

**Subject: *The Resurrection of Christ and Christians – Part 5***

**Scripture: *1 Corinthians 15:35-49***

All people have some things in common. We are born; we grow up; we eat; we sleep; we work; we grow older; and then we all die. Verse 22 says “in Adam all die.” But that same verse says, “even so in Christ shall all be made alive.” Christ rose from the dead with a resurrection body and all who are in Christ will rise from the dead with a resurrection body. This is just part of our glorious future as Christians. The resurrection is one of the fundamental truths of the Christian faith because so much depends on it.

**The Importance of the Resurrection**

1. The resurrection *proves Christ’s deity*

***Romans 1:4*** *And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead.*

2. The resurrection *establishes Christ’s lordship*

***Romans 14:9*** *For to this end Christ both died, and rose, and revived, that he might be Lord both of the dead and living.*

3. The resurrection *confirms our justification*

***Romans 4:25*** *Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification.*

4. The resurrection *provides our regeneration*

***1 Peter 1:3*** *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,*

5. The resurrection *completes the Gospel*

***1 Corinthians 15:3-4*** <sup>3</sup> *For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures;* <sup>4</sup> *And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures.*

6. The resurrection *guarantees our resurrection*

***1 Corinthians 15:20*** *But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept.*

The truth of resurrection has always been challenged. There have always been mockers, doubters, and skeptics who make the idea of a bodily resurrection seem ridiculous. Paul addressed this in verse 35. Corinth was a prominent city in Greece and there was a popular philosophy in that day called “dualism” that basically taught that matter was evil and spirit was good, so the concept a resurrection from the dead seemed both strange and undesirable. In Paul’s logical and factual way, he posed a question that any skeptic might ask: “How are the dead raised up? And with what body do they come?” He then proceeds to give the answer.

**1. The PICTURE of our resurrection body (vs. 36-41)**

Paul gives us some illustrations from the physical world.

A. The resurrection body is like *seed planted in the ground*

Erich Sauer described it like this: “The graveyards of man become the gardens of resurrection.” There is a difference between the seed sown and the plant that grows up, but at the same time there is a connection between the two. There will be a connection between our bodies now and our resurrection bodies, but there will be tremendous differences in them.

B. The resurrection body is *similar and yet different from our present body*

There is a difference in kinds of flesh (vs. 39). Paul draws examples from the world of nature around us and outer space. Christians don’t have to be afraid of real science. God is the author of the scientific world. He is the creator and sustainer of all things, and He created the natural world to reflect His glory (power, creativity, goodness, faithfulness, and sovereignty).

The bodies of men, animals, fish, and birds are all different. There is a difference between earthly bodies and heavenly bodies, and there are even differences between heavenly bodies. The sun, moon, and stars differ from each other in shape, size, and brilliance. Medical science reveals that cells in the human body are constantly being replenished and replaced by new cells. It is estimated that our entire bodies will change ten times in our lifetime. In a sense we are different and yet we are the same.

## **2. The PERFECTION of our resurrection body (vs. 42-44)**

Paul contrasts the state of our present body to our future resurrection body:

- A. The body is sown in corruption and *raised in incorruption*
- B. The body is sown in dishonor and *raised in glory*
- C. The body is sown in weakness and *raised in power*
- D. The body is sown a natural body and *raised a spiritual body*

Our future resurrection body won’t be limited in any way. It won’t get old and grow weary. It won’t be subject to disease, disability, deformity, defect, decay, or death.

The resurrection body is not a different person, but the same person made new. It is somewhat like a caterpillar turning into a butterfly. It is like a tiny acorn becoming a giant oak tree. Someone wrote this little poem: *When you are discouraged, feeling a little blue, just take a look at an oak tree, and see what a nut can do!*

## **3. The PATTERN of our resurrection body (vs. 45-49)**

Our resurrection body will be like Jesus’ body after He was raised from the dead. Christ’s body is the model, the prototype of our new body. Look at verses 20-23. Jesus is “the first fruits” or first part of the harvest. The full harvest is exactly like the first fruits, only later in time.

**Philippians 3:20-21** <sup>20</sup> *For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ:* <sup>21</sup> *Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like*

*unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.*

After Christ rose from the dead He appeared to eyewitnesses for 40 days. During that time He proved that He was really alive and had a real resurrection body.

***Luke 24:36-43*** <sup>36</sup> *And as they thus spake, Jesus himself stood in the midst of them, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you. <sup>37</sup> But they were terrified and affrighted, and supposed that they had seen a spirit. <sup>38</sup> And he said unto them, Why are ye troubled? and why do thoughts arise in your hearts? <sup>39</sup> Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have. <sup>40</sup> And when he had thus spoken, he showed them his hands and his feet. <sup>41</sup> And while they yet believed not for joy, and wondered, he said unto them, Have ye here any meat? <sup>42</sup> And they gave him a piece of a broiled fish, and of an honeycomb. <sup>43</sup> And he took it, and did eat before them.*

Christ wasn't a spirit, but He had a real physical, tangible body, and yet His body was different than before. It was a special kind of body. He was no longer limited to time and space. He was able to enter into rooms without going through the doorway, and yet He ate, drank, walked, and talked with His disciples.

***1 John 3:2*** *Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.*

## THE RESURRECTION OF CHRIST AND CHRISTIANS – PART 5

### The Resurrection Body of Christians

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