

Message #69

I Corinthians 15:35-49

In Biblical theology, the real “Field of Dreams” is not a baseball field; it is a cemetery.

THE RESURRECTION OF A BELIEVER’S DEAD BODY IS A GUARANTEE OF GOD WHICH CAN BE UNDERSTOOD BY VARIOUS ILLUSTRATIONS FROM THIS WORLD AND THOSE WHO DENY IT ARE FOOLS.

Verse 35 makes it clear that those who doubted the resurrection were doing so on the basis of questions they could not figure out. It is very foolish to deny something just because you don’t understand it; in fact, Paul calls such people “fools” (**15:36**), which means in his mind they lacked mental sanity.

CONCEPT #1 – The resurrection and transformation of a body can be seen in the botany world.
15:36-37

Point #1 - The death of one thing is needed before there is life in another thing. **15:36**

In the planting of a seed, the seed must be put into the ground and die before it produces life.

Point #2 - The body that goes into the ground is not the same that comes out of the ground.
15:37

What comes out of the ground does not in any way resemble what went into the ground.

The botany world clearly illustrates how the resurrection works:

- 1) First, there must be a death before there can be life.
- 2) Second, what comes out of the ground will be totally different than what went into the ground.

CONCEPT #2 – The body that will come out of the ground will be one given by God. **15:38**

You and I inherited our present bodies from our earthly parents. One who has trusted Christ will get a new resurrected body from his heavenly Father.

To deny the resurrection is to deny a promised work of God.

CONCEPT #3 – There are differences and distinctions between earthly bodies and heavenly bodies. **15:39-41**

Verse 39 makes it clear that there are different types of earthly bodies all designed by God, all distinct in their class.

Verses 40-41 make it clear that there are not only differences in earthly bodies (terrestrial differences), but there are also differences in heavenly bodies (celestial differences).

God has obviously created a variety of body types which are fitted for various locations and existences. Some bodies are fitted for earth and some for heaven.

CONCEPT #4 – There are differences and distinctions between buried bodies and resurrected bodies. **15:42-44**

Difference #1 - The buried body is a decaying body, the resurrected body will be a non-decaying body. **15:42**

The word “perishable” is one that means subject to decay (G. Abbott-Smith, *Greek Lexicon*, p. 469).

The new resurrected body will not be subject to decay or deterioration. It will have a permanency that will never be touched by anything destructive.

Difference #2 - The buried body is a dishonorable body, the resurrected body will be a glorious body. **15:43a**

The antithesis of dishonor is honor, which means to highly value something to the point of esteeming it as something of great worth. Dead bodies are not highly valued or esteemed.

When the body is raised, it will be glorious. The word “glory” speaks of a bright body of shining splendor that reflects the glory of God.

Difference #3 - The buried body is a weak body, the resurrected body will be a powerful body. **15:43b**

The word “weak” means the dead body is totally without strength.

Difference #4 - The buried body is a natural body, the resurrected body will be a spiritual body. **15:44**

The terms “natural” and “spiritual” refer to an earthly, sinful body as opposed to a heavenly, spiritual body. The way a person gets a natural body is through natural birth. The way a person will get a new spiritual body, which glorifies God, is through spiritual birth.

CONCEPT #5 – There are differences and distinctions between the first life and the second life. **15:45-49**

Contrast #1 - The first Adam gave natural life, the second Adam gives spiritual life. **15:45**

We received our natural life from Adam, we get our spiritual life from Jesus.

Contrast #2 - Our first birth gives natural life, a second birth gives spiritual life. **15:46**

The first type of life that any of us received was a natural, physical life. We were born physically through a natural process that began with Adam. However, it is the second birth, the spiritual birth that gives us spiritual life.

Contrast #3 - The first body was made out of the earth, the second body will be made out of heaven. **15:47**

I am not certain as to the full meaning of this other than the new body will be heavenly designed, not earthly designed. It will be a body fitted for heaven and for eternity.

Contrast #4 - Bodies made out of the earth are for the earth, bodies made out of heaven are for heaven. **15:48**

They will not be subject to anything negative.

Contrast #5 - The first body bore the image of the earth, the second body will bear the image of Jesus Christ. **15:49**

What will our body be like?

- 1) It will be recognizable –bears some resemblance to our original–John 20:15-16.
- 2) It will be tangible –capable of eating and drinking–Luke 24:36-43.
- 3) It will be supernatural –not confined or limited to space or matter–John 20:19.

If Christ does not return soon, every one of us will die. The question is will we be raised to everlasting life? Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved and you will be raised to everlasting life.