

The First Epistle of Paul to the Corinthians

The Bodily Resurrection of Believers

1 Corinthians 15:50-58

1. **The _____** (v.50)
Resurrection is absolutely necessary because of the blessings which God has in store for His people. The doctrine of the future bodily resurrection of believers is not something to be confused or ashamed about (cf. v.12). This is both necessary and inevitable because of what Christ has done (cf. vs.42-49).
2. **The _____** (vs.51-53)
Paul now says that not every believer will actually first go through death before receiving the blessing of the resurrection (v.51). This change, for both the living and the dead, will be an instantaneous transformation into a new body that itself will be distinct and different from the current body but yet similar (cf. vs.36-38). At the time of the rapture of the church, the dead in Christ will be given their new bodies first (1 Thess. 4:16) followed by the living believers will be caught up in the clouds with Christ (1 Thess. 4:17) and immediately receive resurrected bodies.
3. **The _____** (vs.54-57)
The bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ is the first of its kind which guarantees our own bodily resurrection (1 Cor. 15:20-23) at the end (cf. v.24a) when death will be finally defeated (v.26). The Law is holy and good, but the way that it effects us in our current state is to amplify our sin and our knowledge of our sin (cf. Rom. 7:7ff). When we are raised we will be like Jesus (1 John 3:2) and unable to die (cf. Luke 20:35), the curse will be no more (Rev. 22:3), and there will be no more crying or mourning (Rev. 21:4).
4. **The _____** (v.58)
Paul has reminded the Corinthians that their hope which is grounded in the resurrection of Jesus Christ (1 Cor. 1:1-11) is inextricably linked with the future bodily resurrection of believers (1 Cor. 15:12-19). Christians are to stand firm in this hope regardless of how foolish it seems to the worldly wise (cf. 1 Cor. 1:18) and we are to show that the resurrection of Jesus Christ, as well as our own confident future hope of bodily resurrection, is central to our faith and life (1 Cor. 15:29-34).