

How are the dead raised? 1 Corinthians 15.35-57

Today's TFTD comes from Kate:

After addressing the reality of the Resurrection and the theological importance of it, Paul now turns to questions regarding the nature of the Resurrection and how our physical bodies will be different. Those whom Paul is answering want to know the relationship between the two bodily states, pre- and post-Resurrection. Paul's main argument in verses 35 to 49 is to show, the crucial difference between the nature of our bodies before the Resurrection and after. He uses several illustrations to do so. One of his most helpful analogies is the seed and the plant; In view of that our bodies must go into the ground before God brings forth the splendour and glory that will be our resurrected bodies; 'No more decay and internal breakdown. No more shame and dishonour. No more weakness, physical deformity, physical sickness & helplessness.' All will be made new and right. Hence, we no longer bear the image of Adam in his fallen humanity but rather we gain the image of Christ in His resurrected humanity. "Just as everyone dies because we all belong to Adam, everyone who belongs to Christ will be given new life." 1 Cor. 15:22

Accordingly, our resurrection body will be immortal and incorrupt - We therefore have a resurrected body like Jesus who conquered death. Mark 16:9-11; John 20:11-18. Note, Jesus both interacts with physical and spiritual reality, with visible and invisible things. His ascent to heaven later proves that, though he remains in a human body he can see and interact with spiritual beings in the heavenly realm.

Now we see the power of the resurrection but what message is it offering us today – The resurrection of Jesus Christ is central to the Christian faith. Without it there is no Christian faith. Our faith in Christ be worthless if he didn't rise from the dead. 1 Cor. 15:12-19. Secondly, it gives hope beyond this life. In view of that, our future treasure through Christ is bigger than our lives triumphs and achievements. It joins us to an eternal kingdom and as a result, we continue to serve the Lord without the impediments of living in a fallen world. [1 Cor. 15:50](#); [Rev 22:3](#). The bodily resurrection builds anticipation for a life that outstrips our imaginations. Paul compares our death and burial to a “seed,” while the life ahead is the full grown (body) plant. The comparison invites stretching our thoughts to comprehend how much better the future is in Christ. [1 Cor. 15:35–48](#). Furthermore it affirms an immortal life in God's presence. This perishable person living post-fall ([Gen 3](#)) puts on an imperishable life post-return of Christ ([1 Cor. 15:50–57](#)). The bodily resurrection declares the ultimate triumph of Jesus over sin and death ([1 Cor. 15:54–57](#)) . And finally, the treasure that the resurrection gives us, is that it affirms that our toil and labour in this life are not in vain. Why grow weary in serving Christ in the present when it's just good preparation for the future of eternal service?

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