

L143 | I Corinthians | The Image of the Heavenly | I Cor. 15:42-49

I. Intro/Review:

- The overwhelming evidence, proof, and argumentation of the bodily resurrection based upon the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ.
- Consequences
 - Negative and shame
 - Positive and advantage
- Understanding resurrection by creation
 - 3rd-6th days of creation represented
 - 3 - seed
 - 4 - celestial bodies
 - 5 - fowls and fishes
 - 6 - beasts
- God's power in Christ in creation
- God's power in Christ in resurrection

II. Preview:

- The Bodily Resurrection
 - By man the resurrection - alive in Christ
 - "with what body do they come?"
 - The celestial body of Christ - the image of the heavenly

III. Sermon:

So also [is] the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption: It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power: It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body.
{1 Corinthians 15:42-44a}

- **"So also is the resurrection of the dead."**
 - That which was before
 1. How are the dead raised up?
 - What is sown dies then is quickened
 2. What body do they comes?
 1. Not "bare" (naked) - chance of wheat
 2. God giveth it a body as it hath pleased Him
 - That which is after
 1. **"it is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption:"**
 2. **"it is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory:"**

- 3. "it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power:"
- 4. "it is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body."

- Imagery of the seed "sown" - sown in

1. **Corruption**

- Degradation, decay
- Rom. 8 - bondage of corruption
 - Curse of sin in our bodies
 - Curse of the earth - suffering and afflictions
- We are dying - succumb to death
- **Incorruption**
 - Not decaying, not perishing (2 Cor. 4)
 - Cannot be corrupted
 - Rom. 8 - "glorious liberty" - law of incorruption

2. **Dishonour**

- Image of God - "fearfully and wonderfully made" due to how He makes us, but doesn't make the better first
- Image of Adam - bear image of fallen man (Gen. 1 & 5)
- Outward appearance has no honor as the bondage of corruption whips upon this body
- **Glory**
 - Sheer outward countenance will manifest the honor of our new glorified body

3. **Weakness**

- Want of strength - inability to power itself any longer
- Inability to defeat time - time takes it toll
- **Power**
 - Isn't susceptible - sufficient
 - Eternal in the heavens (2 Cor. 5:1)

4. **Natural and Spiritual**

- Below

**There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body.
{1 Corinthians 15:44}**

- "There is natural body, and there is a spiritual body."
 - Not the same flesh, not the same body
 - Just like v40 - "there are also celestial bodies, and bodies terrestrial:"
 - Statement of truth

**And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam [was made]
a quickening spirit.
{1 Corinthians 15:45}**

- Where does Paul deduce "there is a natural body"?
- **"And so it is written,"**
 - Genesis 2:7 - "And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul."
 - **"The first man Adam"** - Adam
 - "one man" - what the "one man" does gets applied to those in that man
 - Rom. 5
 - **"was"** - past tense
 - **"made a living soul;"** - thus all those to follow were made a living soul
 - With Adam - his body was made first, then he was generated
 - In natural generation for those that follow Adam - the soul is made first - when the seed of the man becomes the seed of the woman
 - The natural is susceptible to death
 - In regeneration for those in Christ following Christ - the spirit is quickened first, then the body follows.
 - The "natural body" isn't only what it is because of "sin and death", but because it is "natural".
 - The "natural body" is fit for the soul and the body responds to the soul
- **"the last Adam was made a quickening spirit."**
 - Php. 3:20-21
 - 1 Cor. 15:20-28
 - **"the last Adam"**
 - To end that which the first Adam brought in
 - **"was made"** - Christ - God wrapped in flesh
 - **"a quickening spirit."**
 - Inwardly first, then outwardly
 - Rom. 6, Eph. 2 - alive unto God
 - Php. 3
 - Power to give life in the face of death
 - Last Adam
 - John 5:21 - "For as the Father raiseth up the dead, and **quickeneth** them; even so the Son quickeneth whom He will."
 - Rom. 4:17 - "(As it is written, I have made thee a father of many nations,) before Him whom he believed, even God, Who **quickeneth** the dead, and calleth those things which be not as though they were."

- 1 Cor. 15:22 - "For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall **all be made alive.**"

**Howbeit that [was] not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterward that which is spiritual.
{1 Corinthians 15:46}**

- **"Howbeit that was not first which is spiritual"**
 - We learned about the order of the resurrection in 1 Cor. 15:21-24
 - Here we have the order of bodies
 1. **"first...that which is natural"**
 2. **"afterward that which is spiritual."**

**The first man [is] of the earth, earthy: the second man [is] the Lord from heaven.
{1 Corinthians 15:47}**

- **"The first man is of the earth, earthy:"**
 - This is the "natural" sown in corruption, dishonour, and weakness
 - The first man although formed by God was made "of the earth" - made from that which God created
 - The first man proceeds out of the earth
 - The earth God's footstool
 - Lower than the angels
- **"the second man is the Lord from heaven."**
 - Not that He was "of the heaven" as made from the materials of heaven
 - Nonetheless, the Lord is "from" or proceeds from heaven."
 - Heaven God's throne
 - By "second man" - He makes the "first" "old" to establish the "new".
 - Spiritually already we have an "old man" and a "new man" and one day we will shed this body, this first and now old man to put on that which is second and new because of the last Adam - Jesus Christ.

**As [is] the earthy, such [are] they also that are earthy: and as [is] the heavenly, such [are] they also that are heavenly.
{1 Corinthians 15:48}**

- **"As is the earthy, such are they also that are earthy:"**
 - **"as is the earthy"** - the first man of the earth and those that follow after are "earthly"
 - **"such are they also that are earthy:"** - natural generation, that is, earthy begets earthy
- **"and as is the heavenly, such are they also that are heavenly."**
 - **"and as is the heavenly,"** - the second man from heaven
 - Put on earthy, overcame it, and is glorified with the heavenly
 - **"such are they also that are heavenly."**
 - Those "in Christ" where Christ is
 - 2 Cor. 5

- Ephesians 2
- Redemptively there is only an option of one new man, that is, the heavenly; however, heaven will come to earth - thus there will be one heavenly body but with varying glory in those bodies.

**And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly.
{1 Corinthians 15:49}**

- **"And as we have borne the image of the earthy"**
 - To bear constantly, wear as clothing, garments
- **"we shall also bear the image of the heavenly."**
 - We shall wear the image of heavenly - incorruptible, glory, power, spiritual

IV. Conclusion:

- Philippians 3:20-21 - "For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto His glorious body, according to the working whereby He is able even to subdue all things unto Himself. "