**BCM Bible Study: February 19/20, 2020**

**1 Corinthians 15:35-58: The Resurrection Part 2**

Looking Back: Follow up on the detachment exercise. Did anyone participate? Did anyone have any realizations about things they are attached to?

The Resurrection Body: Last time we saw that the resurrection is central to our faith. Without it, there is no hope and our faith is empty. The fact that God will be all in all (v.28) gives us hope that God will redeem all things. Because of this, we can hold loosely to our possessions and relationships. Now, Paul will address a question that will lead to the climax of the letter. **Read 1 Corinthians 15:35-41**.

* What is the question that Paul is addressing? How does he answer that question?
* How do the Paul’s illustrations shed light on how the resurrection body will compare to our current bodies?

**Read 1 Cor. 15:42-49**

* What will characterize the resurrection body according to verses 42-44?
  + “Natural” and “Spiritual” can potentially lead us to miss the point. When we hear these words, we often think that “natural = material” and “spiritual = immaterial.” This is not what Paul is saying at all! The differentiation he is making is between what constitutes a person. The person without the Holy Spirit is “naturally” constituted – he or she does not have the new heart generated by accepting Christ and receiving the Spirit. This is the same language Paul uses earlier in his letter: **Read 1 Cor. 2:14-16**.
* How does this understanding of natural and spiritual help understand what Paul is saying in verses 45-49?
  + The point is that just like we shared in the fallenness of Adam, we can now share in the perfect humanity Jesus embodied. Jesus is able to give us eternal sustenance compared to the failing nature of our current selves.
  + Does the language of “image” in v.49 call to mind anything from Genesis? (Hint: 1:27)
  + To be fully human is to live as God designed us. The resurrection hope is not that we will escape humanity, but that will finally be as God intended. In what way does this idea give you hope?
  + What would it look like for you to live more in line with the image of God?
* **Read Romans 8:18-25.** 
  + In what tangible ways has sin impacted your life?
  + In what ways do you yearn for the redemption of your body?
  + Paul says that this is our hope. Do you find that you lose sight of this promise and put your hope in other things that you can see and better understand?

We Will Be Changed: **Read 1 Cor. 15:50-58**

* What is the overall message of verses 50-57? (We will focus in on 58 soon)
  + Once again, we must understand that “flesh and blood” in v.50 has to do with mortality. Our current body is subject to death. The resurrection body will not decay. Also note that trumpets in the Bible always denote the final resurrection and judgment. (Joel 2:1, Zech. 9:14, Matt. 24:313, 1 Thess. 4:16, Rev. 8-9)
* Take a closer look at v.53-54. It is critical to note that in the original language (Greek), Paul uses the word “**this**” four times. A repetitive but literal translation would sound like this: “For **this** perishable body must put on the imperishable and **this** mortal body must put on immortality. When **this** perishable body puts on the imperishable and **this** mortal body puts on immortality…”
  + What is Paul emphasizing in these verses?
  + While Paul has been insisting on the different kind of body that we will have (**discontinuity**), he turns here to note that there will be some sense of **continuity** between the current body and the resurrected one. **Read Luke 24:36-49**. What is notable about Jesus’ resurrection body?
* NT Wright calls verses 54-55 a “taunt song against Death.”
  + The reality is that many of us to do feel this way about death – what emotions does the thought of death stir up in you?
  + How does the hope of the resurrection speak into our fears about death?
  + How do non-Christians typically handle death? How can we share our message of hope with them in a sensitive way?

Therefore: Verse 58 is tremendously important not only to this chapter but to 1 Corinthians as a whole. What is Paul’s charge to the Corinthians in v.58?

* Paul says something similar to the Philippians. **Read Phil. 3:17-21.** What does it mean to do “the work of the Lord”?
* You could say that the good works in 15:58 encompass all that Paul has asked of the Corinthians in this letter. This charge is preceded by a “therefore,” meaning that it is founded on everything he has just said. Why is the resurrection hope central to persevering in good works?
  + The blend of **continuity** and **discontinuity** of the resurrection body means that God is not doing away altogether with things of this world. NT Wright puts it this way: “What you do in the present…will last into God’s future…They are a part of what we may call building for God’s kingdom.” The kingdom of God has come, and believers not only pray that Jesus will come and bring the kingdom in its fullness; they actually bring it about now. In this way, God’s people are “not just a to be a sign and foretaste of that ultimate salvation; they are to be part of the means by which God makes this happen in both the present and the future.” God will “redeem rather than reject.” (Quotes from *Surprised by Hope*)
* Why is both **continuity** and **discontinuity** with our resurrected body important for finding meaning in our kingdom-building endeavors on earth?

Conclusion: **Read Revelation 21:1-8**. Much of what we can say about the resurrection is mysterious. In some ways we will be entirely different and in other ways we will still be ourselves. The earth will be new and restored, but seemingly a place of comfort and familiarity for us as heaven comes down to meet earth. This week, attempt to view life through this mindset. We will discuss next week how this impacts all of our life.