

A Theology of Heaven

Part Five: "The Nature of Our Resurrection"

Hope of Salvation:

- Not merely when we die our souls go to heaven, but...
- The resurrection of the body and inheriting the eternal kingdom

Nature of Our Resurrection

Essentials:

1. An essential continuity with our current bodies
 - the body that dies is essentially the body that is raised (you will be you)
 - it will be a physical body

Nature of Our Resurrection

Essentials:

2. A glorious transformation of our current bodies
 - a radical newness to our bodies
 - not a change from physical to non-physical, or human to non-human

Nature of Our Resurrection "Transformation"

1 Corinthians 15:35-58

Nature of Our Resurrection

Setting:

- there were some in Corinth who denied the idea of bodily resurrection
- influenced by Greek dualism – the body is inferior and corrupt
- the concept of corpses coming to life was absurd ("how"; "what body")

Nature of Our Resurrection

Paul's Response:

1. Two Analogies: "seeds" and "bodies"

- seeds: a body sown one way is raised another (death brings forth new life)
- bodies: there are a variety of bodies, each adapted to their peculiar existence

Nature of Our Resurrection

Paul's Response:

2. Application to the Resurrection

- Transformation of our bodies, adapted for existence in the eternal kingdom
 - *perishable to imperishable*
 - *dishonor to glory*
 - *weakness to power*
 - *natural to spiritual*

Nature of Our Resurrection

- *natural to spiritual*

Nature of Our Resurrection

natural to spiritual

- both are bodies (i.e. physical)
 - "natural" = a fallen, perishable body that belongs to life in the present age
 - "spiritual" = a body that belongs to the life of the Spirit in the age to come
 - our natural body relates to Adam; our spiritual body relates to the risen Jesus

Nature of Our Resurrection

Paul's Response:

3. Necessity of Transformation

- Our present, perishable, weak bodies cannot inherit the eternal kingdom (*"flesh and blood" = perishable bodies*)
- Both the dead and the living will be changed at Christ's return

Nature of Our Resurrection

Conclusion:

- This victory over death is given through our Lord Jesus
 - death is the judgment for sin which is made known by the Law
 - Christ paid the penalty for our sin and therefore conquered death

His resurrection guarantees our resurrection and inheritance of the eternal kingdom