

1 Cor. 15: 12-20, 35-45 New Resurrected bodies 17/04/22

1. Why do we affirm that Jesus Christ first died and then rose?

- a. There is no resurrection without a death!
- b. The resurrection shows that death has been overcome i.e. death's 'victory', its 'negation of life' has been undermined. Death no longer is the end of life, only the end of **this life**.
- c. We can face death without fear because our Lord Jesus Christ has won the victory over death and given us the gift of eternal life.
- d. We are able to be realists in the face of death. Death is real and it probably will be faced by most if not all of us. **We do not deny its reality but rather we deny its power.**
- e. Having the sure hope of the resurrection from the dead, as we put our trust in Jesus, means that **our lives now have eternal meaning and importance**. Our lives are not futile or meaningless. Even ordinary actions are of importance (see Mt. 25:34-36). That of course means that we should consider carefully where we put our energies, where we spend our time and money (see Mt 6:31-34).

Problems/complications:

Why does there seem to be a period of waiting after we die and 'go to be with the Lord' before our future resurrection from the dead? (Eph. 2:11-14; Jn. 14:15-21)

2. The ground of our future hope in a new bodily life beyond the grave?

- i. Christ has died for us and has been raised from the dead as the 'first fruits of those who have died' (v.20).
- ii. If we are united to Christ (means being made Christ-like) then we have the sure hope of the resurrection from the dead (vv.21-23).
- iii. (seed analogy) There is continuity between this life and the life to come – We will die, and we will be raised (following the example of our Lord Jesus Christ) (vv.35-42).
- iv. (seed analogy) There is also discontinuity between our present bodily life and our future bodily life. Our new bodies will be fit for eternity and therefore radically different to our present bodies (42-44).
- v. '**natural**' and '**spiritual**' are both used in connection with '**body**', describing our present earthly life and our future heavenly life. Our future spiritual body will be a supernatural body 'recreated by Christ' who through his resurrection became 'a life-giving spirit' (v. 45). It will be a body fit for eternity.

Reflection/Response. How do our present lives show our sure hope of being raised from the dead? Why are our present bodily life and our future resurrected bodily life linked and each important? BB