

Embodied Shalom: Spiritual, Redeemed, Resurrected Bodies

1 Corinthians 15:1-19, 35-58; 2 Corinthians 4:14-18; 2 Corinthians 5:1-10

Hear, O Israel: the Lord is our God, the Lord is One... (Deut 6:4)

Blessed are You, Lord our God and God of our fathers... (1 Chron 29:10)

For you will not leave my soul among the dead or allow your holy one to rot in the grave. (Psalm 16:10)

You are mighty forever, my Lord; You resurrect the dead... You sustain the living with loving kindness... (Jewish Amidah "Standing" Prayer)

Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of His glory (Isaiah 6:3)

1 Corinthians 15:1-19

For the bolstering of our faith:

People witnessed the resurrection of Jesus. (vs 5-8)

- Cephas (Peter)
- The other disciples
- 500 brothers and sisters, some of whom were still alive when Paul was writing this letter! Can you imagine???
- To James, the brother of Jesus
- All the other apostles, Jesus's most prominent disciples, men and women
- And finally to Paul

If Christ is not raised, our faith is worthless.

We cannot dabble in Christianity. Jesus being raised from the dead is essential.

Vs. 17: And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins.

Following Jesus only for our earthly existence is meaningless.

Vs 19: If we have put our hope in Christ for this life only, we should be pitied more than anyone.

Believing that Jesus raised from the dead and will resurrect us gives us hope in our bodies which will be redeemed and resurrected – embodied shalom now as we wait with hope for what's to come and total embodied shalom in the future when Jesus returns.

2 Corinthians 4:14-18

Sin resulted in death – outwardly wasting away.

From dust you were taken and to dust you will return. Genesis 3:19

For we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus will also raise us with Jesus vs 14

Jesus conquered death and is inwardly renewing us day by day.

Outward decay with inward growth

2 Corinthians 5:1-10

We have a tent now that will become a building in God's kingdom → From a tent to a building!

What do we do in this tent that is outwardly wasting away?

- We groan. Vs 2
- We long to be fully clothed in Christ. Vs 4
- We wait for our mortality to be swallowed up by life. Vs 4
- We walk by faith (what is unseen), not by sight (seen). Vs 7
- We aim to please God. vs 9
- We wait for our trustworthy Judge Jesus. Vs 10

We have already been declared innocent through Jesus so we wait in expectation for the final judgement which will condemn death.

We are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ. And this is true for everyone who believes, no matter who we are. ²³For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard. ²⁴Yet God, in his grace, freely makes us right in his sight. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins. Romans 2:22-24 (NLT)

What do we do with all of this and why does it even matter?

Ultimately, if we understand that

- We are to be pitied if we don't believe Jesus was raised
- We receive God's grace without earning and also make effort to learn, grow, and change
- Inwardly we are being renewed day by day
- Our tent will be replaced with a BUILDING FROM GOD

Then everything changes! **Everything.**

"If Jesus Christ was actually raised from the dead, if he really got up, walked out, was seen by hundreds of people, talked to them, then everything's going to be alright. Whatever you're worried about right now, whatever you're afraid of, everything is actually going to be ok." - Tim Keller

For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is going to be revealed to us. Romans 8:18

In the Message, Eugene Peterson says it this way: "Meanwhile, the joyful anticipation deepens."

All shall be well, all shall be well, and all manner of things will be well. -Julian of Norwich

Everything sad will come untrue! -Samwise Gamgee

To be a wise old woman who loves well and is a joy to be around.

And

To be present with joy in this life while sanctifying my imagination about the life to come.

1 Corinthians 15:35-49

Our resurrected bodies will be glorious. There will be sameness and difference between the present and future bodies just like Jesus's resurrected body:

- We will still be recognizable like Jesus was.
- We will still have scars – the stories of our redemption.
- We will still eat like Jesus did with his disciples – preparing a feast of the best food and drink!
- Jesus passed through doors – Will we?
- Jesus disappeared and reappeared at will – Will we?

In this passage specifically (vs 42-44):

- Incorruptible – not just our bodies, but our psychosomatic unified self will be wholly holy.
- Glorious – all shame will be completely gone.
- Powerful – fully empowered by God.
- Spiritual – not immaterial, but completely full of the Holy Spirit.

The 'already' – in our natural body, saved, being renewed day by day, filled with the Holy Spirit, following Jesus by his grace and with our sanctified effort – Embodied Shalom

The 'not yet' – eagerly waiting for the last enemy which is death to be destroyed.

1 Corinthians 15:50-58

Vs. 58 Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, be steadfast, immovable, always excelling in the Lord's work, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.

How do we abound in the work of the Lord?

People saw the resurrected Jesus.

If he isn't alive, we are pitiful.

But he is alive, and he is renewing us day by day.

He will replace our tent with a BUILDING that is very much like the resurrected body of Jesus.

We have victory through Jesus.

Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely. And may your whole spirit, soul, and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴ He who calls you is faithful; he will do it. 1 Thessalonians 5:22-24

Questions:

How has Jesus's resurrection changed your life?

What specific reasons do you have to have hope in the resurrection?

What is a spiritual practice you can implement to build true hope into your life? Thanksgiving? Communal confession? Embodied worship?

Have you spent time imagining when Jesus returns? What is something you want to do in the new earth?

How can sanctifying your imagination for what is to come help you in your life now?