

Advent 3: Resurrection: 1 Cor 15:20-26, 35-57

Sunday, December 11, 2022
Covenant Church
Pastor Zack Phillips

1 Cor 15:20-26, 35-57

²⁰ But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died. ²¹ For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead has also come through a human being; ²² for as all die in Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ. ²³ But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. ²⁴ Then comes the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father, after he has destroyed every ruler and every authority and power. ²⁵ For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. ²⁶ The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

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³⁵ But someone will ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?" ³⁶ Fool! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. ³⁷ And as for what you sow, you do not sow the body that is to be, but a bare seed, 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 Not all flesh is alike, but there is one flesh for human beings, another for animals, another for birds, and another for fish. ⁴⁰ There are both heavenly bodies and earthly bodies, but the glory of the heavenly is one thing, and that of the earthly is another. ⁴¹ There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; indeed, star differs from star in glory.

⁴² So it is 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 physical body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a physical 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 physical, 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 are those who are of the dust; and as is the man of heaven, so are those who are of heaven. ⁴⁹ Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we will also bear the image of the man of heaven.

⁵⁰ What I am saying, brothers and sisters, is this: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. ⁵¹ Listen, I will tell you a mystery! We will not all die, but we will 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 will be changed. ⁵³ For this perishable body must put on imperishability, and this mortal body must put on immortality. ⁵⁴ When this perishable body puts on imperishability, and this mortal body puts on immortality, then the saying that is written will be fulfilled:

"Death has been swallowed up in victory."

⁵⁵ "Where, O death, is your victory?

Where, O death, 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.

A. Introduction

Early Christians *insisted* on belief in the resurrection of the dead (Justin Martyr and the Apostles' Creed). They *considered* it extensively.

Eph 4:13 until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ.

Luke 21:18 But not a hair of your head will perish.

B. The Artwork

Psalms 139:14a I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made...

We are complex, unentangleable "spirited-bodies" despite our efforts to ex-carnate ourselves (and the negative consequences of doing so!)

C. The Artist

A visual aid

God's power is evidenced in his giving life by speaking the world (see Genesis 1; Matthew 8).

God the Artist delights in His Creation. Instead of scrapping it to start over, He redeems.

Isa 64:8 Yet, O LORD, you are our Father; / we are the clay, and you are our potter; / we are all the work of your hand.

Question: What is one thing that God may have said to you through this sermon?

Some Recommended Reading

Augustine, Book 22 of *City of God*, trans. Henry Bettenson, Penguin Classics (London, 2003)

Michael Frost, *Incarnate: The Body of Christ in the Age of Disengagement* (Downers Grove, IL: IVP Books, 2014)

"What All That Touch Deprivation is Doing to Us," <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/10/06/style/touch-deprivation-coronavirus.html>