

Blessed Hope Bible-Presbyterian Church
Adult Sunday School
13 October 2024
1 Corinthians 15:34-38

34 Awake to righteousness, and sin not; for some have not the knowledge of God: I speak *this* to your shame. **35** But some *man* will say, How are the dead raised up? and with what body do they come? **36** *Thou* fool, that which thou sowest is not quickened, except it die: **37** 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*: **38** But God giveth it a body as it hath pleased him, and to every seed his own body.

Awake to Righteousness

(1) Awake to Righteousness

34 Awake to righteousness, and sin not; for some have not the knowledge of God: I speak *this* to your shame.

The Apostle John said in **1 John 2:29** *If ye know that he is righteous, ye know that every one that doeth righteousness is born of him.* All that is truly born of God will be awakened to the filth of sin and seek earnestly to live holily.

He further wrote, **1 John 3:7-9** *Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous. He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil. Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.* We are commanded to examine our lives if we bear the fruit of righteousness or the shame of sin.

If God should mark iniquity, who shall be able to stand? But there is forgiveness with God through Jesus Christ His Son. May God's people who have taken hold of Christ and awakened to righteousness lived worthy of the sacrifice that wrought their salvation.

(2) How Are the Dead Raised Up?

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

There are two questions concerning the resurrection that he sought to answer, namely, How are the dead raised up? And with what body do they come?

It is needful that the believer understands the power of God unleashed in raising the dead up. He will seek to enlighten the believers concerning the resurrection of the dead at the rapture. This is a great mystery that he will unravel to show how the dead in Christ is but asleep and will be awakened when God will reconstruct for the dead in Christ a glorified body. Mind boggling truth!

Also, concerning the nature of the glorified body, he will seek to show us. This is great encouragement and comfort for believers whose loved ones have gone home to be with the Lord before time. It will bring indeed a consolation to the grieving that their parting is not permanent but temporary. A time of reunion will soon come!

Thank God for revealing to us the truth concerning the resurrection.

(3) Except It Die

36 *Thou* fool, that which thou sowest is not quickened, except it die:

To help explain the resurrection, the Apostle Paul uses the imagery of a seed that falls into the ground and dies before the plant springs forth.

William MacDonald observed, "It is wonderful indeed to think of the mystery of life that is hidden in every tiny seed. We may dissect the seed and study it under the microscope, but the secret of the life principle remains an unfathomable mystery. All we know is that the seed falls into the ground and from that unlikely beginning there springs forth life from the dead."

May the Holy Spirit brings to our understanding the mystery of the resurrection life that we take hold of the hope of the resurrection as a future reality for our present encouragement.

(4) Thou Sowest

37 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*:

The question that was asked earlier in verse 35, "And with what body do they come?", is answered here.

A plant begins its existence in the form of a little seed that is sown on the ground. And from it, a plant shoots up as the seed germinates. When there is no seed, there will be no plant. A natural state in God's created world. The plant derives its features from the seed.

Indeed, the resurrection body has identity of kind and continuity of substance with that which is sown, but it is purified from corruption, dishonour, and weakness, and made incorrupt, glorious, powerful, and spiritual. It is the same body, but it is sown in one form and raised in another. [William MacDonald] Praise God for the resurrection of the last day!

(5) To Every Seed His Own Body

38 But God giveth it a body as it hath pleased him, and to every seed his own body.

We cannot tell by looking at a seed the first time what the plant will look like and the fruit that the plant will bear. It is God, who by His wisdom, gave the plants and the herb yielding seeds, to be what it is. It is God, our blessed Creator, who does so, as the Apostle Paul writes, *as it hath pleased him*.

So it is with the glorified body. He has deemed it fit to give us a body like that of our Lord Jesus Christ in the day of consummation. The Bible tells us that when we see Him, we shall be like Him. A most powerful truth that must encourage the heart of every child of God facing the weakness of the earthly body.

We are made in the image of God. And we reflect His glory by His attributes that we imbibed through His Word – love and joy and peace and patience and longsuffering and holiness...Amen.