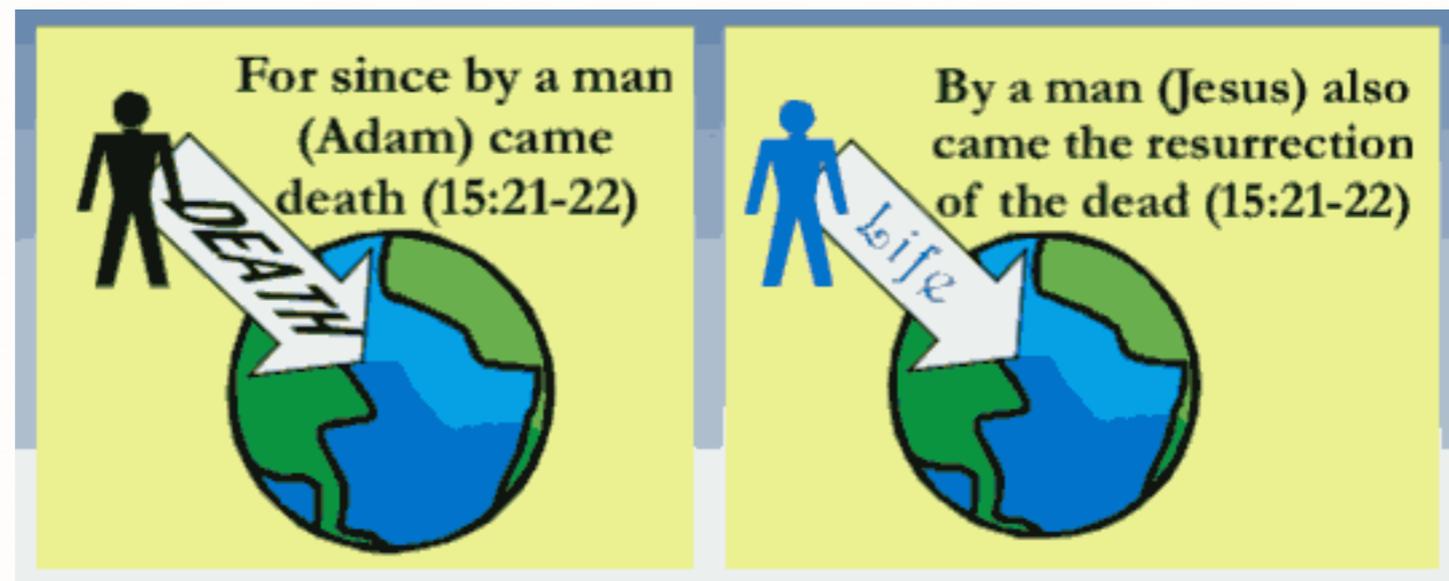
- Just as He has given different levels of splendor and radiance to entities in His created universe, so, too, has He reserved a radiance and splendor and majesty that will be our resurrected bodies.
- The seed that dies and comes to life connects to Paul's earlier mention of Adam and Christ.
- Humanity dies in Adam (the seed) and is brought to life in Christ (the plant that comes forth in Resurrection).

ADAM AND CHRIST

- Paul brings to light all that will be made new when the Resurrection comes.
- No more decay and internal breakdown. No more shame and dishonor. No more weakness, physical deformity, physical sickness, helplessness.
- When Paul mentions natural and spiritual bodies, he is not describing the difference between the material world and spiritual world. He's not dividing body and spirit.

ADAM AND CHRIST

- What Paul is doing here is contrasting the governing agent of the body.
- Where once humanity was subject to the governing laws of physical life, it will one day operate under the full control of the Spirit of Christ.



ADAM AND CHRIST

- Paul shows that Adam wasn't spiritually in existence before he was created. Genesis shows that he was formed and was given life.
- Christ, on the other hand, gives life Himself rather than receives it. This shows the nature of how God has designed it. In the Resurrection, we are raised to new life. We no longer bear the image of Adam in his fallen humanity but rather we gain the image of Christ in His resurrected humanity.

IN ORDER TO BE IN
GOD'S KINGDOM, WE
MUST BE TRANSFORMED

1 CORINTHIANS 15:50-58

PERISHABLE BODY

- After describing that transformation is necessary, Paul tells these believers why:
 - Humanity is up against an unbeatable foe: the body in its fallen state.
 - Humanity as is cannot enter into God's kingdom.
 - Humanity cannot bring the nature of this world into the nature of the coming one.

PERISHABLE BODY

- God's nature, His purity and holiness, cannot allow it.
- The world in its present state is in opposition to how it will be. Imperfection is at odds with perfection. Purity is at war with sin.
- Humanity needs a change, a transformation. And Paul is saying that this transformation, as he has already described, is found in Christ.

PERISHABLE BODY

- God's kingdom can't allow death and decay to enter.
- Those who are welcomed into God's kingdom must be outfitted and prepared to live within it.
- This is what the Resurrection does.
- The Resurrection outfits believers, transforms them, for life in a new world, a world that we are not fit for unless we undergo a change.

DEATH AND VICTORY

- Christ will come and inaugurate the change that is required and needed.
- This mystery is that Christ will bring the necessary change. It is not possible on our own. And God will do this. He will make the change in an instant when Resurrection occurs.
- Paul informs them that Resurrection is coming. The dead in Christ will be raised first and then those who are still living will be instantly transformed.

DEATH AND VICTORY

- Paul wants the Corinthians to see that they can't attain this themselves.
- This is the victory Paul speaks of when he quotes from Isaiah 25 and Hosea 13 in verses 54–55.
- God brings victory over the sting of death, the effects of death, through the Cross of Christ and His Resurrection, as he writes in verse 57.

DEATH AND VICTORY

- We want to defeat death. The truth is, the change we need to defeat death is found in nothing else but Christ. He is the imperishable hope that our natural bodies need.
- Paul concludes by saying since this is true, since Christ has done what is needed on our behalf. Let the reality of this hope affect the way we live, knowing that victory is coming and Christ will bring the transformation that we need.

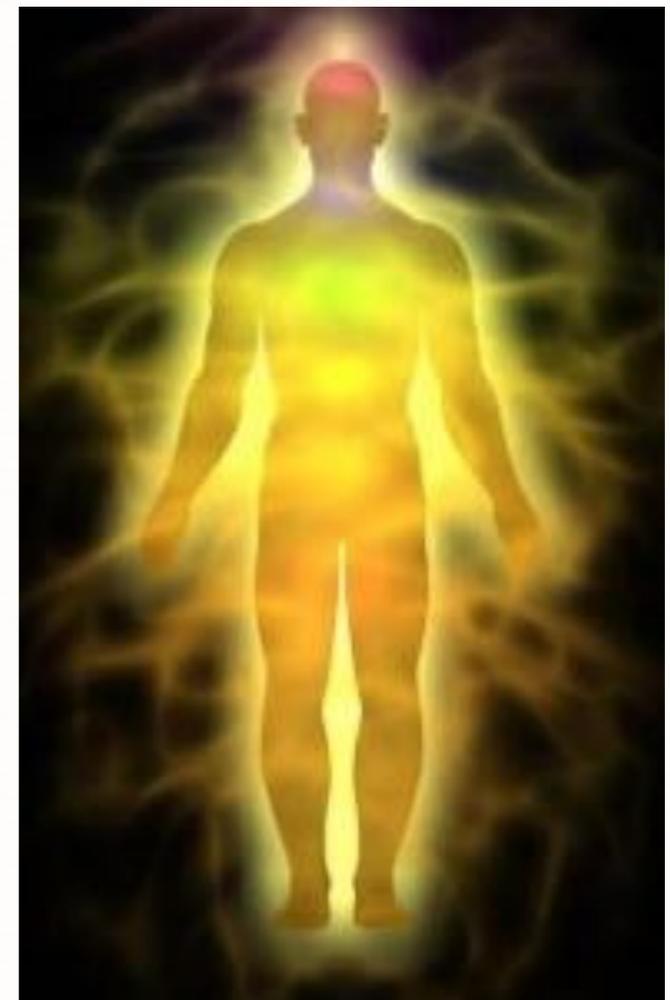
DEATH AND VICTORY

- We can't be in the Lord's presence for eternity the way we are.
- Something has to happen. Something we can't do. But thanks be to God that He has made a way where there wasn't one.
- He has done this through the victory of His Son and offered us a place to share in this victory and to claim it for ourselves.

QUESTION:
RESURRECTION
AND
RESURRECTION BODIES

RESURRECTION BODIES

- What kind of resurrection body?
- Our resurrection body will be a literal, physical body, not a spirit-ghost body or apparition.
- Paul tells us that Christ will *“transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body”* (Phil. 3:21). We will have a body like His body (Luke 24:39).



RESURRECTION BODIES

- All believers will have resurrection bodies (Job 19:25-27; Dan. 12:2-3; 1 Cor. 15:12-58; Phil. 3:21; 1 Thess. 4:16-17; Revelation 20:4-6).
- Jesus had a physical resurrection body (John 21:1-14). His body is a prototype of our resurrection bodies.
- Jesus wasn't immediately recognized a few times (John 20:15; Luke 24:15-16) so that implies that our resurrection body will be different from our current physical body.

RESURRECTION BODIES

- Seven characteristics of our resurrection body?
- First, our resurrection body will be incapable of dying - Paul calls it imperishable (1 Cor. 15:50).
- Second, our resurrection body will be incapable of pain and tears (Rev. 21:4).
- Third, our resurrection body will be physical and recognizable (Luke 24:36–43).

RESURRECTION BODIES

- Fourth, our resurrection body will have extra-dimensional qualities (Luke 24:30-31).
- Fifth, our resurrection body will be in its prime.
- Sixth, our racial and gender identities will probably continue into heaven (Rev. 5:9 and 7:9).
- Seventh, we may have a luminescent quality (Ex. 34 and Luke 9:28-30 and Rev. 21).

RESURRECTION

- Why does the resurrection matter for us today?
- Paul reminds us (1 Corinthians 15:30-32) that the resurrection is central to our faith and is something we should proclaim as part of the Gospel.
- Paul concludes by stating that our labor is not in vain (1 Cor. 15:58). We should be “*steadfast, immovable, always excelling in new Lord’s work.*”

RESURRECTION

- Believers had a resurrection-centric faith
- In New Testament times, people did not live very long (life expectancy was in the 20s).
- Skeletal remains suggest that as many as 25 percent were sick, dying, or in need of medical attention. Infant mortality was as high as 30 percent.
- Jesus immediately gained attention as a healer and miracle worker.

RESURRECTION

- Scriptural evidence from the resurrection
- Jesus had to convince His disciples that He was not a ghost (Luke 24:36-49).
- He tells them to touch Him (Luke 24:39).
- He even eats with them (Luke 24:41).
- Imagine their thoughts as He ate with them and they thought back to His brutal crucifixion.

QUESTION:

MISCONCEPTIONS
ABOUT HEAVEN

ETHEREAL EXISTENCE

- For many people, heaven is sitting on a cloud and playing a harp all day.
- Our popular culture teaches that heaven is an ethereal world.
- Not only is it unbiblical; it is unappealing. Heaven sounds boring.
- We will have bodies in the New Heaven and New Earth and will not be bored.

ANNIHILATION

- Atheists say we merely live and die.
- Many cults teach that those who are not saved are merely annihilated.
- Even some liberal Christian seminaries teach this.
- Contradicts Luke 16 - Rich Man / Lazarus.
- Contradicts Revelation 20-22.

PURGATORY

- Roman Catholic - teaches that while Christians can be forgiven for confessed sins, other sins not confessed require a purging experience.
- Based on a misinterpretation of a passage that is found in 2 Maccabees 12:43-46.
- Contradicts Matthew 25, Revelation 20.

SOUL SLEEP

- Confused doctrine based upon a misunderstanding of verses that talk about sleep (1 Corinthians 15:50-52).
- Paul corrected this misconception in 2 Corinthians 5:8 - “to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord.”

KNOW EACH OTHER?

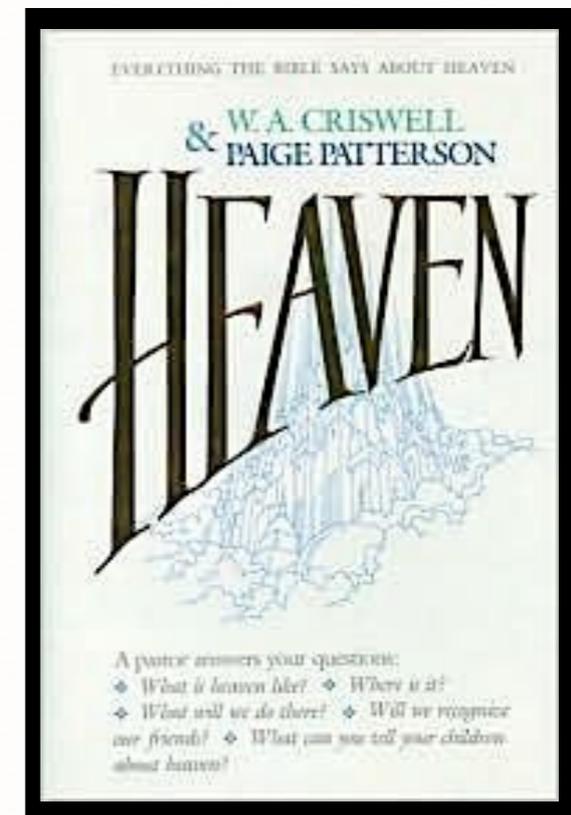
- Mount of Transfiguration (Luke 9:31) - Peter, James, and John knew Moses and Elijah (dead for a thousand years).
- We will sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (Matthew 8:11).
- We see through mirror dimly, but will be known in heaven (1 Corinthians 13:12).

KNOW EVENTS ON EARTH?

- Hebrews 12 - surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses.
- Luke 15 - rejoicing in heaven for one sinner who repents.
- Revelation 6 - those in heaven know what is happening during Tribulation.

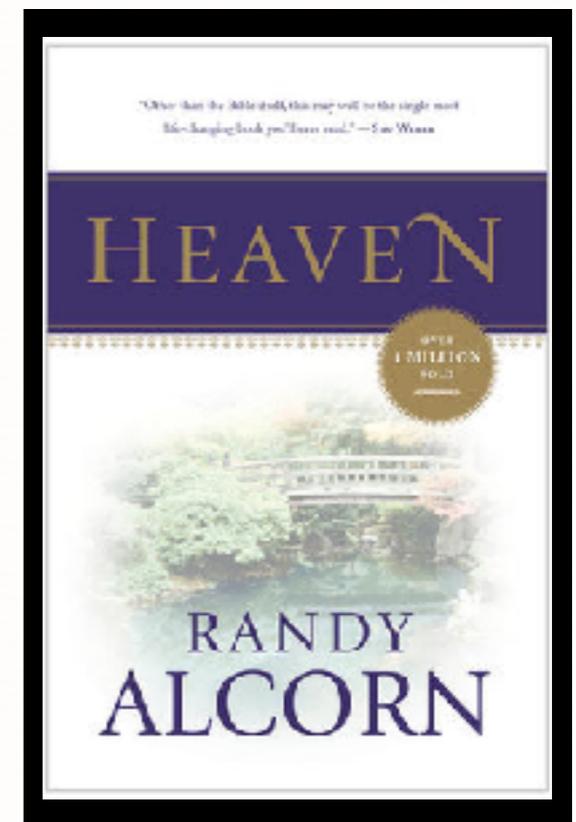
EAT IN HEAVEN?

- Resurrected Jesus ate (Luke 24:41-43).
- In heaven we have the marriage supper of the Lamb (Revelation 19:9).
- In the New Heaven and New Earth:
- Tree of life, fruits for eating, leaves for healing (Revelation 22).



ANIMALS IN HEAVEN?

- Horses (2 Kings 2:11; Revelation 6:2-8).
- Animals in millennial kingdom will probably also be in New Heaven and New Earth (lamb, lion, etc.).
- Humans were given dominion over the creation (Genesis 1-2) and will reign with Christ (Revelation 20-22).



RESOURCES

