

- I) V48-49 INTRO: As for the man of dust so also are those who are made of dust
Paul has been teaching the Corinthians about the resurrection
- II) Last time we were together we looked at resurrection bodies
They had asked how the dead are raised up and **what body will they have** (V35)
Paul went on to speak of the **transformation our** bodies will go through
- III) Our body will be prepared for heaven
It will be glorified, raised in incorruption and power, and be spiritual
PAUL SAID
- IV) We receive our human bodies from Adam, our glorified bodies through Jesus
In our resurrection we will receive **glorified bodies**
1 Jn 3:2 Beloved, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet
been made known. But we know that when He appears, **we shall be like Him**, for we shall
see Him as He is.
- V) We will have a body, but **it will be glorified** even as Jesus has a glorified body
V49 we will bear the image of **the heavenly Man**
- VI) We don't know exactly what that means, but we will be recognizable
Jesus pointed out who He was to His men by saying they **could touch His wounds**
He was raised in the same body He was crucified in, but it was glorified
PAUL CONTINUES
- VII) V50 Now this I say brethren that **flesh and blood cannot** inherit the kingdom of God
Paul tells his readers that the resurrection body will not be **flesh and blood**
It will need to be **transformed** in order to abide in Heaven
- VIII) Our resurrection bodies are spiritual bodies, and not **flesh and blood**
This is because the life of the flesh **is in the blood** (Lev 17:11)
- IX) In eternity, we will no longer have blood coursing through our veins
We will be made alive in and by the Holy Spirit, no longer requiring blood
- X) Our resurrection bodies are *spiritual* bodies (V44)
Our natural bodies are fit only for living on the earth
In order to be suitable for Heaven, our bodies must be changed

- I) When Jesus resurrected He had the same body, but it was now a spiritual body
On the Cross, He poured out all of His blood, in order to atone for our sin
His resurrection body has no blood, and neither will our bodies (V49)

- II) Remember what Jesus said to the two disciples on the Road to Emmaus
After He spoke to them, they shared this with the 11 remaining apostles
Lu 24:36-40 While they were still talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." They were startled and frightened, thinking **they saw a ghost**. He said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds? Look at my hands and my feet. **It is I myself!** Touch me and see; a ghost does not have **flesh and bones**, as you see I have." When he had said this, he showed them his hands and feet.

- III) Notice He said **flesh and bones**, not **flesh and blood**
This is because **flesh and blood** does not inherit the kingdom of God

- IV) V51 Behold I tell you *a mystery*: We shall not all sleep but we shall all be changed
Mystery: The secret counsels of God's dealing with us hidden from unsaved
Mystery speaks of that which once was secret that has now been revealed

- V) In the NT, various scriptures speak concerning things referred to as mysteries
1 Ti 3:16 speaks of the mystery of godliness (the Incarnation)
Col 1:27 speaks of the mystery of the indwelling Christ
Eph 5:31-32 speaks of the mystery of Christ and the church (marriage)
2 Th 2:7 speaks of the mystery of iniquity

- VI) V51 Paul speaks of another mystery: We shall not all *sleep* but we will be changed
Christians who are alive when Jesus takes the church won't physically *die*

- VII) *Death* will not be required for their bodies to be changed for heavenly habitation
We shall all be **changed**: An **instantaneous transformation**
This occurs in an event called the *Rapture*

- VIII) When Jesus comes for His church, we shall be instantly transformed
Phil 3:20-21 Our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, **will transform our lowly bodies** so that they will be like his glorious body.

- I) V52 In a moment in the *twinkling* of an eye at *the last trumpet* for the trumpet will
Moment: Atomos: That which is the smallest conceivable quantity
Twinkling of an eye: Instantaneously
Last trumpet: The conclusion of the Church age: Reveille for the Church
- II) This is when Jesus will summon the Church to Himself, as He promised to do
Jn 14:1-3 Let not your heart be troubled: you believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there you may be also.
- III) In 1 Th 4 Paul wrote concerning those who *had died* as Christians
The believers were concerned for those who lost loved ones before Jesus came
He e was concerned lest they sorrowed, as the unbeliever does: Hopelessly
- IV) Let's turn to 1 Th 4:13-18
LET ME DEVELOP THIS
- V) Believers have hope because we trust in Jesus, Who conquered the grave
The key to our hope is *the resurrection* of Jesus
Heb 2:14-15 Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death --that is, the devil-- and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death.
- VI) With His resurrection also comes the promise of **His return**
This is spoken of after Jesus gave His disciples orders in Ac 1:8
Ac 1:9-11 After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight. They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, **will come back** in the same way you have seen him go into heaven."
- VII) It appears that some in Thessalonica were concerned about their relatives
They wondered: What happens when Jesus returns? What about them?
V14 The answer: **God will bring with Him those** who sleep in Jesus
- VIII) In 1 Co 15 Paul had addressed what happens when a person dies
V35-44 He said that the *body* of the believer is buried, like a seed, in the ground

- I) **Immediately** the believer is present with the Lord (No purgatory)
2 Co 5:6 As long as we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord.
2 Co 5:8 We Would prefer to be absent from the body and **present with the Lord.**
- II) But what about those who died *before* Jesus returns, and those who are alive?
V14 They will not be left out
God will bring all believers, both **living** and **asleep**, **back to heaven** with Jesus
- III) V15-17 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord that we who are alive
Notice how Paul **included himself** in those *who will see this event*
Paul expected this to occur in his lifetime (as did my Pastor Chuck)
- IV) Notice that he says *We who are alive* twice: V15, 17
This means that the early believers expected Jesus to return in their lifetimes
- V) This expectation is found in other New Testament letters
Both Paul and other writers made it clear they expected Jesus' return
1 Co. 7:29 What I mean, brothers, is that *the time is short*
Phil 4:5 Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near.
Heb 10:25 not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.
Jas 5:8-9 You also be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. Do not grumble against one another, brethren, lest you be condemned. Behold, the Judge is standing at the door!
1 Pe 4:7 But the end of all things is at hand; therefore be serious and watchful in your prayer
- VI) V16 The Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of
At the rapture, Jesus comes for His bride to take us, personally
- VII) Descend, shout, voice, trumpet: All emphasize immediate departure
This event is sudden
- VIII) **Descend**: Speaks of where *He has been* since His ascension (1 Th 1:10, Heb 1:3)
Shout: A signal given to soldiers by a commander (a loud summons, trumpet call)
- IX) **Voice of an archangel**: Come up here, or perhaps the Bridegroom comes

- I) There is only one angel called archangel: Michael (Dan 10:13;12:1-great prince)
Jude 9 But even the **archangel** Michael, when he was disputing with the devil about the body of Moses, did not himself dare to condemn him for slander but said, "The Lord rebuke you!"
- II) **A trumpet**: Trumpets were used in Israel to gather the congregation (Num 10:7)
A shout, voice and trumpet all emphasize an immediate departure
- III) V16b **The dead in Christ** will **rise first**
Redemption for them is yet to be complete: their bodies have yet to be raised
Ro 8:23 And not only they, but we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves eagerly waiting for *the adoption* the redemption of our body
- IV) Their **glorified bodies** will be joined with their glorified spirits
At that time, they will be fully conformed into the image of Christ
- V) V17b Then those who are alive and remain shall be **caught up together** with them
Harpazo: a violent, irresistible act (Latin: raptura, carrying away; to seize)
- VI) Those who are alive and remain will be instantly changed
We put on **immortality**: Our bodies are instantly made suitable for heaven
- VII) V18 Comfort one another with these words
We will forever be with the Lord because we had faith in Him!
Though you go through affliction, hold on
- VIII) The rapture is Jesus coming for His Bride, the Church
This is reminiscent of a Jewish wedding during the time of Paul
- IX) When man met girl the girl he desired as a for wife, or father had decided upon
A Bride price was decided upon: If she was greatly desired, he paid high price
Bride and Groom would drink a Cup of wine together, sealing the agreement
(Communion, shared w/His apostles-Mt 26:27-28)
The bride price was paid
The Groom gave a small speech, such as "I go to prepare a place", and depart
He would build he a bridal chamber in his father's home for the honeymoon

- I) The bridal chamber was stocked with provisions that would last 7 days
Construction lasted around a year and the father determined when it is done
The Bride waited, and was referred to as set apart, bought with a price
Bridegroom would be asked: When? Replied, Only my father knows the time
Mt 24:36 Of that day and hour knows no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but
my Father only
The bridegroom would assemble his friends, and would come to steal the Bride
When the Bridegroom came, a shout would be given
Mt 25:6 At midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom comes; go out
to meet him
If it was at night, she would light her lamp, and then leave with him and his friends
- II) When arriving at the home, would go directly to the bedchamber; the best man,
known as the friend of the bridegroom, would stand at the door of the bedchamber. When
the consummation would be complete, he would rejoice at the voice of the bridegroom,
telling him that the Bride and Groom were now married. Wedding guests would rejoice:
(Righteous Hebrews present at the Wedding Feast of the Lamb)
- III) Celebration began, for a week
This will be when we are before Christ, receiving rewards at His judgment seat
- IV) At the end of the week, the Bride and Groom would appear, and enjoy a feast called
the Marriage Supper (Reception), then they would go to where they would be dwelling
- V) The dead in Christ rise first, and those who are on earth are instantly Transformed
Redemption for the dead is yet to be completed: Their bodies have not been raised
RETURNING TO 1 CO 15
- VI) Those who are alive when the Rapture occurs will be instantly changed
The corruptible puts on incorruption and the mortal puts on immortality
Those who are alive are immediately made suitable for heaven
- VII) V53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on
Corruptible: Our bodies, which under ordinary circumstances would decompose
Incorruptible speaks of our glorified bodies, never again subject to decomposing
Mortal speaks of our natural physical predisposition to die
Immortality speaks of us not being lost: This speaks of our bodies, never souls

- I) This will occur at the Rapture, and is part of what is called the First Resurrection
- II) V54-55 So when this corruptible has put on incorruption and this mortal has put on
The great triumph over death is done and we experience the complete victory
O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory
- III) V57-58 But thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus
Christ bore death's sting so we would have life in Him
- IV) A boy and his father were traveling in a car when a bee flew through the open
window. The boy was so highly allergic to bee stings that both he and his father knew
that his life was in danger. As the boy frantically jumped around and tried to avoid the
agitated bee, the father calmly reached out and grabbed the bee. When he opened his
hand, the bee began to fly again, terrorizing the boy once more. The father then said,
"Look, son," holding up a hand with an implanted stinger, "his stinger is gone; he can't
hurt you any longer."
- V) As a bee loses its stinger when it stings, so death lost its sting when it stung Jesus