

Sermon Brief, Helpful Links, Discussion Questions

April 4, 2021

1 Corinthians 15:35-49

“The Future You”

Sermon Brief:

1. I want to talk with you about the resurrection of the dead.
2. This is an important topic all the time, but it is an especially good subject for us to think about this year as we have been faced with so much sickness and death.
3. Death is a reality and it is frightening.
4. And yet as believers we don't have to be controlled by the fear of death because we believe in the resurrection of the body. In other words, we believe dead people won't stay dead.
5. That is a basic Christian belief. It's so basic that you aren't a Christian if you don't believe it. And yet while it is one of the Christian essentials, it's also honestly surprising.
6. It creates some questions. Like for one, how does it happen?
7. We are not the first ones to wonder. They were asking this very question in the church at Corinth. It sounded inconceivable to them. **So in 1 Corinthians 15:35-49 Paul defends and describes the resurrection of the body.**
8. We see in verses 36-38 how Paul defends the resurrection of the body with a simple analogy from creation. And then in verses 39-45 he describes the resurrected body. He first lays down the basic principle. The resurrected body is going to be the same as but different than the body we have now. In other words, there is going to be continuity and discontinuity. How is it going to be different? Our resurrected bodies will be indestructible, glorious, perfect, and Spirit driven. To help us understand what he means by Spirit driven, Paul makes a comparison between the bodies we received as descendants of Adam and the bodies we will enjoy as a result of the work of Jesus.
9. The point is, you are still going to be you, only much, much better.
10. Jesus rose from the dead and you will too. That's at the very heart of the Christian message. Christianity is not merely a philosophy or a way of life. It is good news about what God has done through Jesus and one of the big things He has done is to defeat death.
11. And today, I want to ask first of all, do you believe it? And then, if you do, are you living like it? Thinking about the future you should change the present you and make you very, very grateful for Jesus.

Helpful Links:

1. [A Resurrection Hymn about Resurrection Bodies to the Tune of Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus](#)
2. [A PHYSICAL Resurrection!](#)
3. [Do We Receive the Same Body We Had On Earth at the Resurrection?](#)
4. [Questions and Answers with John MacArthur about Death and the Resurrection](#)
5. [Our Most Destructive Assumption about Heaven](#)

Discussion Questions:

1. Is it wrong for Christians to be scared of death? Why or why not? How do unbelievers typically deal with the reality of death? In what way is the Christian's response similar and in what way is it different?
2. If anyone is willing to share, has there ever been a time when you were really faced with the reality of death and what did you learn about yourself in that moment?
3. While we might be concerned about the reality of death, we don't have to be controlled by the fear of death as Christians, because one of the core doctrines we believe, is the resurrection of the body. Yet Randy Alcorn writes, "The major Christian creeds state, "I believe in the resurrection of the body." But I have found in many conversations that Christians tend to spiritualize the resurrection of the dead, effectively denying it. They don't reject it as a doctrine, but they deny its essential meaning: a permanent return to a physical existence in a physical universe. Of Americans who believe in a resurrection of the dead, two-thirds believe they will not have bodies after the resurrection. But this is self-contradictory. A non-physical resurrection is like a sunless sunrise. There's no such thing. Resurrection means that we will have bodies."
4. In what way is the problem Randy Alcorn is concerned about similar to the problem Paul's dealing with in 1 Corinthians 15?
5. What specific questions does he seek to address in verse 35?
6. This is obviously a big issue to Paul. What are some of the things that are on the line when it comes to the resurrection of the dead according to verses 12-19?
7. Because the resurrection of the dead is so important, Paul defends it in verses 36-38. What does he say about the person who questions whether it is possible and why? What illustration does he give to prove his point?
8. In what way is Jesus' resurrection and our resurrection connected?
9. Besides defending the resurrection, Paul describes it. What are some of the things that stand out about his description of your future resurrection body?
10. What are some of the similarities between your future resurrection body and the body you have now? What are some of the differences that you are looking forward to most?
11. What would be different about your life if you believed in the resurrection of the dead? (If you need help, look at 2 Corinthians 4:16-5:5; Philippians 1:18-22; Acts 20:22-24; Acts 21:13; Philippians 3:19-4:1)