

Easter Sunday, 2018

Marc Wilson, pastor of St. Patrick's Anglican Church in Las Cruces, New Mexico

1 Corinthians 15:35-58 & Mark 16:1-8

"The Resurrection of Christ and Our Resurrection Bodies"

Opening Prayer: *Abba, Father, by your Spirit in us, may we understand and be assured of the future glory of our resurrection bodies as we look to your Son our Savior, Jesus Christ, who is Risen from the dead and seated in glory at your right hand and in whose Name we pray. Amen.*

1. Context

a. Study in Romans

- i. In Romans 5-8, Paul demonstrated that all people are born "in Adam" where sin reigns in death. We must be delivered from this realm of the flesh and graciously transferred into the realm of the Spirit "in Christ". Paul also illustrated our need to be released from the law, which powerfully stimulates sin. We must be made "Alive in the Spirit" to freely serve God by His abounding grace.
- ii. We left off considering our assurance of future glory amid present suffering. The Holy Spirit testifies with our spirit that we are children of God, and this same Holy Spirit, who abides in us, will raise us from the dead just as He raised Jesus from the dead; giving life to our mortal bodies. Remember, Jesus is the first-born among us, as His brothers and sisters, who will reign with Him over our promised inheritance in fully redeemed glorious resurrection bodies.
- iii. These themes are present in *1 Corinthians 15*.

- b. 1 Corinthians Shared Connections** Having studied *1 Corinthians 15:1-34*, we remember that Paul has been addressing the Corinthians' understanding of the resurrection, and he does so by, first of all, affirming the resurrection of Jesus. Christ's resurrection from the dead is the Apostle's

Easter Sunday, 2018

Marc Wilson, pastor of St. Patrick's Anglican Church in Las Cruces, New Mexico starting point. He then moves on to talk about the Resurrection of the Dead of those who die "in Christ", and we see his "in Adam" and "in Christ" language in *1 Corinthians 15:20-25 (READ)*. Now, beginning, in *verse 35*, Paul addresses the nature of our resurrection bodies as Christians; those who are "in Christ". This is our future glory in which we, as Christians, hope.

- c. *The Questions that Paul is addressing (verse 35 READ)*. In answering these questions, Paul presumes a preceding death that leads to new life. He uses the analogy of planting a seed that grows into a grain for harvesting. Then, Paul broadens his discussion by looking at the "bodies" assigned by God to various aspects of Creation. (*verses 36-41 READ & NOTE verse 51 'mystery'*). The point Paul is making is that the renewed and transformed creation when Jesus' Returns, including our resurrected physical bodies, will share some basic physical characteristics with creation as we now experience it, but the eternal new creation will also far surpass our present created existence. Just like a seed transforms into either grain, a plant, a flower, or a tree, so will our mortal bodies transform into new bodies that possess a glory that our present bodies do not. The seed is intended to grow into something else. Just as a caterpillar is destined to be transformed into a butterfly, God has determined that those "in Christ" will be fully transformed into the image of Jesus with fully redeemed resurrected bodies like His.
 - d. Paul now goes on to illustrate the difference in splendor between the mortal body that is 'sown' (aka: the natural body) with the new body that is raised from the dead (aka: the spiritual body).
2. Observations
- a. The Natural Body and the Spiritual Body (Verses 42-49 READ)
 - i. The (present) body is *sown in*...Perishability, Dishonor & Weakness

Easter Sunday, 2018

Marc Wilson, pastor of St. Patrick's Anglican Church in Las Cruces, New Mexico

1. The body sown *is*...Natural (*'seed'*)
- ii. The (future) body is *raised in*...Imperishability
Honor/Glory & Power
 1. The body raised *is*...Spiritual (*'fully grown tree'*)
 2. There is an order to these things. The natural comes first and then the spiritual, just as we must endure the present suffering of labor pains prior to our future glory of new eternal life.
- iii. The first man/Adam was an earthly living being, and those "in Adam" remain of the dust of the earth and bear his image.
- iv. The last man/Jesus is a heavenly life-giving spirit, and those "in Christ" shall bear his image.
 1. The difference is that those who remain in the image of the earthly man lead ordinary human lives apart from the power of the Holy Spirit, and these lives will end. The Christian who will bear the image of Jesus has eternal life animated by the Holy Spirit. This Holy Spiritual animation of Christian lives actually begins now by grace through faith. Then, upon the Christian's resurrection from the dead, our new splendid spiritual body will experience a new mode of existence that is fully directed and empowered by the Holy Spirit.
 - a. "How are the dead raised?" By the Holy Spirit's life-giving work in our lives, which begins now, and He will raise us from the dead like He raised Jesus.
 - b. "What kind of body will we have?" A new splendid spiritual body bearing the image of Jesus. Our resurrection bodies will be fully animated by the Holy Spirit; because, those new bodies will be completely free from sin and death. This is key to the truth of what

Easter Sunday, 2018

Marc Wilson, pastor of St. Patrick's Anglican Church in Las Cruces, New Mexico

Paul now affirms. We need these glorious resurrected spiritual bodies to receive our ruling inheritance.

- b. The Spiritual Body, which is Imperishable and Immortal, Inherits the Kingdom of God (Verses 50-55 **READ**)
 - i. The reception of our inheritance of the Kingdom of God comes once our redemption has been fully consummated with the redemption of our bodies. Then, the Holy Spirit will be fully manifested in and through us as in Jesus. We need the spiritual body. Even if we do not die; even if the 'seed' of our present mortal bodies are not sown, they must still be changed.
 - 1. This is the thrust of *verses 51-53*. This is "a mystery" - that not all will "sleep" [or die], but all will be, must be, "changed".
- c. The Spiritual Body that Receives this Inheritance and that is Victorious over Death Comes **through** Jesus Christ our Lord (Verses 56-58)
 - i. Gospel: **READ Romans 4:25; 6:5, 23; 8:11, 18**
 - ii. Today, as we celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus from the dead we, give thanks to God (*1 Corinthians 15:57*)

3. Meaning

- a. Christ's Resurrection is the Foundation for Understanding our Future Bodily Resurrection as Christians
- b. The natural, perishable and mortal bodies with which all humans are born into the world are the result of sin, and, as we have seen in our study of Romans, the power of sin is the law from which we must be released. Only Jesus can do this through His own death and resurrection by which He is the first fruits and first born of His adopted brothers and sisters (Christians) who are predestined to be conformed to His image as "children of God".

Easter Sunday, 2018

Marc Wilson, pastor of St. Patrick's Anglican Church in Las Cruces, New Mexico

4. Application

- a. We can be assured that, just as we have lived in bodies that bear Adam's image after the fall, we will eternally live in bodies that bear Jesus' glorious image after His resurrection from the dead. Our resurrection will be the consummation of God conforming us to the image of His Son, Jesus Christ (*Romans 8:29*). This is a transforming process that begins now, and it will be completed when Jesus' Returns. Then, we will fully and eternally rest and reign with King Jesus by the power of the Holy Spirit to the glory of God our Father.
- b. **Verse 58 (READ)** Just as we are certain of Christ's Resurrection from the dead which we celebrate today, we may be just as certain of our future glorious resurrection with a body like His. This is our Christian hope, as ruling heirs with Christ our King, who is Risen, indeed. *Alleluia!*