

EASTER SUNDAY 2017

THE RESURRECTION: HOW CAN IT BE?

Today is Easter, better known to us as resurrection Sunday. This is the actual time of the year that our Lord arose from the dead. There is some controversy about the day that our Lord was crucified, but there is no controversy over the day he was resurrected. It was the first day of the week, after the Passover. The fact of the resurrection is the most important event in the history of mankind. Yet why is it that we say we must believe this by faith? Faith, yes, because we have not seen but it did not take faith on the part of those who were eye witnesses. In fact, concerning his resurrection we read:

Acts 1:3 To whom also he shewed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God:

I Corinthians 15:5 And that he was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve:

I Corinthians 15:6 After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep.

I Corinthians 15:7 After that, he was seen of James; then of all the apostles.

I Corinthians 15:8 And last of all he was seen of me also, as of one born out of due time.

Yet in spite of these great cloud of witnesses, why is it that some doubt?

TEXT:

I Corinthians 15:35 But some man will say, How are the dead raised up? and with what body do they come?

I Corinthians 15:36 Thou fool, that which thou sowest is not quickened, except it die:

I Corinthians 15:37 And that which thou sowest, thou sowest not that body that shall be, but bare grain, it may chance of wheat, or of some other grain:

I Corinthians 15:38 But God giveth it a body as it hath pleased him, and to every seed his own body.

This morning we are going to study the resurrection chapter in Corinthians. What better topic to speak, on this Easter Sunday Morning?

First of all consider:

I. THE SKEPTICS OF THE RESURRECTION ARE REBUKED.

1. THE SKEPTICS ARE CALLED FOOLS BECAUSE THEY REJECT SO GREAT A CLOUD OF WITNESSES (THOSE WHO WERE EYE WITNESSES).

I Corinthians 15:35 But some man will say, How are the dead raised up? and with what body do they come?

I Corinthians 15:36 Thou fool, that which thou sowest is not quickened, except it die:

A fool refuses to accept the reality of the truth of the resurrection.

The Resurrection is not a hypothesis, or a theory, it is an historical fact.

Acts 1:3 To whom also he shewed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God:

Acts 1:4 And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me.

Acts 1:5 For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence.

Jesus came back from the dead and shewed himself alive to his disciples for 40 days.

Something is true if it is verified by two or three witnesses.

How amazing is it that mankind believes in evolution, yet there is not one eye witnesses to any form of this crazy notion, that we have evolved from a lower species to a higher. Yet there were hundreds who were eyewitnesses to the resurrection!

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2. THE SKEPTICS ARE CALLED FOOLS BECAUSE THEY REJECT THE ILLUSTRATION OF NATURE ITSELF OF HOW THESE THINGS CAN BE TRUE.

A. NATURE TEACHES THAT SEED MUST ROT AND DECAY BEFORE IT BRINGS FORTH LIFE:

Death is the first step to the resurrection. Just like the burial of a seed is step on to germination and growth.

Think about it, you can store seed for years and years, yet it will not rot or go bad.

Ancient. In the tombs in Egypt, grains of wheat were discovered and if planted these grains would spring up and reproduce.

Why is it hard to believe that if a person goes into the grave God can resurrect him? Is not a person of greater value than any plant that bears seed? So even if our bodies remain in the grave for thousands of years, yet God will raise us up at His time.

John 12:24 Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit.

B. NATURE TEACHES THAT DIFFERENT SEED PRODUCES DIFFERENT PLANTS

I Corinthians 15:37 And that which thou sowest, thou sowest not that body that shall be, but bare grain, it may chance of wheat, or of some other grain:

I Corinthians 15:38 But God giveth it a body as it hath pleased him, and to every seed his own body.

I Corinthians 15:39 All flesh is not the same flesh: but there is one kind of flesh of men, another flesh of beasts, another of fishes, and another of birds.

I Corinthians 15:40 There are also celestial bodies, and bodies terrestrial: but the glory of the celestial is one, and the glory of the terrestrial is another.

I Corinthians 15:41 There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars: for one star differeth from another star in glory.

I Corinthians 15:42 So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption:

I Corinthians 15:43 It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power:

I Corinthians 15:44 It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body.

Note how it is, that different seeds produce different plants. You can't tell what that seed will produce just by looking at it, lots of the seed look alike.

You can't tell what that new body is going to look like just by looking at the seed that is planted.

The resurrected body will be perfect.

The resurrected body will be incorruptible.

The resurrected body can dwell in heaven as well as on earth.

The resurrected body will be something like the angels. Angels inhabit eternity and have supernatural powers. They can fly and do great wonders.

WON'T GET SICK. NOTHING CORRUPTIBLE ABOUT US THEN.

II. THE SPIRITUAL NATURE OF THE RESURRECTION IS EXPLAINED.

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1. ALL SEED BEARS FRUIT AFTER IT'S OWN KIND THE RESURRECTION OF THE DEAD IS A SPIRITUAL RESURRECTION.

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A. EACH RESURRECTED PERSON WILL BE UNIQUE.

B. EACH RESURRECTED PERSON WILL HAVE DIFFERENT DEGREES OF GLORY, 15:41. Depending on what we have done on earth. Different ranks and different positions.

Think about this, what if what you do for the Lord will be the basis of the glory of your resurrected body for all eternity?

The Bible teaches that there will be different levels of reward in eternity. Most of us think, well as long as I make it I will be happy. But what if that reward will be what kind resurrected body you receive. Since the verse clearly says that one resurrected body will differ from another.

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Think about what people do to improve their earthly bodies.

We go to the dentist.

We exercises.

We diet.

Woman wear makeup.

All so these earthly bodies that are going to perish can be made more presentable, seeking earthly glory the things we do.

Yet the Bible says, in the resurrection each of our resurrected bodies will differ one from another.

How will they differ? They each will have their own unique glory.

I can't help but think that that glory will be given to each based on what we have done for the Lord.

2. THE SEED OF THE RESURRECTED BODY IS SPIRITUAL IN NATURE.

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I Corinthians 15:43 It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power:

I Corinthians 15:44 It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body.

Seed bears after it's kind.

Only Spiritual seed can produce a spiritual resurrection.

Spring is a time of planting seed, trees, gardens, grass, etc..

Two resurrections and two kinds of spiritual seed.

Either a person is a child of the devil or a Child of God.

Matthew 13:24 Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is likened unto a man which sowed good seed in his field:

Matthew 13:25 But while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went his way.

Matthew 13:26 But when the blade was sprung up, and brought forth fruit, then appeared the tares also.

Matthew 13:27 So the servants of the householder came and said unto him, Sir, didst not thou sow good seed in thy field? from whence then hath it tares?

Matthew 13:28 He said unto them, An enemy hath done this. The servants said unto him, Wilt thou then that we go and gather them up?

Matthew 13:29 But he said, Nay; lest while ye gather up the tares, ye root up also the wheat with them.

Matthew 13:30 Let both grow together until the harvest: and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat into my barn.

Explanation of the Parable by the Lord:

Matthew 13:37 He answered and said unto them, He that soweth the good seed is the Son of man;

Matthew 13:38 The field is the world; the good seed are the children of the kingdom; but the tares are the children of the wicked one;

Matthew 13:39 The enemy that sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; and the reapers are the angels.

Matthew 13:40 As therefore the tares are gathered and burned in the fire; so shall it be in the end of this world.

Matthew 13:41 The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity;

Matthew 13:42 And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.

Matthew 13:43 Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.

In the resurrection either a person has the Word of God and Christ sown in their hearts or the word of the enemy, the devil.

So there is a spiritual resurrection of the just and the unjust.

Matthew 13:38 The field is the world; the good seed are the children of the kingdom; but the tares are the children of the wicked one;

Just as God has seed, so too the devil has his seed, these are his children.

What makes the resurrection of the dead such a fearful thing is that everyone is going to be resurrected!

John 5:28 Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice,

John 5:29 And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.

Those who are the tares will be cast into everlasting fire in a resurrected body.

The book of revelation gives a glimpse at this.

Revelation 20:10 And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.

Revelation 20:11 And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.

Revelation 20:12 And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.

Revelation 20:13 And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.

Revelation 20:14 And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

Revelation 20:15 And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

III. HOW TO BE A CHILD OF GOD AND BE A PARTAKER OF THE RESURRECTION UNTO LIFE.

I Corinthians 15:45 And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit.

I Corinthians 15:46 Howbeit that was not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterward that which is spiritual.

I Corinthians 15:47 The first man is of the earth, earthy: the second man is the Lord from heaven.

I Corinthians 15:48 As is the earthy, such are they also that are earthy: and as is the heavenly, such are they also that are heavenly.

1. We must be born again by being followers and believers of Jesus Christ.

I Corinthians 15:49 And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly.

2. *Our present life is corruptible and susceptible to death and therefore in our present state we cannot inherit the kingdom of God we must hope for the resurrection of the dead and reckon ourselves to be dead to sin.*

I Corinthians 15:50 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption.

I Corinthians 15:51 Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,

I Corinthians 15:52 In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

I Corinthians 15:53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.

I Corinthians 15:54 So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.

I Corinthians 15:55 O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?

I Corinthians 15:56 The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law.

I Corinthians 15:57 But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

IV. *HOW WE SHOULD LIVE IN LIGHT OF OUR FAITH IN THE RESURRECTION OF THE DEAD:*

I Corinthians 15:58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

1. *WE SHOULD BE STEADFAST IN THE WORK OF THE LORD.*

Stedfast means settled, stationary.

When it comes to serving Christ we need to not be wondering in our desires and ambitions.

We should have our feet firmly planted in that work.

2. *WE SHOULD UNMOVEABLE IN THE WORK OF THE LORD.*

THE CONCEPT OF BEING UNMOVABLE MEANS TO REMAIN IN THE SAME PLACE. DON'T QUIT, DON'T MOVE OFF TO SOME OTHER VENTURE, ETC.

3. *WE SHOULD ABOUND IN THE WORK OF THE LORD.*

To abound is to excel, to give it your all.

If your hope is in the resurrection than we should invest for in that hope. We should should busy ourselves in the work of God.

How sad it is that we who know these things to be true, are not abounding in the work of the Lord.

WILL YOU ABOUND IN HIS WORK?

THIS IS THE LOGICAL CONCLUSION TO OUR FAITH IN THE RESURRECTION.

WHAT WORK ARE YOU DOING FOR THE LORD?

ARE YOU BEING STEADFAST, UNMOVABLE?

ARE YOU ABOUNDING IN THAT WORK?