

From Sinners to Saints

1 Corinthians 15:46-58

- We are at the end of chapter fifteen where Paul answers the Corinthians objections to the resurrection, and their main questions were twofold > **1st** how are the dead raised, and **2nd** what body will they have? In **Jn 3:4** Nicodemus had a similar question concerning being born again asking “how can this be, can he enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born”? Jesus answered him that unless one is born of water and Spirit they cannot enter the Kingdom of God.
- **V36-39** answers both of these questions: Paul explains that something has to die before God raises it up again to live, meaning once we die God then will raise us up but to something better. Like a seed being planted into the ground, what sprouts out is not what was planted initially, but something far better, like a watermelon seed being planted into the ground what comes up is no the seed but the fruit.
- Each seed that is planted into the ground comes up in its own unique shape and color, so God will give each of us our own unique glorified bodies. To illustrate this fact Paul points out how all flesh is not the same flesh **V39** > saying man, birds, fish, their distinctly different and yet they are all flesh, so there’s similarity without it being duplication, and now Paul is going to complete the thought as he closes.

V46-58

- In **V45** were told that the first Adam gave us one kind of body, one in which that is imperfect, unrighteous, sinful, and ultimately dying being all made from dust. The last or second Adam will give us an eternal body, one that is perfect, righteous, sinless, and unable to perish, that is made to spend eternity with Jesus > **Philip 3:20-21**- our citizenship is in heaven, where this body will be transformed into a glorious body, one that resembles our Savior as we will be like Him > **1 Jn 3:2**.
- **V46-49** Paul tells us in order for this to happen we first must go through the physical life, as Adam was of the earth, therefore we are made of the dust, but Jesus is from heaven and once we leave this earth then we shall be with Him > **2 Cor 5:8**- this is where to be absent from the body is to be present with The lord comes from.

- **V50-52** here Paul turns to the need of the resurrection and includes when Christ comes back for the Church in this section. Flesh and blood in this context means our present bodies, that are corrupt and sinful, these bodies which are subject to disease, injury and decay are unsuited for heaven, for corruption can't inherit incorruption, praise God!
- In glory none of these things exist so we can't bring them with us, as good of news as that is Paul tells us some even better news, one that he describes as a mystery. This means that what he is about to say has been hidden from everyone until now, and that is not all believers will experience death, for some will be alive when Jesus calls us the church to glory.
- When some of the Jewish believers heard this they immediately thought of John the Apostle > **Jn 21:18-23**- they thought he wouldn't die until the Lord returns even though that's not what Jesus said, can you imagine the let down when he did eventually die and The Lord hadn't returned what a bummer!
- **V52** says this change that will happen will be instantly, in a twinkling of an eye blink, the imperfect will put on the perfect, transformed into resurrection bodies at the return of Jesus before they ever experience death wow! In **Job 19:25-27** shows that OT saints did believe in a resurrection, but what they didn't know was the change of the living saints, in fact no one could have known by reason or research, its only through the revealing to us by God's Holy Spirit could Paul have shared this.
- **V53-57** after exchanging the temporal and imperfect for the eternal and perfect, death will no longer have any power over us as its been defeated. Sigmund freud the founder of psychiatry wrote: Finally there is the painful riddle of death, for which no remedy at all has yet been found, nor probably ever will be".
- How wrong is he, Christians do have victory in death and over death, how? Through Jesus and His own resurrection > **Jn 14:19**- "because I live, you will live also". Sin, death, and Law, go together, The Law reveals sin, and the wages of sin is death **Rom 6:23**, Jesus bore our sin on the cross **1Pet 2:24**, and also bore the curse of the Law **Gal 3:13**, so it is through Him that we have this victory over death.

- So were told that not only is death defeated but also sin, and us being under the penalty of the Law, which was death. **V58** since death can only be defeated if sin no longer has power over us, and through the death of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, sin was defeated on the cross, death was declared powerless at the resurrection, so now I can live my life shame and guilt free, knowing that I already have the victory.