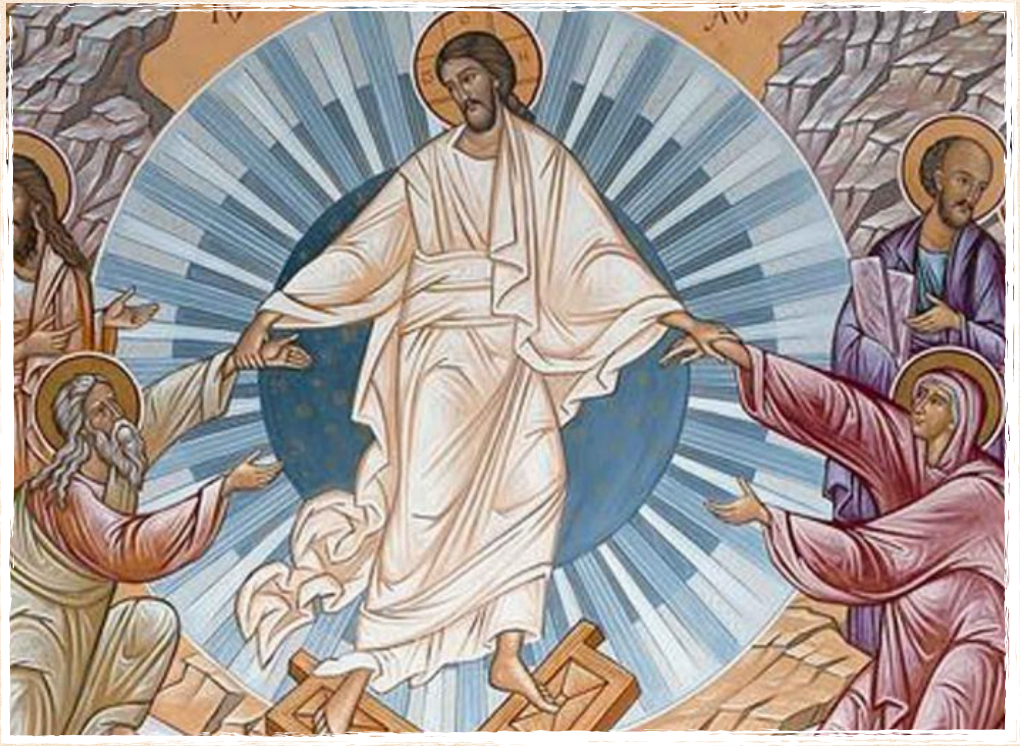
1 CORINTHIANS

SEEING EVERY PART OF LIFE THROUGH THE GOSPEL

THE GOSPEL

RESURRECTION IS INDISPENSABLE



Life Higher & Unquenchable

1 Corinthians 15

Resurrection is being raised up, transformed, elevated to a new higher sort of life—life that is abundant, unquenchable, unending.

Q1: When a believer sleeps in Christ, should we conceive of this as a conscious experience where we are aware of what is going on or is it more like a restorative, blissful oblivion that we slip into until we are raised at Christ's return?

“And as for the resurrection of the dead, have you not read what was said to you by God: ‘I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob’? He is not God of the dead, but of the living.’” (**Matthew 22:31-32**)

“Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us.” (**Hebrews 12:1**)

“I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the witness they had borne. They cried out with a loud voice, 'O Sovereign Lord, holy and true, how long before you will judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?’ Then they were each given a white robe and told to rest a little longer, until the number of their fellow servants and their brothers should be complete.”

(**Revelation 6:9-11**)

Q2: have a follow up question on Sheol. In Psalm 139, David writes that even if he sprawls out in the realm of the dead, God is there. Do you thinking David's original audience would have found this shocking or assume it applied only to David?

“Where shall I go from your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from your presence? … If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there! …Even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me. If I say, ‘Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light about me be night,’ even the darkness is not dark to you. The night is bright as the day, for darkness is as light with you.” (**Psalm 139:7-8, 10-12**)

“So she called the name of the LORD who spoke to her, 'You are a God of seeing,’ for she said, ‘Truly here I have seen him who looks after me.’”

(**Genesis 16:13**)

“Be strong and courageous. Do not fear or be in dread of them, for it is the LORD your God who goes with you. He will not leave you or forsake you.”

(**Deuteronomy 31:6**)

“Then Jonah prayed to the LORD his God from the belly of the fish, saying, ‘I called out to the LORD, out of my distress, and he answered me. Out of the belly of Sheol I cried, and you heard my voice.” (**Jonah 2:1-2**)

Q3: What will our resurrected bodies be like?

1 Corinthians 15:35-37 (ESV)

35 But someone will ask, “How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?” 36 You foolish person! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. 37 And what you sow is not the body that is to be, but a bare kernel, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain.

Your present body is to your resurrected body as a <u>SEED</u> is to the <u>PLANT</u> that grows from it.

1 Corinthians 15:38-39 (ESV)

38 But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body. 39 For not all flesh is the same, but there is one kind for humans, another for animals, another for birds, and another for fish.

1 Corinthians 15:40-41 (ESV)

40 There are heavenly bodies and earthly bodies, but the glory of the heavenly is of one kind, and the glory of the earthly is of another. 41 There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for star differs from star in glory.

1 Corinthians 15:42-44 (ESV)

42 So is it with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable; what is raised is imperishable. 43 It is sown in dishonor; it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness; it is raised in power. 44 It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body.

“When it is sown it *embodies the soul;* when it is raised it *embodies the spirit*.”

(v. 44)

If you want a glimpse of our future resurrected bodies, look to <u>JESUS</u> after His resurrection.

“What we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when He appears we shall be like Him.” (**1 John 3:2**)

1 Corinthians 15:44-46 (ESV)

44 …If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body. 45 Thus it is written, “The first man Adam became a living being”; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. 46 But it is not the spiritual that is first but the natural, and then the spiritual.

1 Corinthians 15:47-49 (ESV)

47 The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. 48 As was the man of dust, so also are those who are of the dust, and as is the man of heaven, so also are those who are of heaven. 49 Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven.

Q4: In the resurrection, will we recognize one another? Will our relationships and connections with one another persist? What about with our believing spouse? Will we have a special bond or be no better than strangers?

“Jesus said to her, ‘Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?’ Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, ‘Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.’ Jesus said to her, ‘Mary.’ She turned and said to him in Aramaic, ‘Rabboni!’ (which means Teacher).” (**John 20:15-16**)

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We are no less ourselves in God's made-new world and <u>RELATIONSHIPS</u> are integral part of who we are. Therefore, there is no biblical reason to doubt that we will know one another after the resurrection.

“Teacher, Moses said, ‘If a man dies having no children, his brother must marry the widow and raise up offspring for his brother.’ Now there were seven brothers among us. The first married and died, and having no offspring left his wife to his brother. So too the second and third, down to the seventh. After them all, the woman died. In the resurrection, therefore, of the seven, whose wife will she be? For they all had her.”

(**Matthew 22:24-28**)

“You are wrong, because you know neither the Scriptures nor the power of God. For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven.” (**Matthew 22:29-30**)

“Jesus said, ‘Marriage is a major preoccupation here, but not there. Those who are included in the resurrection of the dead will no longer be concerned with marriage nor, of course, with death. They will have better things to think about, if you can believe it. All ecstasies and intimacies then will be with God.’” (**Luke 20:34-36**; The Message)

Q5: Pastor Ryan, are you going to address 1 Corinthians 15:29 or are we just going to skip over Paul's strange mention of baptisms on behalf of the dead?

1 Corinthians 15:30-32 (ESV)

30 Why are we in danger every hour? 31 I protest, brothers and sisters, by my pride in you, which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die every day! 32 What do I gain if, humanly speaking, I fought with beasts at Ephesus? If the dead are not raised, “Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die.”

“Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul.” (**Matthew 10:28**)

“Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me.” (**Psalm 23:4**)

“Though he slay me, I will hope in him.” (**Job 13:15**)

“Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.” (**John 12:24**)

Our resurrection hope enables us to <u>GIVE OURSELVES FOR OTHERS</u> in the here and now, confident that God repays life for every little self-giving death.

“The body is not meant for sexual immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. And God raised the Lord and will also raise us up by his power… So glorify God in your body.”

(**1 Corinthians 6:13-14, 19-20**)

1 Corinthians 15:33-34 (ESV)

33 Do not be deceived: “Bad company ruins good morals.” 34 Wake up from your drunken stupor, as is right, and do not go on sinning. For some have no knowledge of God. I say this to your shame.

“And everyone who thus hopes in Him purifies himself as He is pure.”

(1 John 3:3)

Our resurrection hope is the motivation for both self-giving and <u>SELF-RESTRAINT</u>, for it colors our entire existence with promise and victory.

1 Corinthians 15:54-55 (ESV)

54 When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: “Death is swallowed up in victory." 55 “O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?”

1 Corinthians 15:57-58 (ESV)

57 Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. 58 Therefore, my beloved brothers and sisters, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

The resurrection of Jesus means <u>INFINITE</u> hope and reason to pour ourselves out for the needs of the world and to work against the forces of <u>DEATH</u>.