



THINK IT THROUGH

Our resurrection bodies will be perfect... glorious... imperishable!

- How should this help us cope with the ageing process? In what sense are those signs of aging you and I see not a threat but a promise?
- “You don’t only live once; you live twice!” If our future life lasts forever in perfect new bodies, how should that transform our present life in this body?
 - See Paul’s example v30-32
 - See v58
- It’s worth reflecting on the many things we want for our bodies / lives now: Career, housing, bank balance, travel, comfort, pleasure etc. If we sacrifice some of this because we are living wholeheartedly for Jesus, some might say we have wasted our life! What is the truth (v58)?
- In contrast, the Corinthians had almost stopped bothering living for Jesus. One of the reasons seems to be they had lost of the resurrection! Beware.
- When we are struggling with the battles of this life what do we need to do?



TAKE ACTION

What practical action could we take that would help us to remember and actually live in the light of these vital truths?



PRAY IT THROUGH

- Spend some time praising God for all that he has in store for us.
- Thank Him for Jesus who makes it all possible and real.
- Pray for help so that there is no gap between what we believe and how we live.

WHY THE RESURRECTION MATTERS

- Studies in 1 Corinthians 15

SMALL GROUP SHEET WEEK BEGINNING
22 APRIL 2012

Part 3: 1 Corinthians 15:35-49

Oakhall
CHURCH WELCOMES YOU



FOR STARTERS

There has never been more emphasis on trying to delay and disguise the aging process. For example, by 2013 the global anti-aging product market will hit £175 billion. Last year “The Anti-Ageing Beauty Bible” was published offering “the only steps you need to look and feel gorgeous for ever.. [and] excellent advice on how not to fade away” What does this say about our society, it’s hopes and fears?



BACKGROUND

We are thinking about why the resurrection matters. Paul has spelt it out for us:

- The resurrection of Jesus is a historical fact – Jesus appeared to many (v5-8).
- Everything in the Christian faith hinges on it (v17).
- Christ’s resurrection is a pattern – we too will be raised if we are in him (v20).
- This hope of a resurrection body helps us make sacrifices for Jesus now (v30).

Paul now makes his next simple, powerful point: the resurrection bodies that are waiting for us are not just real and physical – THEY ARE BETTER!

Read: 1 Corinthians 15:35-49



INVESTIGATE

In v35 Paul is aware that some of his readers are still not convinced. They are asking questions like, ‘*A dead body is buried and decays or it is burnt, so how can you talk about us receiving new bodies Paul?*’

V36-38: Paul gives his readers a basic biology lesson. What point is he making about seeds and plants? What does that mean for our bodies now, and then?

In what sense is there a continuity between the seed and the plant / tree?

In what sense is there a discontinuity? What does this mean for us?

Note: The God who brings trees out of seeds can take our dead bodies and make something much more wonderful. It’s not difficult for him!



INVESTIGATE

V39-42a: The biology lesson continues! Where is Paul’s going with this?

V42-44: Paul now spells out **how** the resurrection body will be better by far. Try and unpack the words and ideas Paul uses in each contrast. What does / will each mean for us?

- “The body **sown** is *perishable* _____
 - it is **raised** *imperishable*; _____
- it is **sown** in *dishonour* _____
 - it is **raised** in *glory*; _____
- it is **sown** in *weakness* _____
 - it is **raised** in *power*” _____
- it is **sown** a *natural* body _____
 - It is **raised** a *spiritual* body _____

(This can’t mean a floaty non-physical body!)

HOW DOES ALL THIS MAKE YOU FEEL?



INVESTIGATE

V44-49: Paul is heading to his main point – v49b! To get us there he returns to the contrast between Adam and the second Adam, Jesus Christ that we met in v22.

What kind of body did Adam have? What did he experience in the contrasts above? What kind of body did Jesus have after his resurrection? What does all this mean for us now? And in the future (v48-49; see also 1 John 3:2)?

❖ We don’t only live once. We live twice, and our new bodies will be better by far!