

## 1 Corinthians 15 42-58

Good evening and thank you for joining us. We're resuming our study in 1 Corinthians 15, so would you please turn in your Bibles there with me please.

Last week we studied verses 1-41, as we began to study the new bodies we will get when we get to heaven. And the rest of chapter 15 continues this theme, giving us a glimpse of what the future holds for every follower of Christ.

The title of tonight's message is Death is not the end!

Let's pray.

We're gonna read verses 42-44, and notice the contrast that is given regarding our present bodies on earth and what our resurrected bodies will be like.

42 So also is the resurrection of the dead. The body is sown in corruption, it is raised in incorruption. 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. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body. The body that one day will be put in the ground decays. **Genesis 3:19 In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread**

**Till you return to the ground,**

**For out of it you were taken;**

**For dust you are,**

**And to dust you shall return.**

But the Bible tells us that's not the end of the story, for our bodies will rise anew!

Noticed the theme in these verses-Raised in incorruption... raised in glory... raised in power: Our resurrection body will be glorious!

45 And so it is written, "The first man Adam became a living being."<sup>[fn]</sup> The last Adam became a life-giving spirit. Adam was made a living soul. **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 being.** The last Adam, Jesus Christ, is the One who gives life-eternal life. How do we know the last Adam is describing Jesus here?

46-47

46 However, the spiritual is not first, but the natural, and afterward the spiritual. 47 The first man was of the earth, made of dust; the second Man is the Lord<sup>[fn]</sup> from heaven. We're all born out of the ground- It's no surprise that the same seventeen elements that compose the dirt under our feet are the exact same elements of which our body is comprised.

Since we come from the dust, you know what this means? These bodies we have mean we're nothing more than just dirt bags.

This is why it's so foolish whenever we try to touch God's glory! **2 Corinthians 4:7 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us.** when we forget we're just dirt bags, pride will subtly creep in.

48-49

48 As was the man of dust, so also are those who are made of dust; and as is the heavenly Man, so also are those who are heavenly. 49 And as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear<sup>[fn]</sup> the image of the heavenly Man There will be a day when each of us bear the image of Christ, in a body that is custom-made for glory.

So does this mean that our future bodies will be just like our bodies now? Not exactly, because the Bible tells us we'll bear the image of Christ in our resurrected bodies.

**Philippians 3:20 For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, 21 who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.**

So what will our resurrected, or new bodies look like in heaven?

Since we will bear the image of Christ, the best example we have of what a resurrection body will be like is to remember what Jesus' resurrection body was like.

The resurrected body of Jesus was not bound by the laws of nature **Luke 24:31 Then their eyes were opened and they knew Him; and He vanished from their sight.**

Yet Jesus' resurrected body was physical, and He could eat **Luke 24: 36 Now as they said these things, Jesus Himself stood in the midst of them, and said to them, "Peace to you." 37 But they were terrified and frightened, and supposed they had seen a spirit. 38 And He said to them, "Why are you troubled? And why do doubts arise in your hearts? 39 Behold My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself. Handle Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see I have." 40 When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His feet.[fn] 41 But while they still did not believe for joy, and marveled, He said to them, "Have you any food here?" 42 So they gave Him a piece of a broiled fish and some honeycomb.[fn] 43 And He took it and ate in their presence.**

So I believe our new bodies will be similar. We'll be able to eat at the marriage supper of the lamb, and we won't be bound by time

or space, we're in eternity, so we'll have physical freedoms we don't have today...

But why do we need new bodies??

**50 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption.** The word corruption doesn't mean moral or ethical corruption, rather physical, material corruption. These bodies which are subject to disease, injury, and decay, are unsuited for heaven. Corruption can't inherit incorruption.

**SHOW PIC** When the astronauts first walked on the moon, NASA knew a human body could never survive on its own on the lunar surface. Our earthly body wasn't fit for lunar life. That's why NASA designed a life-support suit perfectly fitted for the moon. **CLOSE PIC**

And likewise, our mortal bodies aren't suited to survive the awesome presence of God. We can't enter God's holiness in our current flesh and blood. When we enter God's throne room, we'll have to shed our earth-suits, and suit up in a new body!

**51 Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed**

The Bible often describes death as sleep. Why? It's not because the Bible is trying to give a softer description of death. Rather death really is like sleep because sleep is temporary!! We know when our bodies die, it's not the end of the story!

Notice v 51 tells us that not all Christians will die, there will be a "final generation" who will be transformed into resurrection bodies. When does this happen?

**52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised**

incorruptible, and we shall be changed. In a single moment, Jesus will gather His people (both the dead and on the earth) to Himself, for resurrection.

This is describing the rapture, what we see explained in **1 Thessalonians 4:15-18** 15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. 16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. 18 Therefore comfort one another with these words.

This remarkable, instant gathering of Christians unto Jesus in the clouds is called the rapture, after the Latin word for caught up.

There is coming a day, when in God's eternal plan, He gives those dead in the Lord their resurrection bodies, and in an instant He gathers all His followers who are alive at the time to meet Him in the air.

So, what about Christians who have already died? Are they in some kind of soul sleep or suspended animation? No. The Bible is clear that to be absent from the body means to be present with the Lord **2 Corinthians 5:8** We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord.

On the cross, do you remember what Jesus said to the repentant thief next to Him? **Luke 23:43** And Jesus said to him, "Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise."

So when a Christian dies their spirit is immediately with the Lord. But one day a new body will await them. And for those who are

alive when the rapture takes place, we'll be changed immediately without going through the death process at all.

But what about OT believers, and those who die in the great tribulation?

Old Testament saints and Tribulation saints will receive their resurrection bodies not at the rapture, but rather shortly after Christ's Second Coming

Dan. 12: "At that time Michael shall stand up,  
The great prince who stands *watch* over the sons of your people;  
And there shall be a time of trouble,  
Such as never was since there was a nation,  
*Even to that time.*

And at that time your people shall be delivered,  
Every one who is found written in the book.

2 And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall  
awake,

Some to everlasting life,

Some to shame and everlasting contempt.

And

Rev. 20:4 And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and  
judgment was committed to them. Then I saw the souls of those  
who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the  
word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and  
had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands.  
And they lived and reigned with Christ for a[fn] thousand years. 5  
But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years  
were finished. This is the first resurrection. 6 Blessed and holy is  
he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second

death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years.

Now all unbelievers throughout history will be raised at the end of the Millennium, at the Great white throne judgment. **Revelation 20**  
**13** The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works. **14** Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.[fn]  
**15** And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.

**53** For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. Resurrection is a must for the Christian's destiny.

**54** So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory." [fn] A resurrected body is not a resuscitated corpse. It's a new order of life that will never die again. Death is defeated by resurrection.

Jesus will reverse every trace of sin and its painful consequences - especially that of death. **Hebrews 2: 14** Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, **15** and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.

**55** "O Death, where is your sting? [fn]

**O Hades, where is your victory?**" [fn] The story goes that a little boy was allergic to bee stings. He and his dad were driving in the

car when he saw a bee fluttering over the front dash. **SHOW PIC**  
The little guy panicked. He screamed for his father, who was driving, to do something. The dad reached up with his fist and caught the bee. But after a minute, he released his fist and let the bee fly away. **CLOSE PIC**

Again the boy came unglued. What was his dad trying to do? That's when the dad opened his fist, and showed his son the stinger stuck in his palm. The dad allowed the bee to sting him instead.

And this is what Jesus has done for us! He's taken the sting of death in His feet, and hands, and side. Jesus was separated from His Father so we could live with Him forever. He paid sin's penalty so we could be forgiven. Once and for all, Jesus defeated death.

**56 The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law.** The fatal sting of death touches humankind through sin **Romans 6:23**  
**For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

Because Jesus overcame sin and fulfilled the law, death has no hold on us.

**57 But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.** Jesus' resurrection, and our future resurrection proves that we are no longer under the law, and we're not subject to the penalty of the law which is death.

**58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.** There is life after the grave. One day we'll stand before our Creator. This means our labor for the Lord really does matter. What we do today effects eternity.



This is why Paul says, “be steadfast (never give up), immovable (never give in), always abounding (always abundant) in the work of the Lord.” What you we do for Jesus counts.

I’d like us to pivot for the remainder of our study to the topic of death, and we’ll do this by turning to John 14 1-3 as we talk about death and the hope we have

If you were here a couple months ago....

Sometimes we let Christians lay a trip on us that if we cry or mourn that it’s unspiritual. That we’re somehow lacking in faith, that if we only believed more we would not grieve. But not so!

**John 14 1 “Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me.** Jesus asks something of each of us here in verse 1. He’s saying don’t let this happen. We’re not to let our hearts be tortured or full of unrest.

Yet if you do a word search of this word troubled, you’ll find something interesting. Jesus Himself was troubled.

So I want you to keep this in mind, verse 1 of chapter 14 as we look at a few different areas of scripture.

Jesus was troubled over Lazarus, **John 11:32 Then, when Mary came where Jesus was, and saw Him, she fell down at His feet, saying to Him, “Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died.”**

**33 Therefore, when Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her weeping, He groaned in the spirit and was troubled. 34 And He said, “Where have you laid him?”**

**They said to Him, “Lord, come and see.”**

**35 Jesus wept. 36 Then the Jews said, “See how He loved him!”**

Now in John 12 Jesus predicts His death on the Cross.

John 12 23 But Jesus answered them, saying, "The hour has come that the Son of Man should be glorified. 24 Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain. 25 He who loves his life will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. 26 If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also. If anyone serves Me, him My Father will honor.

27 "Now My soul is troubled, and what shall I say? 'Father, save Me from this hour'? But for this purpose I came to this hour. 28 Father, glorify Your name."

Then a voice came from heaven, saying, "I have both glorified it and will glorify it again."

In John 11 He was troubled over the events of the death of Lazarus. In John 12 Jesus was troubled with the horrors of the cross looming in the distance.

In John 13, in the upper room, the last supper, and Jesus knows that Judas is about to betray Him and the cross is just hours away.

John 13 18 "I do not speak concerning all of you. I know whom I have chosen; but that the Scripture may be fulfilled, 'He who eats bread with Me<sup>[fn]</sup> has lifted up his heel against Me.'<sup>[fn]</sup> 19 Now I tell you before it comes, that when it does come to pass, you may believe that I am He. 20 Most assuredly, I say to you, he who receives whomever I send receives Me; and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me."

21 When Jesus had said these things, He was troubled in spirit, and testified and said, "Most assuredly, I say to you, one of you will betray Me."

John 11 He was troubled over the death of Lazarus, and the effect on Mary and Martha

John 12 He was troubled over His upcoming suffering.

John 13 He was troubled over the betrayal of Judas.

Now go back to John 14.

1 "Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me."

It's interesting for Jesus to make a request of us, reminding us that the resource for us NOT to be troubled is Jesus Himself. Yet as we just read, Jesus was troubled...same word. He was troubled at the tomb of Lazarus. Troubled looking at cross, troubled at last supper. Tells us something.

Death is troubling!

Jesus was troubled and wept. The truth is that death is troubling. Why? Because there is not only a finality to death, there is also woven in it a certain measure of uncertainty in death.

It would be a whole lot easier when we die if our soul, mind and body they all went to the Lord at the same time. Think about it-if the soul, mind and body all disappeared when a loved one dies there'd be some closure! Imagine-a person takes their last gasp-and poof they're body is gone.

That would make death a lot easier to deal with!

But that's not what happens. When someone dies, their soul is no longer there, but their shell lays there, the shell we hugged,

and talked to, went out to eat with, took walks there, the shell is still there and it's troubling!

Hey this is earth and there are many troubling things!

For you and I our journey is a pilgrimage associated with loss on this earth. But that won't be the case when we're in glory! **1 Peter 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, 5 who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.**

What a day that will be, when we are in glory!

But here on earth our lives are constantly marked with loss.

When we're children, we lose our innocence,

As we grow we lose our grandparents, we lose friends, we lose our parents, we lose our hair, our teeth, our figure, our memory, our waistlines, and much of that is troubling!

Betrayal is troubling! I bet every one of you in this room has been betrayed and it hurts and it stinks. And it's troubling.

Our high priest who was touched with our own infirmities is the One we can flee to and find grace in our time of need. He was troubled at death and wept, He was troubled at suffering, He was troubled at betrayal.

But here in John 14:1, Jesus is telling us something very important for our troubling times. There may be many troubling things in this world but in regards to heaven **DO NOT LET YOUR HEARTS BE TROUBLED**. There is one thing we can bet on and know for sure and that is our destination!!!

2 In My Father's house are many mansions;[fn] if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.[fn] Jesus says I would never let you be deceived, I would never give you a false hope. If it weren't so I woulda told you!!!

There is something that resonates in every one of us in regards to heaven. **Ecclesiastes 3:11 He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also He has put eternity in their hearts, except that no one can find out the work that God does from beginning to end.**

God has created eternity in our hearts. Yes there are things troubling but in regards to heaven, we should never be troubled about that. Jesus says many mansions-many dwelling places.

We know our final destination as believers-it's heaven!

There's a book, I think the title is 'living with cancer', there was a nurse, and she herself was dying with cancer, she knew she was passing. One day she was looking into the window of a maternity ward.

And she said the Lord said to her-'see that baby, yesterday that baby was in her mom's stomach, floating in a bath of amniotic fluid. And if you would say to that child 'shortly, you're going to slide through a dark tunnel, and come out into the light', the baby would say what is the light?

A whole world is inches away from you, when you come out into the light there's a whole host of people in white, doctors, nurses, all waiting to receive you. And your father has prepared a place for you. the nursery at home of course.

If you told that baby you would cut the umbilical cord the baby would say that' impossible if you cut that I'll die, I need that it sustains my life.

And you'd have to say 'no you have a whole other system you've been designed for, but it doesn't turn on until that system shuts off. And there are parks, and flowers and trees and a whole life you never dreamed of just inches away.' And that little baby cannot comprehend it.

You see what God was doing to her heart! The author said she couldn't wait to see the Father's house.

**3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.**

Jesus will come again and receive the church to Himself! Notice He doesn't say I'll send for you. He will personally receive each and every one of us.

He's been preparing our heavenly home for 2,000 years, that must be some place!

John 17 is only place Jesus says I want, normally He says my Father's will. **John 17:24 Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory which You have given Me; for You loved Me before the foundation of the world.** Jesus' desire is for us to spend eternity with Him! How awesome is that!

If you're troubled over the death of a loved one, if you have some horrendous thing in front of you, with some measure of suffering and pain, please know you can go to Jesus because he is a Man who is acquainted with our suffering. He has walked there, He has been broken there, He has suffered the pain to a measure that is incomprehensible to us because He has borne it for every human who has ever lived.

But in regard to heaven, something is required of us. Let not your heart be troubled. He is the Good Shepherd-He extends eternity to us.

Until then, 58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.