

WALK THE TALK //////////////////////////////////////

This page is designed for you to apply what you have learned from the Scriptures. Our goal is not just "to know" but to "act upon what we know." (His Word, Our Walk!) We encourage you to discuss the following questions with family, friends and your group.



FOR DISCUSSION:

1. What is the best story about searching for the proverbial Fountain of Youth that you have ever heard?
2. Why is this search so universal and intriguing to people?
3. Make a list of how Jesus and Adam are compared and contrasted in Romans 5 and 1 Corinthians 15. How stark is the difference of hope for those who are in Christ?
4. What does it mean that we will bear Jesus' image?
5. This body will be changed/alterd. What about now? How should we care for our bodies in light of our resurrection?
6. How do we live in light of the victory provided for us by Jesus? What should our general attitude consistently be?

Bonus: Have a congenial discussion about the rapture. What are your views?

Great Billy Graham quotes about eternal life:

1. "Some day you will read or hear that Billy Graham is dead. Don't you believe a word of it. I shall be more alive than I am now. I will just have changed my address. I will have gone into the presence of God."
2. "Do I fear death? No. I look forward to death with great anticipation. I am looking forward to seeing God face to face. And that could happen any day." (Newsweek, July 4, 2005)
3. "When we all reach the end of our earthly journey, we will have just begun."
4. "Heaven doesn't make this life less important; it makes it more important."
5. "Death for the Christian is the doorway to heaven's glory. Because of Christ's resurrection we can joyously say with Paul, 'Where, O death, is your victory?'"



April 14 & 15, 2018 | Victory #4 | 1 Corinthians 15:45-58 | Steve Fish

TWO LESSONS FOR THIS SERIES WITH REVIEW

1. The resurrection of the LORD and the PROMISE of the same for His followers is the centerpiece of Christianity.
Our passage today is the HIGHPOINT of Paul's overall message to the Corinthians.
2. There are LOGICAL reasons for believing in the resurrection.

BELIEVE

- B - BEHOLDERS of the Resurrection (1-11)
- E - ESSENTIALNESS of the Resurrection (12-19)
- L - LESSONS of the Resurrection (20-28)
- I - INQUIRIES about the Resurrection (29-34)
- E - ESSENCE of the Resurrection (35-49)
- V - VICTORY of the Resurrection (50-57)
- E - ENCOURAGEMENT of the Resurrection (58)

- 1 Corinthians 15:35 *But someone will ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body will they come?"*

THE DEAD ARE RAISED: AN ONTOLOGICAL ARGUMENT

- 1 Corinthians 15:44b *If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body.*

1. Paul established the foundation of his argument from the creation of the FIRST man.

- Genesis 2:7 *Then the Lord God formed a man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.*

- 1 Corinthians 15:45a *So it is written: "The first man Adam became a living being;" the last Adam, a life-giving spirit.*

2. In Romans 5, Paul argued the power of sin and death, life and grace on the basis of two men, Adam and Jesus.

a. The reality of sin and death came as the result of ADAM's sin. DEATH came to all people as a result of one man's sin.

Romans 5:12 Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all people, because all sinned . . .

b. By CONTRAST, through the one man, Jesus, life is offered to all who will accept God's grace through Him.

Romans 5:15 But the gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died by the trespass of the one man, how much more did God's grace and the gift that came by the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, overflow to the many!

3. Previously in 1 Corinthians 15, Paul described Adam as the original agent through which death came. However, Paul referenced Jesus as the FIRSTFRUITS of all who will experience resurrected life.

- 1 Corinthians 15:20 *But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. 21 For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. 22 For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive.*

4. Adam and Jesus are COMPARED in today's text. Paul does this to show the logical progression of how the dead are raised. Just as we follow Adam by natural descent, Christians HAVE and WILL follow Jesus in spiritual / bodily change (already, not yet).

- 1 Corinthians 15:45 *So it is written: "The first man Adam became a living being"; the last Adam, a life-giving spirit. 46 The spiritual did not come first, but the natural, and after that the spiritual. 47 The first man was of the dust of the earth; the second man is of heaven. 48 As was the earthly man, so are those who are of the earth; and as is the heavenly man, so also are those who are of heaven. 49 And just as we have borne the image of the earthly man, so shall we bear the image of the heavenly man.*

a. The reference to Jesus being a "man of heaven" in v. 47 is NOT an indication of his pre-incarnate existence. Adam is represented by *pyschikos* (of earth). Jesus is represented by *pneumatikos* ("God breathed"; the heavenly nature).

b. We HAVE BORNE the image (εἰκῶν) of the human man. We WILL BEAR the image of Jesus! These are specific verb tenses spelled out in the original text.

THE DEAD ARE RAISED IMPERISHABLE

Our bodies all age. They will all decay (perish). The resurrected body never decays! In Christ, we have the position to INHERIT a body that never fails us.

- 1 Corinthians 15:50 *I declare to you, brothers and sisters, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.*

(A MYSTERY)

- 51 *Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed — 52 in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.*

Sleep = death (defined from heaven's perspective)

Rapture = THEORY (*still a mystery unrevealed*)

Changed = altered, made different

THE DEAD ARE RAISED IMMORTAL

- 1 Corinthians 15:53 *For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality. 54 When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: "Death has been swallowed up in victory."*

The hope of our resurrection is . . .

IMMORTALITY (*Clothed in*).

The assurance of Jesus' resurrection is guaranteed. . .

VICTORY (νίκος) over DEATH.

- 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! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

HOW WILL WE LIVE IN LIGHT OF THESE TRUTHS?

- 1 Corinthians 15:1-2 *Now, brothers and sisters, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your **stand**. 2 By this gospel you are saved, if you **hold firmly** to the word I preached to you. **Otherwise, you have believed in vain.***

- 1 Corinthians 15:58 *Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, **stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.***