

November 22, 2020

The Resurrection Changes Everything

1 Corinthians 15:35-58

Intro

➤ *Upload* by Greg Daniels

- What is our hope for life after death? What will it be like?

“How are the Dead Raised?”

- Naturalistic skepticism is not new. It’s not just modern secular people who find this hard to believe.

Imperishable (v. 35-50)

Body Restored

- The Corinthians left something out of their assessment of what’s possible: *God!*

➤ *Planting seeds & staring at stars*

Corruption → Incorruption

- Everything disassembles into entropy. Everything we are one days falls apart into dust.
- But in the resurrection...!

Shame → Glory

- Ever since the Fall, we feel the need to cover, to self-protect. We feel exposed—like someone could hurt us, or worse: see how we have hurt others.

➤ *The Body Keeps the Score* by Bessel van der Kolk

- But in the resurrection...!

Weakness → Power

- We're subject to infirmities and deformities. We lack abilities to accomplish anything lasting. We're *wasting away*.
- But in the resurrection...!

A New Way to Be Human (v. 45-49)

Natural → Spiritual

- Jesus has reenacted the human story—and buried the old Man.

Immortal (v. 51-57)

Life Resurrected

➤ *Dancing on Death's grave*

- You can lose someone suddenly or watch them suffer slowly, but you're never really prepared for death.

“Death doesn't discriminate
Between the sinners and the saints
It takes and it takes and it takes”
(“Wait for It,” *Hamilton*)

“Death is always traumatic. Death is obscene. It is counter to everything that is living. Death is ugly, painful, sad, brutal, and terrible. It is an aberration. It is terrifying. Death is absolutely not natural. It is monstrous.”

–**Stephen Um**, *1 Corinthians: Preaching the Word*, 283

- “We will all be changed”—the resurrection changes everything!
- Nothing can separate you from his heart. Nothing will keep you in the ground!
- We will immediately mirror the image of the risen Son. And he will make all things new. The physical world with its pleasures will be a flawless means of joy—never again a trap, but a step toward worship.

➤ *William Seward*

- The voice of accusation makes death unbearable (v. 56). But Jesus has taken the sting.

➤ *Adoniram Judson*

➤ *A Christmas Carol*

“All the death that ever was, set next to life, would scarcely fill a cup.”

Immovable (v. 58)

Effort Rewarded

- Our imperishable and immortal future makes us immovable today.
- “Your labor is not in vain.” Nothing is wasted!

“For the righteous will never be moved; he will be remembered forever. 7 He is not afraid of bad news; his heart is firm, trusting in the Lord. 8 His heart is steady; he will not be afraid, until he looks in triumph on his adversaries.” (Psalm 112:6-8)

- Does that describe you? A heart that is steady, firm, not afraid of bad news? Or are we touchy people, anxious, emotionally fragile, easily offended? Desperate for self-protection and safety?

“Every stone that makes you stumble
And cuts you when you fall
Every serpent here that strikes your heel
To curse you when you crawl
The King of love one day will crush them all

And every sad seduction, and every clever lie
Every word that woos and wounds the pilgrim, children of the sky
The King of love will break them by and by

And you will rise up in the end
You will rise up in the end
I know the night is cruel
But the day is coming soon
When you will rise up in the end”

(Andrew Peterson, “Rise Up”)