What Kind of Resurrection? April 9, 2023

*1 Corinthians 15:42-49 Easter Sunday*

No one is truly persuaded of the coming resurrection unless he is seized with wonder and ascribes to the power of God its due glory. – John Calvin

Intro: “Extreme Makeover” and our longing for resurrection

1. Why your faith in Jesus might be pointless
2. There’s such a thing as useless Christian faith

vv. 1-2 *Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.*

v 10 *But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain.*

1. Christianity – Easter = Nothing

v. 12 *Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead?*

v. 14 *And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain.*

v. 17 *And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins.*

People can love Easter but believe in an Easterless Christianity

* How does the show “Extreme Makeover” relate to our longing for resurrection? How does it fail to satisfy that longing?
* Why did Paul fear the Corinthians may have “believed in vain”?
* What are some ways that people can vainly believe in Jesus today?
* Why is the resurrection so essential to genuine faith?

1. Why anti-aging cream is a bad investment
2. Your body is just a seed

vv. 36-37 *What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. And what you sow is not the body that is to be, but a bare kernel, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain.*

1. Your body is in decay

v. 42 *What is sown is perishable …*

1. Your body is corrupted

v. 43 *It is sown in dishonor …*

1. Your body has disabilities

v. 43 *It is sown in weakness …*

1. Your body is designed for this world

v. 44 *It is sown a natural body*

1. Your body will always resemble Adam

v. 48 *As was the man of dust, so also are those who are of the dust*

v. 49 *we have borne the image of the man of dust*

* We are commanded to glorify God in our bodies (1 Corinthians 6:19-20), so caring for our health is important. When does caring for our bodies become a sunk investment in anti-aging?
* What does it mean that our present body is marked by “dishonor”? What are some examples of that?
* What are the different aspects of weakness that we inevitably experience in this world?

1. What the Easter resurrection really promises
2. When your seed is sown in death, you will finally experience life

v. 36 *What you sow does not come to life unless it dies.*

1. Your resurrection body will exude vitality

v. 42 *what is raised is imperishable*

1. Your resurrection body will radiate glory

v. 43 *it is raised in glory*

1. Your resurrection body will be without limitations

v. 43 *it is raised in power*

1. Your resurrection body is designed for life in the Spirit

v. 44 *it is raised a spiritual body*

1. Your resurrection body will resemble Christ’s

v. 45 *Thus it is written, “The first man Adam became a living being”; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit.*

v. 48 *as is the man of heaven, so also are those who are of heaven*

v. 49 *we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven*

1. Which body will you put your hope in?

*1 Timothy 4:8 For while bodily training is of some value, godliness is of value in every way, as it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come.*

* What does the seed/plant example teach you about the nature of your resurrection body?
* Which of the descriptions of your resurrection life is most attractive to you? Why?
* What are some ways that we can prioritize godliness and the resurrection life to come over our natural bodies?

Study ahead: Next week, we’ll study Luke 6:1-11

Notes