

## YOUR NEW BODY IS ALREADY ON ORDER

### I. 1 Corinthians 15:35-58

A. The news broke this past week that a half million people have died from COVID in the United States. 2.5 million worldwide. As tragic as that is, 151,600 people die each daily around the world from something. That's 55.3 million deaths per year! The curse of death, brought on by the first Adam's sin, exists due to mankind's rebellion against God. But the Second Adam brings life. His name is Jesus!

B. 1 Corinthians 15:35-58 (ESV) are 24 powerful verses from the Resurrection Chapter, verses that will change your whole perspective on death and the life thereafter. These words should dispel the notion that when you die you become either ghostlike or a harp-playing naked baby angel in some celestial cloud-sphere way out there. These verses tell us that the dead will rise, like Jesus did, and those who belong to Him will spend eternity with Him, feet on solid ground, in the New Heaven & New Earth. Like Paul wrote in V19 of this same chapter: *"If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied."* As Mr. T of the A-Team might've put it: ***"I pity the fool that don't believe in resurrection!"***

C. So let's explore the promise of resurrection life in bodies meant to last forever.

1) **V35-38: 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.* **(Growing up we always had gardens. We'd plant little yellow kernels of corn in the soil. What grew from each kernel was a stock of corn, on which sprouted many ears of corn, each bearing hundreds of kernels. He who has ears (of corn) let him hear!)**

2) **V39-41: 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. **(The most superb human/earthly bodies won't even hold a candle to our resurrected bodies in terms of appearance and function and capabilities. Despite the visible resemblances, what the scholars refer to as *continuity*, our resurrected bodies will not only be far superior, they'll last forever!)**

3) **V42-44: (These verses I read at every graveside service.) 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.* **(Spiritual bodies will have substance. They'll be incorruptible, decay-free, and eternal. Jesus' body on the cross bled. It was pierced, punctured, bruised, and spat upon. He suffocated in agony until His heart stopped and our sins were paid for! Jesus' resurrected body, which retained its scars for our benefit, consumed fish and walked through walls. He appeared and disappeared. Built fires on the beach and ascended off the ground into heaven. Your new bodies are already on order! They'll be totally amazing!)**

**4) V45-52: 45** Thus it is written, "The first man Adam became a living being"; the last Adam (**Christ Jesus**) 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 (**The Son of God**) is from heaven. **48** As was the man of 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. **(Hear that?!)** **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. **(When Jesus returns and the dead are raised, those living will also be transformed into glorified bodies. See also 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18...)**

**5) V53-57: 53** For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this 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 (cf. **Isaiah 25:8 & Hosea 13:14**): "Death is swallowed up in victory." **55** "O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?" **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. **(Victory: 2 Cor. 5:21; Our sin for His righteousness! He became a curse on a tree to kill the curse of sin and death!)**

**6) V58: 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.

**D. When the silver-haired gents gather for breakfast on Thursdays, sometimes the conversation turns to cars. Some remember the Model-T and Model-A Fords and other classic makes & models. I remember my 62 Ford Falcon! We grin and call them 'the good ole days' but cars these days really are far superior. They've got built-in computers that diagnose problems, climate control, communication devices, safety mechanisms, and exquisite sound systems. You may take a vintage model to a car show but you'll likely take your loaded SUV on your beach vacation or on a cross country venture...**

**E. But picture a vehicle that makes your current ride seem obsolete. A vehicle that's rust proof, crash proof, that can fly, surf across lakes, dive under the sea, or cruise the far reaches of space at warp speed. That might make your Escalade or Corvette or Mercedes seem as obsolete as a Studebaker. But what did V42-44 say? "So is it with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable; what is raised is 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." And what about V49? "Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the Man of heaven." **(Did I mention your new body is already on order?!)****

**F. So Let's go home with the red letters of Jesus, found in John 5:28-29 (ESV) **28** Do not marvel at this, for an hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear His voice **29** and come out, those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to the resurrection of judgment.**

**\* Close with Prayer...**

## Scriptures, Videos, & Bonus Stuff

### 1 Corinthians 15:35-58 (ESV)

**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 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. **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 this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this 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: "Death is swallowed up in victory." **55** "O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?" **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. **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.

### John 5:28-29 (ESV)

**28** Do not marvel at this, for an hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear His voice **29** and come out, those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to the resurrection of judgment.

## Bonus Rations for Further Nourishment

What Does the Resurrection Mean for Us? - D.A. Carson - The Gospel Coalition  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jD79HP6av8Q>

**What Will Our Resurrection Bodies Be Like? - Randy Alcorn**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l3e9UHypwZc>

**What A World Ours Will Be - Article by John Piper**  
<https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/what-a-world-ours-will-be>

**Why is the Resurrection of Jesus Christ Important? - Got Questions Ministries**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bbsfqB5ngvc>

**The Resurrection of Believers - John MacArthur (Full Sermon)**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fnn0rtxRfdI>

**The Resurrection of the Dead - Charles H. Spurgeon (Sermon Preached on 2/17/1856)**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p7GCNkDfqVE>

**What is Hell? - R.C. Sproul**  
<https://www.ligonier.org/blog/hell/>

**Small Churches - Ken Davis + "Little is Much When God is In It" Song by Marshall Hall**  
<https://www.thoughtsfromanarenot.com/thoughts/small-churches>

### **[Isaiah 25:7-8 \(AMP\)](#)**

**7** And on this mountain He will destroy the covering that is [cast] over all peoples, and the veil [of death] that is woven and spread over all the nations. **8** He will swallow up death [and abolish it] for all time. And the Lord God will wipe away tears from all faces, and He will take away the disgrace of His people from all the earth; For the LORD has spoken.

### **[Hosea 13:14 \(NKJV\)](#)**

**14** "I will ransom them from the power of the grave; I will redeem them from death. O Death, I will be your plagues! O Grave, I will be your destruction! Pity is hidden from My eyes."

### **[John 5:24-29 \(NASB\)](#)**

**24** "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life. **25** Truly, truly, I say to you, an hour is coming and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. **26** For just as the Father has life in Himself, even so He gave to the Son also to have life in Himself; **27** and He gave Him authority to execute judgment, because He is the Son of Man. **28** Do not marvel at this; for an hour is coming, in which all who are in the tombs will hear His voice, **29** and will come forth; those who did the good deeds to a resurrection of life, those who committed the evil deeds to a resurrection of judgment.

### **[John 11:23-27 \(ESV\)](#)**

**23** Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” **24** Martha said to Him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.” **25** Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in Me, though he die, yet shall he live, **26** and everyone who lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?” **27** She said to Him, “Yes, Lord; I believe that You are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world.”

### **John 12:23-24 (ESV)**

**23** And Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. **24** Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.

### **1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 (NIV)**

**13** Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope. **14** For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in Him. **15** According to the Lord’s word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. **16** For the Lord Himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. **17** After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. **18** Therefore encourage one another with these words.

### **1 Peter 1:3-5 (NIV)**

**3** Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In His great mercy He has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, **4** and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, **5** who through faith are shielded by God’s power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.

### **1 Corinthians 6:14 (ESV)**

**14** And God raised the Lord and will also raise us up by His power.

### **1 Corinthians 15:12-19 (ESV)**

**12** Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? **13** But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. **14** And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain. **15** We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified about God that He raised Christ, whom He did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. **16** For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised. **17** And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. **18** Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. **19** If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied.

### **1 Corinthians 15:20-26 (NLT)**

**20** But in fact, Christ has been raised from the dead. He is the first of a great harvest of all who have died. **21** So you see, just as death came into the world through a man, now the resurrection from the dead has begun through another Man. **22** Just as everyone dies because we all belong to Adam, everyone who belongs to Christ will be given new life. **23** But there is an order to this resurrection: Christ was raised as the first of the harvest; then all who belong to Christ will be raised when He comes back. **24** After that the end will come, when He will turn the Kingdom over to God the Father, having destroyed every ruler and authority and power. **25** For Christ must reign until He humbles all His enemies beneath His feet. **26** And the last enemy to be destroyed is death.

### **Hebrews 9:27-28 (NIV)**

**27** Just as man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment, **28** so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many people; and He will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for Him.

### **Of the State of Men after Death and of the Resurrection of the Dead**

- The Westminster Confession of Faith

[http://www.covenantofgrace.com/westminster\\_chapter32.htm](http://www.covenantofgrace.com/westminster_chapter32.htm)

I. "The bodies of men, after death, return to dust, and see corruption: but their souls, which neither die nor sleep, having an immortal subsistence, immediately return to God who gave them: the souls of the righteous, being then made perfect in holiness, are received into the highest heavens, where they behold the face of God, in light and glory, waiting for the full redemption of their bodies. And the souls of the wicked are cast into hell, where they remain in torments and utter darkness, reserved to the judgment of the great day. Beside these two places, for souls separated from their bodies, the Scripture acknowledges none."

II. "At the last day, such as are found alive shall not die, but be changed: and all the dead shall be raised up, with the self-same bodies, and none other, although with different qualities, which shall be united again to their souls for ever."

III. "The bodies of the unjust shall, by the power of Christ, be raised to dishonour; the bodies of the just, by His Spirit, unto honour, and be made conformable to His own glorious body."

- The Westminster Confession, (Chapter XXXII), 1646.

### **Quote by C.S. Lewis**

"The New Testament writers speak as if Christ's achievement in rising from the dead was the first event of its kind in the whole history of the universe. He is the 'first fruits,' the 'pioneer of life,' He has forced open a door that has been locked since the death of

the first man. He has met, fought, and beaten the King of Death. Everything is different because He has done so."

### **Quote by D.L. Moody**

"The resurrection is the keystone of the arch on which our faith is supported. If Christ has not risen, we must impeach all those witnesses for lying. If Christ has not risen, we have no proof that the crucifixion of Jesus differed from that of the two thieves who suffered with Him. If Christ has not risen, it is impossible to believe His atoning death was accepted."

### **Quote by Billy Graham**

"Death has two stages, first the separation of the body from the spirit...for a purely spiritual existence, and second, reunion with the body and a glorious resurrection at the Second Coming of Christ."

### **Article Excerpt by John Piper**

"What is a spiritual body? We must be careful not to think of something ethereal or ghostlike. Paul said Christ would make our resurrection body like his own: *"[He] will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to Himself"* ([Philippians 3:21](#)). The risen Christ was not a ghost. He appeared to his disciples and said, *"See my hands and my feet, that it is I Myself. Touch me, and see. For a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have"* ([Luke 24:39](#)). Then He ate a piece of fish to put it beyond doubt: a spiritual body is not a spirit ([Luke 24:42–43](#)). Rather, a spiritual body is a body recreated in a form beyond our comprehension and experience. It is spiritual at least in the sense that it is now--not partially, but wholly--fitted for the indwelling of the Spirit of God. It now has Spirit-given capacities that it never had. How else could we look upon one another without being blinded, when each of us is shining like the sun ([Matthew 13:43](#))?"

- John Piper, Article titled, *"What A World Ours Will Be"* published February 26, 2021.

### **Quote by Josh McDowell**

"No matter how devastating our struggles, disappointments, and troubles are, they are only temporary. No matter what happens to you, no matter the depth of tragedy or pain you face, no matter how death stalks you and your loved ones, the Resurrection promises you a future of immeasurable good."

### **Quote by J.I. Packer**

"Optimism is a wish without warrant; Christian hope is a certainty, guaranteed by God himself. Optimism reflects ignorance as to whether good things will ever actually come. Christian hope expresses knowledge that every day of his life, and every moment beyond it, the believer can say with truth, on the basis of God's own commitment, that the best is yet to come."

### **Quote by Tim Keller**

"When we look at the whole scope of this story line, we see clearly that Christianity is not only about getting one's individual sins forgiven so we can go to heaven. That is an

important means of God's salvation, but not the final end or purpose of it. The purpose of Jesus' coming is to put the whole world right, to renew and restore the creation, not to escape it. It is not just to bring personal forgiveness and peace, but also justice and shalom to the world. God created both the body and soul, and the resurrection of Jesus shows that He is going to redeem both body and soul. The work of the Spirit of God is not only to save souls but also to care and cultivate the face of the earth, the material world."

### **Quote by Randy Alcorn**

"He who lays up treasures on earth spends his life backing away from his treasures. To him, death is loss. He who lays up treasures in heaven looks forward to eternity; he's moving daily toward his treasures. To him, death is gain. He who spends his life moving toward his treasures has reason to rejoice. Are you despairing or rejoicing?"

### **Quote by D.L. Moody**

"As I go into a cemetery I like to think of the time when the dead shall rise from their graves... Thank God, our friends are not buried; they are only sown!"

### **Last Words of Dying Believers**

Martin Luther: *"Our God is the God from whom cometh salvation--God is the Lord by whom we escape death."*

John Calvin: *"I am abundantly satisfied, since it is from Thy hand."*

John Knox: *"Live in Christ, live in Christ, and the flesh need not fear death."*

John Wesley: *"The best of all is, God is with us. Farewell! Farewell!"*

Joan of Arc: *"Hold the cross high so I may see it through the flames!"*

Dietrich Bonhoeffer: *"No it's not."* (responding to a Nazi soldier who had just said, *"This must be the end, then."*)

### **Satan Does Not Hold the Keys of Death**

By R.C. Sproul

<http://www.ligonier.org/blog/satan-keys-death/>

We have different vocations with respect to the jobs and tasks God gives us in this life. But we all share in the vocation of death. Every one of us is called to die. That vocation is as much a calling from God as is a "call" to the ministry of Christ. Sometimes the call comes suddenly and without warning. Sometimes it comes with advance notification. But it comes to all of us. And it comes from God.

I am aware that there are teachers who tell us that God has nothing to do with death. Death is seen strictly as the fiendish device of the Devil. All pain, suffering, disease, and tragedy are blamed on the Evil One. God is absolved of any responsibility. This view is designed to make sure that God is free of blame for anything that goes wrong in this world. "God always wills healing," we are told. If that healing does not happen, then the



fault lies with Satan—Or with us. Death, they say, is not in the plan of God. It represents a victory for Satan over the realm of God.

Such views may bring temporary relief to the afflicted. But they are not true. They have nothing to do with biblical Christianity. They are intended to absolve God of any blame, but they contradict His sovereignty.

Yes, there is a Devil. He is our archenemy. He will do anything in his power to bring misery into our lives. But Satan is not sovereign. Satan does not hold the keys of death. When Jesus appeared in a vision to the apostle John on the Isle of Patmos, He identified Himself with these words: “Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last. I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forever-more. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death” (Rev. 1:17–18).

Jesus holds the keys to death, and Satan cannot snatch those keys out of His hand. Christ’s grip is firm. He holds the keys because He owns the keys. All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Him. That includes all authority over life and death. The angel of death is at His beck and call.

World history has witnessed the emergence of many forms of religious dualism. Dualism affirms the existence of two equal and opposite forces. These forces are variously called good and evil, God and Satan, Yin and Yang. The two forces are locked in eternal combat. Since they are equal as well as opposite, the conflict goes on forever, with neither side ever gaining the upper hand. The world is doomed to serve as the eternal battleground between these hostile forces. We are the victims of their struggle, the pawns in their eternal chess game.

Dualism is on a collision course with Christianity. The Christian faith has no stock in dualism. Satan may be opposed to God, but he is by no means equal to God. Satan is a creature; God is the Creator. Satan is potent; God is omnipotent. Satan is knowledgeable and crafty; God is omniscient. Satan is localized in his presence; God is omnipresent. Satan is finite; God is infinite. The list could go on. But it is clear from Scripture that Satan is not an ultimate force in any sense.

We are not doomed to an ultimate conflict with no hope of resolution. The message of Scripture is one of victory—full, final, and ultimate victory. It is not our doom that is certain, but Satan’s. His head has been crushed by the heel of Christ, who is the Alpha and Omega.

Above all suffering and death stands the crucified and risen Lord. He has defeated the ultimate enemy of life. He has vanquished the power of death. He calls us to die, a call to obedience in the final transition of life. Because of Christ, death is not final. It is a passage from one world to the next.

God does not always will healing. If He did, He would suffer endless frustration, seeing His will being repeatedly thwarted in the deaths of His people. He did not will the healing

of Stephen from the wounds inflicted by the stones that were hurled against him. He did not will the healing of Moses, of Joseph, of David, of Paul, of Augustine, of Martin Luther, of John Calvin. These all died in faith. Ultimate healing comes through death and after death.

Teachers argue that there is healing in the atonement of Christ. Indeed there is. Jesus bore all of our sins on the cross. Yet none of us is free from sin in this life. Likewise, none of us is free from sickness in this life. The healing that is in the cross is real. We participate in its benefits now, in this life. But the fullness of the healing from both sin and disease takes place in heaven. We still must die at our appointed times.

- Article by R.C. Sproul, August 24, 2014, Ligonier Ministries.