**The Hardest Doctrine to Believe: “The Resurrection of the Body” -** *I Corinthians 15*

 “I believe in … the resurrection of the \_\_\_\_\_\_.” Note how specific this is. Not “the resurrection of the dead” but “the resurrection of the body.”

We believe that redemption will not be complete until the body itself is resurrected from the death.

1. **The Bodies We \_\_\_\_\_**

Our bodies wear \_\_\_\_.

As we age, we pay more attention to things like \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

And \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is in. And \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is in also.

So this is the first point: Your body is a gift from God that won’t last \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**II. The Death We’ll \_\_\_\_\_**

Most people fear death and don’t want to talk about it.

The Greek playwright Sophocles said, “Of all the great wonders, none is greater than man. Only for death can he find no cure.”

What does the Bible say about death?

A. Death is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. “It is appointed for man to die once” (Hebrews 9:27a ESV).

B. Death is \_\_\_\_ the end. “And after that comes judgment” (Hebrews 9:27b ESV)

C. Christ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ death. “Christ Jesus … abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel” (II Timothy 1:10 ESV).

D. Death remains the \_\_\_\_\_\_ enemy. “The last enemy to be destroyed is death” (I Corinthians 15:26).

Dr. Ryrie wrote that the essence of death is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Death is the unnatural separation of the body and the spirit.

Death exists because sin exists. When sin has been removed once and for all, death will no longer exist. That’s why there will be no death in heaven (Revelation 21:3).

Death itself will one day die, and the true state God intended will be restored. Until that day comes, we live in an odd situation best described by Ecclesiastes 12:7 (ESV), which says that when we die “the dust returns to the earth as it was, and the spirit returns to God who gave it.” It accurately describes what happens when we die. But that verse is not the end of the story.

1. **The Resurrection We’ll \_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

I Corinthians 15:51-55

Note three things from this passage about our coming resurrection:

1. It will happen \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. The text says “in a moment” and “in the twinkling of an eye”
2. It will happen when Jesus \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
3. It will result in our \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ transformation

That’s our destiny: Acorns today, oak trees tomorrow.

It’s not correct to speak of our loved ones in heaven as already having their glorified bodies. If the body is still in the ground, then it’s not glorified yet. Better to say that their spirit or soul is with the Lord, and that they in heaven (like us on earth) await the day of resurrection.

The body that is raised will be a new body—not just the old one patched up.

And individual personality continues in the resurrection.

We will have new bodies fit for new people who will live in the New Jerusalem

Our only way of understanding the resurrection body is to consider the experience of Jesus.

When Christ saves you, he saves all of you. Every part of you is saved and every part of you will be delivered from sin. Here is my whole sermon in one sentence: It is not soul salvation that we believe in, but whole salvation.

Step #1: We are saved from the penalty of sin. That happens when we trust Christ.

Step #2: We are saved from the power of sin. That happens day by day through the new life given to us by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Step #3: We are saved from the presence of sin. That will happen in the future when our bodies are raised from the dead and transformed by God’s power.

We are sown in dishonor and raised in glory (I Corinthians 15:43).