

# **Resurrection Or Nothing**

**4-17-22**

1 Corinthians 15:19 (ESV)

If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied.

**Many Christians talk about all the blessings we can receive in this life. However, as Christians if we have hope only in this life, we are to be pitied above all people. If there is no resurrection, we would be better to set our hearts and minds on all the things of this world and go “all out” to grab every benefit this world has to offer. You have heard it said, “You only go around once so grab all the gusto you can.” The Apostle Paul totally agrees.**

1 Corinthians 15:32 (ESV)

If the dead are not raised, “Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die.”

**For the believers, the title of the message is an absolute truth defining Christianity: The Resurrection or Nothing! For the Christian the Resurrection is the foundational fact to which we unwaveringly embrace. Just as Jesus was resurrected, we also have confidence that we will be resurrected.**

1 Corinthians 15:20 (ESV)

But in fact, Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

**Firstfruits is an interesting word. Firstfruits is the very first of the harvest. Firstfruits is the exact picture of what the total harvest that is to follow will look like. The firstfruit of good wheat means the total harvest to follow will look the same. Likewise, Jesus is the firstfruit of the resurrection means the total harvest to follow will be just like Jesus. Jesus is the guarantee of the believer's resurrection.**

1 Corinthians 15:21–22 (ESV)

For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. <sup>22</sup> For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive.

**Adam was the firstfruit of death and all people followed in his death. Jesus is the firstfruit of life, and all believers will follow in HIS resurrected life. To help us understand the mystery of our resurrection, God gives us examples through HIS creation.**

1 Corinthians 15:36–43 (ESV) No O/H

<sup>36</sup> You foolish person! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. <sup>37</sup> And what you sow is not the body that is to be, but a bare kernel, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain.

<sup>38</sup> But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body. <sup>39</sup> For not all flesh is the same, but there is one kind for humans, another for animals, another for birds, and another for fish.

<sup>40</sup> There are heavenly bodies and earthly bodies, but the glory of the heavenly is of one kind, and the glory of the earthly is of another. <sup>41</sup> 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. <sup>42</sup> So is it with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable; what is raised is imperishable. <sup>43</sup> It is sown in dishonor; it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness; it is raised in power.

**Our natural body is the proof of the coming resurrected spiritual body. However, as the natural was perishable, the resurrected body will be imperishable.**

1 Corinthians 15:44 (ESV)

It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. **If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body.**

**Our natural body is a seed sown when we die. Our fleshly seed, our body, will be raised at the resurrection as an imperishable, glorious, and powerful body. **The resurrection means that death has lost its victory and its sting.****

1 Corinthians 15:55 (ESV)

“O death, where is your victory?

O death, where is your sting?”

***The resurrection should change our entire view of our life.***

1 Corinthians 15:58 (ESV)

**Therefore**, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

**Our labor in the Lord is not in vain. God blesses us in this life. But more importantly because of the resurrection, we also are storing up treasure in heaven that will persist for our benefit for all eternity. Thus, Paul elsewhere admonishes us, “Therefore encourage each other with these words.” The truth of the resurrection will shape the lives of believers and the Christian community. We should be steadfast in doing the Lord’s work, knowing that Jesus will reward us at his coming.**

1 Timothy 6:18–19 (ESV)

Be rich in good works, storing up treasure as a good foundation for the future.

**Resurrection or Nothing! Be encouraged! Remember what the angels told the women at Jesus’ tomb.**

Luke 24:5-6 (ESV)

Why do you seek the living among the dead? Jesus is not here but has risen.