

Sermon Notes

The Resurrection Body July 24, 2016

Pastor Jeff Niell

Introduction

What happens when we die? More precisely, what happens after we die?

- Remember, there are some who “believe” that there is *nothing* after this life; that this life is all there is.
- There are others who think that what comes next is some kind of non-bodily, immaterial, “spiritual” only kind of existence.

The bodily resurrection opens the door to a number of questions, and there are two in front of us today (15:35). This is understandable. We, like those in Paul’s day, could say that we know what bodily existence is like, and we also know that death is an end – a stopping or cessation of bodily life, and yet, according to the bodily resurrection we are being told that bodies will rise up?

Constant Question & Current Craze

These questions come with the territory of our existence. They are woven into the warp and woof of our lives. They are of seemingly constant curiosity and are unavoidable. Wonder about this is expected, because death is expected. This is a question which is asked only of those who are alive; not one of us has been “on the other side.” In the absence of experience of life after death, answers are all over the map.

These all over the map answers are part of the current craze (which is not so current) fueling the literary and cinematic imagination.

Here are some examples:

Paul’s Answers

As Paul begins his explanation about the nature of our future resurrection bodies, he will be pointing to the observable and the obvious. As he does so, he will be pointing out the reality of a new world order, a new creation of sorts. Just like the example and the terminology of “sleep”, there will be things that are the same, and there will be things that are (quite) different.

15:36-38 – *Death is unto transformation; the living dies and changes*

15:39 – *There are different kinds of flesh; a variety in life*

15:40-41 – *There are degrees of glory; there’s an expectation of greater glory*

15:42 – Paul presents all of this in order to help us know something about the nature of our resurrection bodies: “So also is the resurrection from the dead”

15:42b-44 – the planting and harvest image is still being used (see also 15:20, 23)

15:42 – corruption to no corruption

15:43 – dishonor to glory

weakness to power

15:44 – natural (soulish) to spiritual

Culture With or Without Resurrection?

