

Study 25. 1 Cor 15:35-58

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Big idea: the shape of the future to come changes how we live here and now

Introduction

In 1 Corinthians 15:35-58, Paul is continuing to wrestle with the skepticism of the Christians in Corinth about the promised resurrection of God's people. He refers to a real or anticipated question from this difficult church:

1 Cor 15:35 But someone will ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body will they come?"

One prominent theme in ancient Greek philosophy contended that everything spiritual is intrinsically good and everything physical is intrinsically evil. To those who held this view prior to coming to Christ, the idea of a resurrected body would have been repugnant, if not unthinkable. Paul presents a new idea: that the physical and the spiritual are related.

What expectations do the authors of the Old Testament display about the resurrection? (Psalm 16; Isaiah 53; Daniel 12) How is this different from the Greek view?

Observation and interpretation

Read 1 Corinthians 15:36-44. What point is Paul making by these comparisons?

Read 1 Corinthians 15:45-49. How is Adam relevant to the resurrection? What does it mean to 'bear the image' of Adam and of Jesus?

Read 1 Corinthians 15:50-53. Why do we need to be transformed?

Read 1 Corinthians 15:54-58. What is the victory that Paul writes about?

Read Romans 5:12-17. What does it mean for God to take away the sting of death?

Read Philippians 3:20-21. What will our transformed bodies be like?

The gospel accounts describe Jesus' resurrected body in surprising ways. What are some of them?

- Luke 24:31
- Luke 24:39, John 20:17, 27
- Luke 24:42-43
- John 20:19,26
- Mark 16:12-14, John 21:1-7

What does this tell you about the nature of things to come?

Application / Implications

What difference does an 'imperishable' body make? Read 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 and Revelation 21:1-4.

What is one way in which you are not living as someone who will be raised from the dead? Share this with your group.

Prayer ideas

- Pray in light of the things you've shared above.
- Praise God for the resurrection of the dead.