

First Corinthians 15:32-41
Godward Resurrection part 4

The importance of the resurrection—15:32-34

- 1) Two-fold argument—15:32
 - a) Concerning facing hostility—15:32a ³² *If* (1st class condition, assumed true for argument) *in conformity to people I fought with wild beasts in Ephesus, what is the benefit to me?*
 - b) Concerning future accountability for current behavior—15:32b *If* (1st class condition, assumed true for argument) *the dead are not raised, “Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die.”* (cf. Isaiah 22:13)
- 2) Serious commands about their thinking—15:33-34
 - a) Defend against wrong thinking by harmful acquaintances—15:33 ³³ *Do not be deceived: “Bad companionships ruin good character.”* (cf. 3:18; 6:9)
 - i) False teachers/teachings should be avoided.
 - ii) Peer pressure is often dangerous.
 - b) Recover sound thinking—15:34 ³⁴ *Sober up righteously, and stop sinning:*
 - i) Why? *for some* (in the congregation) *have an ignorance of God. I say this to your^{pl} shame.*

The difference of a resurrection body illustrated from creation—15:35-41

- 1) The question—15:35 ³⁵ *But someone will say, “How are the dead raised? And with what kind of body do they come?”*
- 2) Paul’s response—15:36-41
 - a) The necessity of death—15:36 ³⁶ *You fool! What **you** (emphatic) sow will not come to life unless it dies.*
 - b) It is God’s work—15:37-38
 - i) Ordinary beginnings—15:37 ³⁷ *And what you sow, you do not sow that body that is to be, but bare seed, perhaps of wheat or of something else.*
 - ii) Outcome by Divine design—15:38 ³⁸ *But God gives it a body just as He desires, and to each of the seeds its own body.*
 - c) Variations in a single category—15:39-41
 - i) Forms of flesh—15:39 ³⁹ *All flesh is not the same flesh, but there is one of people, another flesh of livestock, and another of fish, and another of birds.*
 - ii) Degrees of glory—15:40-41 ⁴⁰ *And there are heavenly/celestial bodies and earthly/terrestrial bodies, but the glory of the heavenly/celestial is one, and the earthly/terrestrial another. ⁴¹ There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars, for star differs from star in glory.*

Take-home truth: The resurrection means endless hope, but no resurrection means a hopeless end. (Garland)