

HC 57- The Resurrection of Your Body

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: It is difficult to deal with death. How do you deal with the reality that you talked with someone the day before, and then he is lifeless in a coffin before you the next day? Maybe you were in the same bed with the person...or you played a game with him...but then you put his lifeless body in the ground a few days later! That is a strange thing. **Dealing with death is hard.**

But thankfully there is a resurrection. And **if you are a Christian, there is a good resurrection.** Yes, someone could have been consumed in a fire, or rotted away, or eaten by wild animals, but he will get a new, perfect body with a big smile! Resurrection is the hope that every Christian has! **The decomposed dead will live!** Hear about this today.

Our headings are:

My soul goes to God the moment I die

My body will be restored and reunited with my Soul

My body will become like Christ's Flesh.

Our goals are: That you will look **forward without fear to the resurrection of an eternal, perfect body with which you will praise God,** so you will **not become obsessed with your life in this world.**

57 Q. HOW DOES "THE RESURRECTION OF THE BODY" COMFORT YOU?

A. Not only **my soul will be taken immediately after this life to Christ** its head, but even **my very flesh, raised by the power of Christ, will be reunited with my soul** and made like **Christ's glorious body.**

My Soul goes to God the Moment I die

1. When you die your body will decay in the ground but your soul will immediately be taken to heaven.

Let us consider the Biblical proofs that your soul will immediately be transferred to heaven when you die.

a. On the cross Jesus spoke with the repentant thief and told him he would be in heaven that day.

Luke 23:42 Then he said to Jesus, "Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom." 43 And Jesus said to him, "Assuredly, I say to you, **today you will be with Me in Paradise.**"

The thief's body was buried and decayed, but his soul wasn't.

b. Asaph knew he was never going to be absent from the Lord on earth or in heaven at any time. His body would decay but his soul was going to be transported to his Father in heaven.

Psalm 73:23 Nevertheless **I am continually with You**; You hold me by my right hand.²⁴ You will guide me with Your counsel, And **afterward receive me to glory**.²⁵ Whom have I in heaven but You? And **there is none upon earth that I desire besides You**.

c. The dead saints in heaven, whose bodies were worm-eaten, pled for justice (like Abel did) to come on their murderers.

Revelation 6:9 When He opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the **souls of those who had been slain for the word of God** and for the testimony which they held. ¹⁰ And they cried with a loud voice, saying, "How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?"

This was before the 2nd coming of the Lord. The wicked murderers were still roaming the earth.

d. Solomon asserted that the soul is not tied to the body at death, but that it returned to the Lord.

Ecclesiastes 12:6 Remember your Creator before the silver cord is loosed, Or the golden bowl is broken, Or the pitcher shattered at the fountain, Or the wheel broken at the well. ⁷ Then the dust will return to the earth as it was, **And the spirit will return to God who gave it.**

e. Martha confirmed the resurrection of the body. She knew the body of her brother Lazarus would be raised up. John 11:24.

f. The Apostle Paul taught this doctrine positively and succinctly. He knew the moment he died, death would be a net gain. He was going to get a better body and a better life. But the better life for the soul came first. His body had to wait.

Philippians 1: 21 For to me, to live is Christ, and **to die is gain**.

2. What are the implications that your soul will immediately go to heaven when you die?

a. Your view of Christian funerals change. When you see a body in a casket, you know it is only a body being buried. That body will one day be raised from the dead,

but the soul is already in heaven. **Teach this to your children**: The dead are joyful. **This will take away their worry.**

Look how the Psalmist's rejoiced knowing he (and the Lord Jesus, to whom this was directly referring) would be raised from the dead.

Psalm 16:9 Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoices; My flesh also will rest in hope. 10 For You will not leave my soul in Sheol, Nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption. 11 You will show me the path of life; **In Your presence is fullness of joy**; At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

b. Don't give false hope to the relatives of non-Christians who die. Don't say: He is not suffering anymore...he is at peace now... That is sinning. Don't sing songs of reassurance. You see, **if a Christian's soul were immediately present in heaven when he dies, the non-Christian will immediately be present with in hell when he dies.** Use the opportunity to evangelize the living.

c. The one who rejects the resurrection and hell will live how he wants -without fear of retribution for his sins. Do you see the great effect evolution has on our society? Do not take life lessons from those who reject life after death. They will necessarily influence you to a wicked lifestyle.

My Body will be restored and Reunited with my Soul

1. When the Lord returns to take Christians home, he will raise their bodies and rejoin them with their souls.

They will then be taken to heaven to receive their rewards that they earned through Jesus Christ.

2. However, the Bible doesn't give a lot of details about how the resurrected body will rejoin the soul.

This instruction wasn't necessary. Jesus assumed this would happen. Job assumed his body would be rejoined by his soul and that he, body and soul, would see God the Son – as he took on a human body.

Job 19:26 And after my skin is destroyed, this I know, **That in my flesh** I shall see God,

He knew that his body would be eaten by worms, but he knew from (in) his body he would see God.

3. Some people argue some parts of the body might be in other people's body, therefore how can two share the same molecule?

These people ignore the fact the body will not be flesh and blood, but of a new form. Apostle Paul:

1Corinthians 15:50 Now this I say, brethren, that **flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God...**

4. Those who say they are Christians but do not believe in the resurrection are the most pitiable people on earth.

Why? They are serving God without hope. Their salvation is meaningless.

1Corinthians 15: 12 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? 13 But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ is not risen. 14 And if Christ is not risen, then our preaching is empty and your faith is also empty. 15 Yes, and we are found false witnesses of God, because we have testified of God that He raised up Christ, whom He did not raise up—if in fact the dead do not rise. 16 For if the dead do not rise, then Christ is not risen. 17 And if Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins! 18 Then also those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. 19 If in this life only we have hope in Christ, **we are of all men the most pitiable.**

If you know someone who does not believe in the resurrection (like Jehovah's Witnesses), you must **pity them, plead for them, and preach to them** that they might receive God's blessings in full.

My Body will be like Christ's Flesh

1. After the resurrection, your body will become like Christ's flesh.

2. Look at the biblical evidence your flesh will be like Christ's glorious body in heaven.

Philippians 3: 20 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...**

Your body will be changed and become glorious.

1John 3: 2 Beloved, now we are children of God; and it **has not yet been revealed** what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, **we shall be like Him**, for we shall see Him as He is.

Your body will be like the bodies on the Mount of Transfiguration...like the light that shone from Stephen's face...like the radiance of Moses' face.

But again, you have to admit the Bible does not give elaborate details about the nature of that body. God does not want you to get distracted with the future and forget your present duties. Notice how Apostle John said that what your body will be like **"has not yet been revealed."**

Where the Scriptures are silent, you should be also.

3. But we do have some hints of this glorious body.

a. It is true that resurrection to heaven is different from the Lord's resurrection on earth. After the Lord's resurrection his body wasn't limited, for he could pass through closed doors. And yet, he ate earthly food. **In heaven we will have that kind of glorious body**, and we will have a great supper, but the food will be different. It won't be earthly food. Guard against curious conclusions.

b. For sure your body will be free from all defects in heaven.

c. Because Christ will make your body like Adam's body, you will not be subject to aging.

d. You will never be able to sin in heaven. You will be confirmed in righteousness.

Conclusion:

Your flesh will be raised from the dead, transformed into a glorious body, and reunited with your soul that would have been glorified already. You will then have a perfect body and soul, free from all sins and sickness of this world, to praise God eternally and to enjoy the pleasures of heaven.

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ:

1. Because you are children of God through the sacrifice of Jesus, look forward to the resurrection of your body...a body that will be glorious and free from all worries, dangers, and sicknesses of this life. How rich you will be then! Who can put a price on eternal life?

2. If you look forward for the resurrection of the body and all the richness of heaven, it will help you to be patient with your high blood pressure (or fill in the blank) in this body in this life.

3. If you look forward for the resurrection of the body and all the richness of heaven, it will help you to counter-balance how obsessed you can become in this life. You will not be controlled by success in this life or live for temporal pleasures.

4. Warn others who do not have this heavenly resurrection hope. Don't let anyone you know die without letting him know he can have eternal life, if he makes peace with God the Father through God the Son.

Finally, if you don't believe in the Jesus, your body will be raised up too, but it will be condemned and sent to hell forever. So turn to Jesus and accept his free offer of salvation...free for you...as **Jesus paid it all.**