

THE OLD BODY VERSES THE NEW BODY

TEXT: I Corinthians 15:35-49

In the passage before us Paul continues talking about the resurrection of the believer's body and he specifically talks about the new body that believers will have.

Paul writes in **II Corinthians 5:1**, "**For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.**"

The house that he is speaking of is our new body. He writes in **verse 2**, "**For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is from heaven.**" All of us long for more than the kind of body we now possess and the life in this body. This body has its limitations pain, sickness, and disease. We all long for a body in which such things no longer exist. Paul declares, "**For we know!**" Praise God we have the promise that one day we will have new bodies.

We read in **verse 35**, "**But some man will say, How are the dead raised up? and with what body do they come?**"

Paul anticipates some of the questions that some of the doubters and skeptics might ask. The two questions are:

(1) How are the dead raised up or how can the dead be raised?

(2) With what body do they come or what kind of body will they have?

Paul compares the new body (the body we will get at the resurrection) with our old body (the body we presently live in).

I. THE NEW BODY WILL REPLACE THE OLD BODY!

Paul begins **verse 36 by saying, "Thou fool."** The word "**fool**" was used of one who lacked understanding. It is a word that means, "without mind."

A. THE CEASING OF LIFE.

In verse 36 Paul reminds us that at some point, life as we know it in this body, will cease to exist. We read, "**Thou fool, that which thou sowest is not quickened, except it die.**"

Simply stated, before there can be a resurrection of the body there must be the death of the body.

The word "**die**" literally means to "die off." Somewhere, sometime, someday, and somehow we all die off.

Hebrews 9:27 And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:

Again, somewhere, sometime, someday, and somehow we will die.

A. THE CEASING OF LIFE.

B. THE CONTINUANCE OF LIFE.

The analogy that Paul uses in **verse 36** is that of a seed planted in the ground. That seed when planted actually dies or goes through a process of decomposition. In the same fashion, our bodies die, are buried, and go through a process of decomposition. But even though the body dies life does not end.

The word "dead" in verse 35, found in the question, **"How are the dead raised up,"** does not speak of someone that has ceased to exist. **They are not living in this life as you and I are living, but they continue to live.**

They live, but live in different conditions than we do on earth.

When they died, they did not cease to exist. They only ceased to exist in their body. Their soul lives on in the presence of the Lord.

It is the soul of our loved ones that is in heaven at the present.

However, Paul tells us that one day, at the resurrection, they will once again indwell their bodies. Notice the word "quicken" in verse 36. The word means "to make alive, or to be made alive."

But in verse 37 Paul tells that it will be a different kind of body. The old body will be replaced with a new body. We read, "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." We read in verse 38, "But God giveth it a body as it hath pleased him, and to every seed his own body." This new body will be a gift of God, a body that He has planned and will give to every believer at the resurrection. Just as each individual, single seed will produce its own plant;

I. THE NEW BODY WILL REPLACE THE OLD BODY!

II. THE NEW BODY WILL RESEMBLE THE OLD BODY!

Even though the new body will totally different, it will still retain certain features from the old body.

A. THE NEW BODY WILL RETAIN INDIVIDUALITY.

In verse 39 Paul speaks of the different kinds of bodies that all living creatures possess. We read, **"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."**

It is the distinction and differences of these bodies that give all living creatures individuality. We see a horse and we know it is a horse because of its body. We see a giraffe and we know it is a giraffe because of its body. We see a man or a woman and we know it is a man or woman by their body (in most cases).

The new body we will have will retain its individuality. We are not going to be angels or some other heavenly creature.

A. THE NEW BODY WILL RETAIN INDIVIDUALITY

B. THE NEW BODY WILL RETAIN ITS IDENTITY. We read in **verses 40-41**, **"There are also celestial bodies, and bodies terrestrial: but the glory of the celestial is one, and the glory of the terrestrial is another. [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."**

He says in the first part of **verse 40**, "**There are celestial bodies (heavenly bodies; sun, moon, stars, etc.) and bodies terrestrial (earthly bodies; men, animals, plants. etc.)**." He further adds that each have their own glory (beauty).

People often ask, "Will we know each other in heaven?" The answer is yes. The people that are in heaven have not lost their identity and when we get our new bodies those bodies will still retain their human identity.

Paul said in **I Corinthians 13: 12**, "**then shall I know even as also I am known.**"

Philippians 3:21, "**Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.**" After our Lord was raised from the dead He appeared in His glorified body.

When people saw Him they recognized Him and knew Him. His glorified body still retained its human individuality and identity.

I. THE NEW BODY WILL REPLACE THE OLD BODY!

II. THE NEW BODY WILL RESEMBLE THE OLD BODY!

III. THE NEW BODY WILL REPAIR THE OLD BODY!

A. WHAT WE WILL PUT OFF IN THE NEW BODY.

Beginning in verse 42 Paul lists several things about the new body that will be different from our old body. We read in verse **42, "So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption." He tells us that the body is "sown in corruption." The word "corruption" is a word that describes decomposition.**

A process of decomposition starts from time they come into being and goes on until we die. These bodies began a process of wearing out and breaking down.

But Paul tells us these bodies will be raised in "incorruption," a word that means, **"incapable of deterioration."** Our new body will never break down, wear out, and deteriorate.

As the years pass, our **eyesight** breaks down and we have to wear glasses. Our **hearing** fades and we have to wear hearing aids. Our **teeth** rot and we have to wear dentures and have our teeth capped. Our **muscles** that used to stand up now hang down. But things will be different in our new body. It will be raised in incorruption.

Notice verse 43, "It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory..." The word "dishonour" is a word that indicates the present sphere in which our body now exists. This world we live in is in a fallen state and the evidence is all around us. The daily newspapers remind us that this we live in a fallen state.

We also read in verse 43 that "it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power." The word "weakness" means "without strength." The word also carried the ideal of sickness.

Praise God our new bodies will be never grow weak. They will be immune from all sickness and disease. No more colds, flu, cancer, heart attacks, or strokes.

We read in verse 44, "It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body."

Paul sums it all up by saying that our present bodies are **natural subject to corruption, dishonor, and weakness.** But our new bodies will be spiritual, immune to all that our natural bodies have known. All that we known in this body will be put off and we will live in a body that is immune to such things.

A. WHAT WE WILL PUT OFF IN THE NEW BODY.

B. WHAT WE WILL PUT ON IN THE NEW BODY.

We read in verses 45-48, "And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit. [46] Howbeit that was not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterward that which is spiritual. [47] The first man is of the earth, earthy: the second man is the Lord from heaven. [48] As is the earthy, such are they also that are earthy: and as is the heavenly, such are they also that are heavenly.

"The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit."

Adam, the first man that ever lived was given life by God. His body was natural (**Vs.46**) and created of the earth (**Vs.47**), thus a body subject to death. But on the other hand, the Last Adam, the Lord Jesus, Jesus, by His resurrection from the dead imparts life (**Vs.45**) having received a spiritual body (**Vs.46**) and declared the Lord of heaven (**Vs.47**).

We look back to Adam to the earthly origin of our bodies but we look to Christ for the origin of our heavenly bodies. We have lived in a body that earthly but we will live in a body that is heavenly. What will be the ultimate expression of that new body? **READ VRS.49**