

# PAUL'S FIRST EPISTLE TO THE CORINTHIANS

LEARNING HOW TO BE A HEAVENLY CHURCH IN A GODLESS WORLD

## 1 CORINTHIANS CHAPTER 15:35-49

MEDIA REFERENCE NUMBER SMX778 JULY 22, 2012

THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

### WHAT ARE YOU WEARING ?

*DISCOVERING THE WILL OF GOD FOR OUR EVERYDAY LIFE*

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

**Death, Eternity, Resurrection, Hell, Heaven, God**

Introduction to the Text;

**1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15:35-49**

#### 1Cor. 15:35-49

**:35** But someone will say, “**How are the dead raised up?** And **with what body do they come?**” **:36** Foolish one, what you sow is not made alive unless it dies. **:37** And what you sow, you do not sow that body that shall be, but mere grain - perhaps wheat or some other grain. **:38** But God gives it a body as He pleases, and to each seed its own body. **:39** All flesh is not the same flesh, but there is one kind of flesh of men, another flesh of animals, another of fish, and another of birds. **:40** There are also celestial bodies and terrestrial bodies; but the glory of the celestial is one, and the glory of the terrestrial is another. **:41** There is one glory of the sun, another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for one star differs from another star in glory. **:42** So also is the resurrection of the dead. The body is sown in corruption, it is raised in incorruption. **: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. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body. **:45** And so it is written, “The first man Adam became a living being.” The last Adam became a life-giving spirit. **:46** However, the spiritual is not first, but the natural, and afterward the spiritual. **:47** The first man was of the earth, made of dust; the second Man is the Lord from heaven. **:48** As was the man of dust, so also are those who are made of dust; and as is the heavenly Man, so also are those who are heavenly. **:49** And as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly Man.

Here in this section Paul now begins his final wind-up before delivering a fastball, right down the middle.

He takes on a question that had been circulating about Christianity. – ***The Dead Shall Live Again.***

His Pitch is at the Skeptic. Skepticism will always fill a void. When you have nothing – you will always have skepticism.

## DRESSING FOR ETERNITY

WHAT MAKES YOU A TRUE BELIEVER!

1.) Getting rid of our old clothes

v. 35-38

### DRESSING FOR ETERNITY

#### GETTING RID OF OUR OLD CLOTHES

1a.) Using knowledge wisely

v. 35-36

#### Verses 35-36

:35 But someone will say, “How are the dead raised up? And with what body do they come?” :36 Foolish one, what you sow is not made alive - **unless it dies.**

#### Verse 35

:35 But someone will say, “**How** are the dead raised up? And with **what** body do they come?”

it’s asked in an unbelieving manner. Paul is answering the skeptic, and his answer is simply brilliant. *And I mean simple !*

Paul is saying - before i answer this, put your head in the game and stop playing around

**He’s going to answer the “how” and the “what” regarding eternal life.**

## Verse 36

**Foolish** one, what you sow is not made alive unless it dies.

**Foolish** ἄφρων **aphron**, *af'-rone*: “**aphron** “ – a stupid, mindless empty-headed, ignorant, egotistic, unbelieving, unwise person.

What a foolish question - says Paul  
“there are no silly questions” – (*according to God there is*)

**death** in a very real way is the believers great **liberator**  
*and the natural world can teach us some consistency here.*

**In Christianity, Death is a necessary part of our process.**  
Death is a needed ingredient. Far from being an obstacle to resurrection, death is essential to it. You can put that in the form of an axiom: Nothing that has never died shall ever be raised from the dead.

### **Corn Illustration**

In Christianity, nature teaches us this: The body that emerges from the seed that has died is “**the same-difference**” from that which was planted in the ground. Put a grain of wheat or a kernel of corn into the ground and what comes up? Another grain of wheat or another kernel? No! What comes up is a green stem which does not look at all like what you put into the ground.

When a farmer plants – he plants that which is mostly dead. It’s not until it’s in the ground that it’s fully dead – only then does it begin...

## **DRESSING FOR ETERNITY** **GETTING RID OF OUR OLD CLOTHES**

**1b.) Applying what you already know**

**v. 37**

## Verse 37

And what you sow, you do not sow that body that shall be,  
but mere grain - perhaps wheat or some other grain.

### Think About It – Think.

**Acts 26:8**

Why should it be thought incredible by you that God raises the dead?

**??? How Can Paul Be So Bold ???**

*Because the Author of the Observable Evidence is the Author of Life Eternal.*

### **How Many of You Believe There'll Be A Harvest This Fall?**

**A Kernel of Corn is Corn. An Ear of Corn is Corn.**

**What Are we Looking at? – Corn.**

**Where did that Crop of Corn Come From? From a Kernel of Corn.**

**John 12:24**

Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain.

## DRESSING FOR ETERNITY

### GETTING RID OF OUR OLD CLOTHES

1c.) **Recognizing** the design of God

v. 38

## Verse 38

But God gives it a body as He **pleases**, (*engineered for a purpose*)  
and to each **seed** its own **body**.

**Does The World Around You Have Purpose, Meaning and Reason?**

*(humans are the only ones in the universe that struggle with this)*

**Gen. 1:27-28**

So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. :28 Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

You Can Say That – Somebody Who Doesn't Believe in God Might Be Offended

**Psa. 14:1a-2**

The fool has said in his heart, "There is no God." :2 The LORD looks down from heaven upon the children of men, To see if there are any who understand, who seek God.

**Rom. 1:22-25**

Professing to be wise, they became fools, :23 and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things. :24 Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, :25 who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature (creation) rather than the Creator,

**DRESSING FOR ETERNITY**

*WHAT MAKES YOU A TRUE BELIEVER!*

**2.) Understanding where we're going**

**v. 39-41**

**DRESSING FOR ETERNITY**

**UNDERSTANDING WHERE WE'RE GOING**

**2a.) The glory of the world**

**v. 39**

**Verse 39**

All flesh is not the same flesh, but there is **one** kind of flesh of **men**, **another** flesh of **animals**, **another** of **fish**, and **another** of **birds**.

Paul employs the natural laws of **zoology**  
And Guess What - The **Kinds** Don't Mix

**And so what do we know about His animal kingdom?**

**Man-Kind** as a created being – is awesome (good news)

**Animal-Kind** as a created being – is awesome (good news)

**Fish-Kind** as a created being – is awesome (good news)

**Bird-Kind** as a created being – is awesome (good news)

**Read Job 38-39**

## **DRESSING FOR ETERNITY**

### **UNDERSTANDING WHERE WE'RE GOING**

**2b.) The glory of the creation**

**v. 40**

#### **Verse 40**

**:40** There are also **celestial** bodies and **terrestrial** bodies; but the glory of the celestial is one, and the glory of the terrestrial is another.

#### **celestial bodies**

from our vantage point seem to shine and reflect light. they look effortless yet brilliant. They appear to be constant.

#### **terrestrial bodies**

earthly bodies are practical and programmed for functionality. Bodies of this world are fragile and visually dull. We appear to be temporary.

Earthly bodies are not adapted to the heavenly regions, nor heavenly bodies fitted to the condition of earthly beings.

#### **Psa. 139:14**

I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works, And that my soul knows very well.

**DRESSING FOR ETERNITY**  
**UNDERSTANDING WHERE WE'RE GOING**

**2c.) The glory of the universe**

**v. 41**

**Verse 41**

There is one glory of the **sun**, another glory of the **moon**, and another glory of the **stars**; for one star **differs from another** star in glory.

**Psa. 19:1**

The heavens declare the glory of God; And the firmament shows His handiwork.

**DRESSING FOR ETERNITY**

**3.) Putting on His very best**

**v. 42-49**

**DRESSING FOR ETERNITY**  
**PUTTING ON HIS VERY BEST**

**3a.) Walking through the door**

**v. 42-44**

**Verse 42**

So also is the **resurrection** of the dead.  
The body is **sown** in **corruption**, it is **raised** in **incorruption**

**Corruption:** grk- φθορά **phthora**, *fthor-ah*: in a state of decay. To be wearing out. To be unraveling like a garment. Threadbare or decreasing in glory.

**Incorruption:** grk- ἀφθαρσία **aphthrsia**, *af-thar-see'-ah*; never ending. unending existence, immortality, incapable of being corrupted. Unsoiled.

## Verse 43

It is **sown** in **dishonor**, it is **raised** in **glory**.  
It is **sown** in **weakness**, it is **raised** in **power**.

### Is. 25:8

He will swallow up death forever, And the Lord GOD will  
wipe away tears from all faces;

## Verse 44

It is **sown** a **natural body**, it is **raised** a **spiritual body**.  
There is a **natural body**, and there is a **spiritual body**.

We cannot fully comprehend **the glory** that is going to be ours

An Actual, Literal Body. First Built for an Earthly Existence.  
Then Built for a Spiritual Existence.

*(don't let anyone fool you here. this is a real body - not a spirit body or ghost)*

### 1Cor. 2:9

But as it is written: *(Isaiah 64) "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered  
into the heart of man The things which God has **prepared**  
for those who love Him."*

#### >>>>>> Burial or Cremation <<<<<<<

This would be a good time to make something clear.  
no biblical value or mandate of either Burial or Cremation.  
What cremation does in 30 minutes the grave does in 30 years.

**In the original language, the emphasis is on the noun "body"**  
and not the adjectives "natural and spiritual" - - The same body experiences a dramatic  
reconstitution. The body goes from being natural to spiritual but it is yet the same body.  
- Charles Ryrie



## DRESSING FOR ETERNITY PUTTING ON HIS VERY BEST

3b.) Life about to be lived

v. 45

### Verse 45

And so it is written,  
“The first man Adam became a **living** being.” The last Adam  
became a **life-giving** spirit.

**living** ζάω **zao**, *dzah'-o*; we get the understanding from this word – a living soul or a **psychological** person.

To be mindful of life. To live. To have life. To be living. Adam – once was alive by having been given life. But sin through Adam resulted in death. Death then spread through all who are related to Adam.

**life-giving** ζωοποιέω **zoopoieo**, *dzo-op-oy-eh'-o*; from this word we see the profound difference between humankind and divinity. Jesus Christ is the provider of **pneuma** or **pneumatic-life** or a spiritual-driven life.

This is why Psychology can never get fully to the core of a matter. Because man is not a **dichotomy** (body and mind) but is a **trichotomy**. (body, mind and spirit).

## How Can The Mind Deal With Our Sin Issues?

It cannot. It can only dress up or cover or veil the issues.

**life-giving** to revitalize. To make alive again. To give life. To cause to live again, give life, to quicken.

### He Alone is Qualified - Jesus Christ

has always lived. He gave himself to death willingly. Then was made alive again by resurrection, thus through Him life is re-granted, reinstated, re-gifted to those who desire life.

**Rev. 1:17-18**

And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead. But He laid His right hand on me, saying to me, “Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last. **:18 I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death.**

**Rev. 2:8b**

“...These things says the First and the Last, who was dead, and came to life:

**DRESSING FOR ETERNITY  
PUTTING ON HIS VERY BEST**

**3c.) Wardrobe by Christ**

**v. 46-49**

**Verse 46-49**

**:46** However, the spiritual is not first, but the natural, and afterward the spiritual.

**:47** The first man was of the earth, made of dust; the second Man is the Lord from heaven. **:48** As was the man of dust, so also are those who are made of dust; and as is the heavenly Man, so also are those who are heavenly. **:49** And as we have borne the image of the man of dust, **we shall also bear the image of the heavenly Man.**

**Bear grk** φορέω **phoreo**, for-eh'-o: to be suited perfectly, clothed well, covered fully.

**In The Garden, After Adam & Eve had Sinned;**

**Gen. 3:21**

Also for Adam and his wife the LORD God made **tunics of skin,** and **clothed** them.

“Adam, wear this for now – I’ll have something better later.”

Do you know who first clothed man with coats of skin? It was God Almighty Himself, when He found Adam and Eve hiding behind the bushes because they were afraid of Him. They had become fearful and conscious that they had sinned against God. In their sin-consciousness, they realized that they were naked and that the glory of God, which had been their covering, was gone.

clothed **labash**, *law-bash*´; or לָבַשׁ **labesh**, *law-bashe*´; to wrap around, to take and cover yourself, to place over or upon or around one’s self.

**John 1:29**

The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!

**1John 3:2**

Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.

**? ARE YOU DRESSED UP FOR ETERNITY ?**

**Church - Turn In Your Bibles to Matthew 22**

**Matt. 22:1-14**

And Jesus answered and spoke to them again by parables and said: **:2** “The kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who arranged a marriage for his son, **:3** and sent out his servants to call those who were invited to the wedding; and they were not willing to come. **:4** Again, he sent out other servants, saying, “Tell those who are invited, ‘See, I have prepared my dinner; my oxen and fatted cattle *are* killed, and all things *are* ready. Come to the wedding.’” **:5** But they made light of it and went their ways, one to his own farm, another to his business. **:6** And the rest seized his servants, treated *them* spitefully, and killed *them*. **:7** But when the king heard *about it*, he was furious. And he sent out his armies, destroyed those murderers, and burned up their city. **:8** Then he said to his servants, “The wedding is ready, but those who were invited were not worthy. **:9** Therefore go into the highways, and as many as you find, invite to the wedding.’” **:10** So those servants went out into the highways and gathered together all whom they found, both bad and good. And the wedding *hall* was filled with guests. **:11** “But when the king came in to see the guests, he saw a man there who did not have on a wedding garment. **:12** So he said to him, “Friend, how did you come in here without a wedding garment?” And he was speechless. **:13** Then the king said to the servants, “Bind him hand and foot, take him away, and cast *him* into outer darkness; there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’” **:14** “For many are called, but few *are* chosen.”

**Is. 61:10**

*(old testament age believers)*

I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, My soul shall be joyful in my God; For He has clothed me with the garments of salvation, He has covered me with **the robe** of righteousness,

**WORSHIP TEAM COME UP NOW**

**Will You Agree with God That**

Rom. 3:23 you have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God, Rom. 6:23a That you understand that the wages of sin *is* death, Rom. 6:23b but the gift of God *is* eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. Rom. 5:8 Believing today that God demonstrates His own love toward you, in that while you were still a sinner, Christ died for you. Rom. 10:13 But He now says to you that "*if you would call on the name of the LORD you shall be saved.*" Rom. 10:9-10 that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. :10 For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

>>>> **The Cross, The Christ, The Call** <<<<<

*Come Forward for Prayer*

*End of Study*

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