TODAY'S ORDER OF WORSHIP

Welcome by: Daniel Balch / Opening Prayer by: Jerry Mallernee
Morning Assembly Song Leader: Danny Balch

#346 He Lives
#344 Low In the Grave He Lay

Scripture Reading by: Parker Balch
#180 Jesus Is Lord

Communion Devotional by: Bobby Rader
Lord's Supper and Contribution

#300 Praise Him! Praise Him!
Sermon "New Life in Christ"
Revelations 21:1-5

#947 Jesus Is Tenderly Calling
#648 Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus
Closing Prayer by: Gus Tristan

Our Small Groups will not meet tonight.
Ken Coleman's group will meet at the
building on Sunday, April 7th at 5:00 p.m..

Other Opportunities For Spiritual Growth

Sunday: 9:00am — Bible Study Classes, 10:00am — Worship, 5:00pm — Worship
Wednesday: 6:30pm — Bible Study Classes

March 31, 2024

"Stand Firm in…Liberty"

Galatians 5:1

The Dead Will Be Raised

Consider this article on where the resurrection of the dead fits into the gospel from Wes McAdams' blog "Radically Christian." As always, I recommend you go check out the entire site. BP

When modern Christians teach people the Gospel, we typically begin by trying to convince them they have a problem about which they are blissfully unaware. We try to teach them that their biggest problem is, "God is angry with you and will soon punish you forever." In reality, the Gospel is actually far more simple and every adult is already aware of his or her biggest problem. Thankfully, the Gospel addresses that problem head on.

Preaching Resurrection
Regardless of his audience, Paul preached resurrection. When speaking to Greeks in Athens, he was mocked because he preached, *the resurrection of the dead* (**Acts 17:32**). Before the Jewish council, he shouted, *It is with respect to the hope and the resurrection of the dead that I am on trial* (**Acts 23:6**). Paul believed and preached the future resurrection of our bodies was the answer to our biggest problem.

So, if resurrection is the solution, what is the problem? The problem is pretty self-evident, isn't it? We die. We are mortal. As Ecclesiastes describes so well, regardless of how smart you are, how wise you are, how rich you are, or how much you accomplish, you are going to die.

As Paul lays out in his letter to the Romans and also in our text of **1 Corinthians 15**, *As in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive* (**v. 22**). Humanity's problem, ever since the Garden, has been lack of access to the tree of life. Sin, both Adam's sin and our personal sin, is the cause of our problem, but our self-evident problem is death.

By offering himself as a sacrifice for sins and being raised from the dead, Jesus broke death's grip on us (see **Heb 4:14-15**). We will die, but we are confident we will not stay dead. We will someday be raised, just as Jesus was raised.

Will Our Current Bodies Be Raised?
Sometimes people ask, "Is Paul talking about a physical resurrection?" They think maybe "resurrection" is just a fancy word for our spirits going to heaven. They reason, "Surely our dead bodies won't be put back together and come out of the grave, will they?" Here are 3 reasons why it must be our current bodies that will be raised, according to **1 Corinthians 15**:

1. The word resurrection ("*anastasis*" in Greek) means a dead body getting up again or becoming alive again. If a person's current physical body isn't involved in the resurrection, then it cannot rightly be called a resurrection.

2. Jesus' resurrection is presented as the "firstfruits" of the coming resurrection (**1 Cor 15:20**). Contrary to common usage, "firstfruits" doesn't mean the best, but simply the first with more to come. When you harvest grain, the first stalk is evidence of more to come. If our resurrection isn't our bodies coming back to life and leaving the grave, then Jesus' resurrection cannot be called the "firstfruits."

Family News & Notes

WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH YOUR CHURCH FAMILY

Our Sick

Gayle Coleman will be having a procedure on April.

Kevin Coleman, Ken & Gayle's son, had a stroke and is San Jacinto Methodist Hospital in Baytown.

Continued Prayers
(Need cards, phone calls & visits)

Steve Ward, Caitlin Smith, Virginia Cole, Ken Coleman, Joe Edd Stifflemire, Donna Wilson, Jo Ella McKewen, Kelly McCain, Wayne Noonkester, Oscar Cantu, Rickey Lucas, Jennifer Stelly

Shut Ins
(Need cards, phone calls & visits)

Jim Smith, Winona Angelle, Catherine Parker, Peggy McIntosh, Lois Watts, Willo Dean Ellis

Our Missionaries

Aaron & Marisa Bailey in Montepuez, Mozambique , Rod Kyle in the South Pacific

Upcoming Activities

Elders, Minister meeting Monday, April 1st at 5:30 p.m..

We will have a Houston Food Bank truck on Tuesday, April 2nd at 8:00 a.m.

We are working a new Friend and Family directory. A copy of the old one has been placed on the bulletin board. Please check your name, address, phone number and email to make sure it is correct.

Food Bank

We served 146 families on Thursday, March 21st at our food bank. That equals to 478 individuals. We had 18 volunteers.

Sympathy

We extend our sympathy Nell Johnson and her family on the death of her husband Barry Johnson. His funeral was Saturday..

Elders	Deacons	Minister
Ken Coleman	Zach Arthur	Bryant Perkins
Bobby Rader	Daniel Balch	
Don Taylor	Danny Balch	
Robert Ward	Walden David	
	Gus Tristan	

"Stand Firm in…Liberty"

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3. Our resurrection bodies will be transformed versions of our current bodies. At the end of **1 Corinthians 15**, Paul focuses on the "change" our bodies will experience. But if our current bodies are not involved in the resurrection, then Paul would be wrong saying our bodies *will be changed.*

For these reasons, it is not biblical to think of our bodies as unimportant or disposable. It is not biblical to assume the dust into which our bodies will turn will remain dust. According to **1 Corinthians 15**, we will experience the same thing Jesus experienced, our bodies will be gathered back together, made alive, and be radically transformed.

How Will We Be Transformed?

Don't worry though, our resurrection bodies will not be plagued by weakness, disease, or deformity. Our resurrection bodies will be radically transformed bodies. But what does that mean? What will our bodies be like? We naturally want answers to these questions. Paul doesn't give us all the answers, but according to **1 Corinthians 15,** we know our resurrection bodies will be:

1. Immortal – Not subject to death
2. Imperishable – Not able to be corrupted
3. Powerful – No longer plagued by the weakness of the flesh

Some might wonder what Paul means when he says our bodies will be *spiritual* (**1 Cor 15:44-46**). In today's vernacular, we often use the word "spiritual" to mean not physical, not made up of matter, or "incorporeal." However, Paul does not use the word "spiritual" this way.

Paul is NOT contrasting "spiritual" bodies and "physical" bodies. He is contrasting "spiritual" with "natural" bodies. Our current bodies are natural, they are the result of natural procreation and originally they came from the dirt. But our resurrection bodies will be so much more. Our resurrection bodies will be "spiritual" because they are the result of the Spirit's power and work. They will be "spiritual" because they are not the result of mere natural procreation, but of God's supernatural work of recreation.

One thing is absolutely certain to me from reading the whole of **1 Corinthians 15**, we will not be "spirits" in the resurrection. A "spirit," by very definition, is a disembodied being, a being who has no "body." A being who has a body is not a spirit, and God's people are promised bodies. Therefore, we cannot be "spirits" when we are resurrected.

Conclusion

Our resurrection bodies will no longer be weak, perishable, or mortal. They will be spirit-powered, immortal, and imperishable. This is what Paul means when he says we will no longer be "flesh and blood" when we inherit the kingdom of God. We will be so much more than flesh and blood, no longer plagued by weakness, sickness, or death.

When it comes to sharing the Gospel with unbelievers, we should focus a lot of attention on death and resurrection. Everyone already knows they will die. Everyone fears death to one degree or another. So, let's help them understand that Jesus is the only one who gives immortality. Jesus is the one who is offering to solve their biggest problem, death.