

BIBLE LIFE MESSAGES

Why is the Resurrection Important?

I Corinthians 15:35-57

1 I didn't come from a Christian family. When dad was stationed overseas my mom took me to church worship and Bible School occasionally so I knew Easter was more than bunnies and colored eggs. I didn't have much of an understanding of what a resurrection was but I was taught that it happened to Jesus and that's what made Him special.

The resurrection is important, not only because of what happened to Lord Jesus but what it can mean to you. Let's see what the Bible says about it in First Corinthians, Chapter 15, verses 35 through 57. 2

But someone may ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body will they come?" How foolish! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. When you sow, you do not plant the body that will be, but just a seed, perhaps of wheat or of something else. But God gives it a body as he has determined, and to each kind of seed he gives its own body. All flesh is not the same: Men have one kind of flesh,

animals have another, birds another and fish another.

¹ 3

There are also heavenly bodies and there are earthly bodies; but the splendor of the heavenly bodies is one kind, and the splendor of the earthly bodies is another. The sun has one kind of splendor, the moon another and the stars another; and star differs from star in splendor. ² 4

So will it be with the resurrection of the dead. The body that is sown is perishable, it is raised imperishable; it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body. So it is written: “The first man Adam became a living being”; the last Adam, a life-giving spirit. ³ 5

The spiritual did not come first, but the natural, and after that the spiritual. The first man was of the dust of

¹ v35-39.

² v40-41.

³ v42-45.

the earth, the second man from heaven. As was the earthly man, so are those who are of the earth; and as is the man from heaven, so also are those who are of heaven. And just as we have borne the likeness of the earthly man, so shall we bear the likeness of the man from heaven. ⁴ ₆

I declare to you, brothers, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed — in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality. ⁵ ₇

When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: “Death has been swallowed up in victory.” “Where, O death, is

⁴ v46-49.

⁵ v50-53.

your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?” The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁶

Easter is the celebration of the Lord's victory over death! So, why is it so important? ⁸

First, it's important . . .

I. Because It Confirms that Jesus is Who He Claimed to Be

Because it confirms that Jesus is Who He claimed to be. ⁹

**There were other resurrections in the Bible. In the Old Testament the prophet Elijah raised the widow's son, ⁷
¹⁰ Elisha, Elijah's assistant, raised the Shunammite's**

⁶ v54-57.

⁷ I Kings 17:21-22 - Then he stretched himself out on the boy three times and cried to the LORD, “O LORD my God, let this boy’s life return to him!” The LORD heard Elijah’s cry, and the boy’s life returned to him, and he lived.

son ⁸ ₁₁ and a dead man was resurrected when his corpse touched Elijah's bones ⁹ ₁₂.

In the New Testament we find the apostles raising the dead. ¹³ The Apostle Peter raised Dorcas ¹⁰ and the ₁₄ Apostle Paul raised Eutychus ¹¹.

Lord Jesus raised two others before He raised Himself on Easter Sunday. ¹⁵ He raised Jairus's daughter ¹² and ₁₆ the widow of Nain's son ¹³. ₁₇

⁸ II Kings 4:32-35 - When Elisha reached the house, there was the boy lying dead on his couch. He went in, shut the door on the two of them and prayed to the LORD. Then he got on the bed and lay upon the boy, mouth to mouth, eyes to eyes, hands to hands. As he stretched himself out upon him, the boy's body grew warm. Elisha turned away and walked back and forth in the room and then got on the bed and stretched out upon him once more. The boy sneezed seven times and opened his eyes.

⁹ II Kings 13:20-21 - Now Moabite raiders used to enter the country every spring. Once while some Israelites were burying a man, suddenly they saw a band of raiders; so they threw the man's body into Elisha's tomb. When the body touched Elisha's bones, the man came to life and stood up on his feet.

¹⁰ Acts 9:40 - Peter sent them all out of the room; then he got down on his knees and prayed. Turning toward the dead woman, he said, "Tabitha, get up." She opened her eyes, and seeing Peter she sat up.

¹¹ Acts 20:9-10 - Seated in a window was a young man named Eutychus, who was sinking into a deep sleep as Paul talked on and on. When he was sound asleep, he fell to the ground from the third story and was picked up dead. Paul went down, threw himself on the young man and put his arms around him. "Don't be alarmed," he said. "He's alive!"

So, what makes the Lord's resurrection so different?

¹⁸ First, all these people died again. ¹⁹

Second, only Lord Jesus had the power to raise Himself never to die again. ²⁰

Third, Lord Jesus claimed to be God in flesh. The resurrection proved that claim. Only God could do this! ²¹

The second reason the resurrection of the Lord is important is . . .

¹² Mark 5:41-42 - After he put them all out, he took the child's father and mother and the disciples who were with him, and went in where the child was. He took her by the hand and said to her, "Talitha koum!" (which means, "Little girl, I say to you, get up!"). Immediately the girl stood up and walked around.

¹³ Luke 7:12-15 - As he approached the town gate, a dead person was being carried out — the only son of his mother, and she was a widow. And a large crowd from the town was with her. When the Lord saw her, his heart went out to her and he said, "Don't cry." Then he went up and touched the coffin, and those carrying it stood still. He said, "Young man, I say to you, get up!" The dead man sat up and began to talk, and Jesus gave him back to his mother.

II. Because It Enables You to Have a New Spiritual Body to Live In Forever! - v35-57

Because it enables you to have a new spiritual body to live in forever! ²²

This new body will be far superior to the one you have now! ²³

Verses 35 through 47 contrast the differences between the earthly body and the resurrection body. ²⁴

In verse 37 ¹⁴ the earthly body is like a seed, small and ugly; but the resurrection body is like the resulting plant, big and beautiful. ²⁵

In verse 41 ¹⁵ the earthly body is like the moon and stars, dim in brightness; but the resurrection body is like the sun, brilliant! ²⁶

¹⁴ v37 - When you sow, you do not plant the body that will be, but just a seed, perhaps of wheat or of something else.

¹⁵ v41 - The sun has one kind of splendor, the moon another and the stars another; and star differs from star in splendor.

In verse 42 ¹⁶ the earthly body is perishable, it wears out and dies; but the spiritual body is imperishable. It will last forever! ²⁷

In verse 43 ¹⁷ the earthly body is planted in dishonor but the spiritual body is raised in glory. ²⁸

Also in verse 43 ¹⁸ the earthly body is sown in weakness but the spiritual body is raised in power. ²⁹

In verse 44 ¹⁹ the earthly body is natural (material) but the spiritual body is spiritual (like the air). ³⁰

In verse 45 ²⁰ the first Adam was a living being, literally "life being", but the second Adam (Lord Jesus) is life giving. ³¹

¹⁶ v42 - So will it be with the resurrection of the dead. The body that is sown is perishable, it is raised imperishable.

¹⁷ v43 - it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory . . .

¹⁸ v43 - it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power.

¹⁹ v44 - it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body.

²⁰ v45 - So it is written: "The first man Adam became a living being"; the last Adam, a life-giving spirit.

In verse 47 ²¹ the first man was of the dust of the earth but the second man (again, Lord Jesus) is of heaven!

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According to verses 50 through 54 you can't exist in heaven with the body you have now! ³³ When the trumpet of God sounds at the end of time, we will all be changed instantly. The dead will, at that time, also be brought to life and changed. ³⁴ Then, we will be able to live forever! ²² ³⁵

For us, as Christians, the temporary becomes the permanent! You've heard "Nothing's for sure except death and taxes." Not anymore! According to verse 26, **The last enemy to be destroyed is death!** ³⁶

The resurrection gives a new definition to death. It's no longer the end of life. It's a launching pad into the kingdom of God! It's simply a transition.

²¹ v47 - The first man was of the dust of the earth, the second man from heaven.

²² v53-54 - For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality. When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: "Death has been swallowed up in victory."

I am reminded of the television series a few years ago, "Touched by an Angel". Whenever the death of a godly person occurred, John Dye ("Andrew"), this kind Mississippi gentleman, would enter the room in his white suite. He would take the hand of the deceased, raise him from his death bed, escort him into a brilliant light and then disappear together. What a beautiful rendition of what happens at the death of a child of God! ³⁷

Why is the resurrection important? It gives hope to an otherwise short, dismal existence. **If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are to be pitied more than all men.** ²³

Why is the resurrection important? Because Lord Jesus is alive today, you have the hope of living forever in a glorious resurrection body!

<http://biblelifemessages.org/>

²³ I Corinthians 15:19.