

1 CORINTHIANS

SEEING EVERY PART OF LIFE THROUGH THE GOSPEL

15 August 2021

Chapter 15:35-58

Verse of the Day:

*Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven.
(1 Corinthians 15:49)*

Review: Who, What, When, Where, Why?

What's Going On Here?

In two sections (1 Corinthians 15:12-19, 29-34), [Paul] dwells on absurdities that follow from denial of the resurrection of the dead. He bases belief in the resurrection on Christ's conquest of death as proclaimed by His resurrection and exaltation. He anticipates and answers the questions of how the dead are raised and with what kind of bodies. After a revelation-supported, declaration of faith in the Christian's victory over death, he urges the Corinthians to maintain a steadfast, fruitful, and hopeful faith.¹

The Resurrection Body

³⁵ But someone will ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?" ³⁶ You foolish person! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies.

³⁷ And what you sow is not the body that is to be, but a bare kernel, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain.

³⁸ But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body.

³⁹ For not all flesh is the same, but there is one kind for humans, another for animals, another for birds, and another for fish.

⁴⁰ There are heavenly bodies and earthly bodies, but the glory of the heavenly is of one kind, and the glory of the earthly is of another. ⁴¹ There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for star differs from star in glory.

⁴² So is it with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable; what is raised is imperishable.

⁴³ It is sown in dishonor; it is raised in glory.

It is sown in weakness; it is raised in power.

⁴⁴ It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body.

If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body.

⁴⁵ Thus it is written, "The first man Adam became a living being"; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. ⁴⁶ But it is not the spiritual that is first but the natural, and then the spiritual. ⁴⁷ The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. ⁴⁸ As was the man of

v36: c.f. John 12:23-24

What three comparisons does Paul use to illustrate our resurrected bodies?

What additional insights do v53-54 give us when trying to understand v42-49?

v42-49: resurrected body → c.f. 1 John 3:1-2 & Luke 24:36-43; Philippians 3:20-21; 2 Corinthians 5:1-4

v45: c.f. John 3:3-12

¹ Engfehr, Lois M. (1997). *God's Word for Today: 1 Corinthians* (p. 68). St. Louis: Concordia Pub. House. Reproducible by purchaser only. © 2009 Concordia Publishing House.

<p>dust, so also are those who are of the dust, and as is the man of heaven, so also are those who are of heaven. ⁴⁹ Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven.</p> <p>Mystery and Victory</p> <p>⁵⁰ I tell you this, brothers: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. ⁵¹ Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, ⁵² in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. ⁵³ For <u>this</u> perishable body must put on the imperishable, and <u>this</u> mortal body must put on immortality. ⁵⁴ When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">“<u>Death</u> is swallowed up in victory.”</p> <p>⁵⁵ “O <u>death</u>, where is your victory? O <u>death</u>, where is your sting?”</p> <p>⁵⁶ The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. ⁵⁷ But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.</p> <p>⁵⁸ Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.</p>	<p>v48: original sin vs Christ’s righteousness</p> <p>Can you “earn” an inheritance? How do you receive an inheritance? Who is the active agent?</p> <p>v51-52: c.f. 1 Thessalonians 4:13–18</p> <p>v55: <i>thanatos</i></p> <p>How does Paul’s discussion show the folly of setting all our hopes and dreams on this earthly life?</p>
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Luther: “We, however, know that later and at the proper time the body, weak and devoid of all strength and power though it may now be when it lies in the grave, will be so strong that with one finger it will be able to carry this church, with one toe it will be able to move a tower and play with a mountain as children play with a ball. And in the twinkling of an eye it will be able to leap to the clouds or traverse a hundred miles. For then the body will be sheer strength, as it is now sheer feebleness and weakness. Nothing that it decides to do will be impossible for it. It will be able to defeat the whole world alone. It will become so light and nimble that it will soar both down here on earth and up above in the heavens in a moment.”²

² Luther, M. (1999). *Luther’s works, vol. 28: 1 Corinthians 7, 1 Corinthians 15, Lectures on 1 Timothy*. (J. J. Pelikan, H. C. Oswald, & H. T. Lehmann, Eds.) (Vol. 28, p. 188). Saint Louis: Concordia Publishing House.