

Sunday, July 1, 2018—I Corinthians 15:35-50 With What Body Do They Come?

Introduction/Review

- Last Sunday we studied a lengthy section of verses beginning in verse 35 and ending in verse 50. In this section Paul answers two questions that men have regarding the reality of resurrection.
- Verse 35—sets forth the following questions.
 - How are the dead raised up?
 - With what body do they come?
- Verses 36-38—answer the first question. In doing so Paul appeals to nature. Nature teaches that in order to have a harvest, there must be prior death. Paul is using the illustration of the sowing grain to teach something about the reality of resurrection.
 - Verse 37—makes it clear that the new body which shall be is not the body which is sown. A single kernel of wheat or other grain is sown. The sown kernel dies and rots and gives life to many new kernels. The grain dies in the ground and a most wonderful resurrection follows. So, it is, and so it will be with respect to man.
 - Verse 38—as the sown seed dies and rots, God gives a new body to the new life which springs up as it hath pleased him. In other words, God gives each seed its own particular body.
 - Genesis 1:11-13—is it not fascinating that God the Holy Spirit uses what happened on the third day of creation to answer the question of “how are the dead raised up?”
 - “. . . this is a dissolution and continuity—a seed that this planted will produced seeds which are essentially the same as that seed. But the seed itself died and disintegrated, so that the seed it produces is not the very seed that died. It is like that seed, but it si not the same seed. In the seed that is planted there is a disintegration and yet there is a continuity.” (McGee, 78)
- Verse 42—so also is the resurrection. Humans put down this seed only to receive a new form/body of what we sowed. In death a human body is sown. In resurrection a human body is raised but its form is changed. Just like what happens to the seed that is sown into the earth.
- Verses 39-41—address the second question found in verse 35, “with what body do they come?”

- Verse 39—following from the principle established in verses 36-38, a human body sown into the earth is not going to be resurrected as beast flesh, fish flesh, or bird flesh. It will be man flesh in an altered state.
 - This does away with the notion of reincarnation.
- Verse 40—this altered state/form of man flesh is going to be given a celestial body in resurrection. That is a body pertaining to heaven.
- Verse 41—the glory associated with this celestial form of man flesh is going to exceed the terrestrial body of man flesh sown into the earth at death.
- Verses 42-50—explain the mechanics of what makes it possible.

The Believers Glorified Body

- Philippians 3:20-21—teaches that this current vile body that we possess will be changed and fashioned like unto is glorious body. At the rapture, on the day of redemption his corruptible will put on incorruption and this mortal will put on immortality (I Cor. 15:51-53) we will receive a body that is fashioned and patterned after the glorious resurrected body of Jesus Christ.
 - Physical shape comprised of flesh and bone capable of being seen and touched (Luke 24:39)
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 - Physical body capable of eating and drinking (Luke 24:30, 41-43)
 - Physical body possessing supernatural abilities: fast movement/vanishing (Luke 24:31),
 - Physical body ability to pass through structures (John 20:19, 26)
- It is this glorified body that will allow members of the body of Christ to occupy the heavenly places throughout all the ages of eternity. This is the body that we are asked to patiently wait for in Romans 8.
- II Corinthians 5:1—we have a celestial body waiting for us that is eternal in the heavens.