

CGYG & LIFE Bible Study: 1 Corinthians 15:35-58

For Discussion: Do you or someone you know suffer from a bodily ailment, weakness, or limitation? What impact does this have on that person's daily living? What impact does it have on their attitude or outlook on life?

Read 1 Corinthians 15:35-58

For review: In 1 Corinthians 15:20-34, Paul proceeded from teaching about the certainty and necessity of the bodily resurrection of believers to providing a description of the events surrounding Christ's return, when all His enemies, including death, will be destroyed. As firstfruits from the dead, Christ's resurrection began a series of events that will culminate in a kingdom of peace under the sovereign reign of God the Father, who will be all in all. Christ's victory over death is also a pledge that guarantees that same victory for all His followers. Having addressed both logically and through Scripture the outright rejection of the believer's bodily resurrection, Paul then turns to answer the next line of attack from his opponents, an attempt to discredit his teaching by a deeper probing into the details of the resurrection.

Read 1 Corinthians 15:35-49

What examples from nature does Paul use to speak of the resurrection body? What resurrection principles does he bring out through these?

How do our current bodies compare with the glorified bodies Christ's followers will receive when He returns?

In contrasting the natural and the spiritual body, Paul returns to a comparison of Adam and Christ that he began in verses 21-22 to teach about their headship and representation of others. What other contrasts does Paul draw between the first and last Adam?

Read 1 Corinthians 15:50-58

What is the relationship between law, sin, and death (Rom. 3:20, 5:20-21, 7:7-11)? How does Paul describe death's defeat and the means by which it is accomplished?

In light of Christ's victory over death and the glorious life that awaits those who are His, what response did Paul call on the Corinthians to give? In what ways is our resolve to stand firm in this truth under attack? What would it look like for our lives to abound in the work of the Lord?

Reflection and application

Throughout this chapter, Paul has been building a case to answer the challenges of those who denied the bodily resurrection of believers. In one of his final points, he addresses the need for a body that is suitable for the coming spiritual age. Since our natural bodies were only made for life outside of eternity, they need to be transformed into spiritual bodies that are marked by power, glory, and imperishability in order to inherit the promised kingdom. Not all will experience resurrection from death but all who would enter life with Christ must be conformed to His image. Even though our current bodies pale in comparison to what they will be on that day, God has graciously given them to us as a good and generous gift. As we await the sounding of the last trumpet, let us recognize and praise God for the glory of our earthly bodies (Ps. 139:14), suffering well in His strength as He calls us to, and use them to abound in His work in hope and expectation of the perfect glorified body that will one day be eternally ours.