

**Empty  
Message # 3  
4-29-18**

We have looked at the reliability, relevance and timing of our resurrection.

Now Paul addresses the question of the Corinthian believers concerning the how and what of the resurrection.

**I Corinthians 15:35-38 CSB**

***<sup>35</sup> But someone will ask, "How are the dead raised? What kind of body will they have when they come?"<sup>36</sup> You fool! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. <sup>37</sup> And as for what you sow—you are not sowing the body that will be, but only a seed, perhaps of wheat or another grain. <sup>38</sup> But God gives it a body as he wants, and to each of the seeds its own body.***

How?

In effect, the Corinthians, being influenced by Greek philosophers, did not believe a deceased person could live again. They had never seen it; or had they?

"You fool! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies."  
(15:36)

A seed is all that remains of a plant that was once alive. Only the seed is planted to grow a plant. The same is true with the body.

If you lived in a sterile dustless environment there would still be dust. A part of the dust in your home is dead tissue that your body has discarded. There are pieces of you all over your home. As far as the body is concerned, DNA remains after your death. DNA is a molecule and therefore technically dies.

While John is speaking of the resurrection of the unsaved to face judgment in Revelation 20, the process is the same.

**Revelation 20:13 CSB**

***<sup>13</sup> Then the sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them; each one was judged according to their works.***

By what power are we raised?

**Romans 8:11 CSB**

***<sup>11</sup> And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead lives in you, then he who raised Christ from the dead will also bring your mortal bodies to life through his Spirit who lives in you.***

What will our resurrected body be like?

The short answer is found in 1 John 3:2

### **1 John 3:2 CSB**

***<sup>2</sup> Dear friends, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet been revealed. We know that when he appears, we will be like him because we will see him as he is.***

Let's get deeper than that.

Our resurrection is not a reward for being righteous. It re-establishes us to our former condition.

What is the present situation?

### **I Corinthians 15:50 CSB**

***<sup>50</sup> What I am saying, brothers and sisters, is this: Flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor can corruption inherit incorruption.***

Now when we die our redeemed soul can go on to be in the presence of God because it is sinless. Paul says "to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord."

Our present bodies cannot worship or serve God in heaven because they are corrupted by sin. Even our present worship and service are hindered because of our sinful bodies. Let me explain.

Before man's fall, he was already given instructions how he might serve God. In Genesis 1 God told Adam and Eve "Be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth and subdue it." Genesis 1:28 He also told Adam to "work the land and watch over it." Genesis 2:15

When man sinned, it was man's service to God that was affected.

### **Genesis 3:16-19 CSB**

***<sup>16</sup> He said to the woman: I will intensify your labor pains; you will bear children with painful effort. Your desire will be for your husband, yet he will rule over you. <sup>17</sup> And he said to the man, "Because you listened to your wife and ate from the tree about which I commanded you, 'Do not eat from it': The ground is cursed because of you. You will eat from it by means of painful labor all the days of your life. <sup>18</sup> It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field. <sup>19</sup> You will eat bread by the sweat of your brow until you return to the ground, since you were taken from it. For you are dust, and you will return to dust."***

So today the most hindered, opposed, painful and difficult things we attempt are those things that are in line with God's purpose for our lives.

This is what Paul is addressing in Galatians 5.

**Galatians 5:17 CSB**

***17 For the flesh desires what is against the Spirit, and the Spirit desires what is against the flesh; these are opposed to each other, so that you don't do what you want.***

Our resurrected bodies will be in step with our redeemed spirit and will live for eternity without that pull of the flesh away from God and toward sin. That's reason to rejoice.