

Introduction:

- The title this morning is: Will I Rise Again? The answer is a resounding YES!!!
- Benjamin Franklin, one of our Founding Fathers of America, penned his own epitaph near the start of his career as a young man, writer and printer: *The Body of B. Franklin, Printer; Like the Cover of an old Book, Its Contents torn out, And stript of its Lettering and Gilding, Lies here, Food for Worms. But the Work shall not be wholly lost, For it will, as he believed, appear once more, In a new and more perfect Edition, Corrected and Amended By the Author.*
- This is part three in a series on the Resurrection. I want to share with you what God's Word has to say about our bodily resurrection. Did you know that one day you will be resurrected from the dead.
- It is because of Christ's resurrection from the dead we have assurance of our resurrection to come! The Bible has much to say about this subject.
- In 2 Corinthians 5:1 Paul refers to these bodies as tents: *For we know that when this tent is taken down...* One author had this to say about tents: "A tent, is a temporary place to dwell. It's fun to camp in a tent, but let's face it, it's not home. there's no fireplace, no cozy chair, no soft bed. It's cold in the winter, hot in the summer, and leaky when it rains. And the older it gets, the more it sags. Eventually it frays and tears and finally rots." "No wonder '*we groan*' (v. 2).", "Physicians make their living by listening to groaning tents. An orthopedic surgeon tries to keep the tent pegs from pulling loose, a dermatologist tries to keep the canvas in good shape, and the general practitioners are always stitching and patching us up. // "We groan because we are weary, rain soaked campers longing for home (v. 2b). But when we shed this earthly tent from our shoulders, we will not be left naked and shivering (vv. 3-4). We will be clothed with immortality (1 Corinthians 15:52-54). Like a huge down comforter, life--not death--will swallow us up (2 Corinthians 5:4)." // "To assure us of this, God puts His seal of approval upon it all by giving us His Spirit as a deposit or down payment for our eternal home (v. 5). We too shall be raised up!

1. We Will Be Raised Bodily in the Age To Come

- a. We have talked about the resurrection as key to our faith. We have talked about the resurrection as the key that unlocks everything. But I want to make sure that we understand, as a people of God, that in Christ we have the assurance of our own bodily resurrection! Yes, at the end of the age we will be given a new body unlike anything we have ever seen. Even Benjamin Franklin understood this.
- b. *"But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive. But each one in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those who are Christ's at His coming."* (1 Corinthians 15:20–23, NKJV)
 - i. I have been using the NLT this year but I specifically chose the NKJV version because of the words: First Fruits. The NLT reads the first of a great harvest, which is accurate but it loses the impact of what Paul has in mind. Jesus is called our Passover Lamb because He died like a passover lamb for us on passover. His blood brought us forgiveness of sin to those who believe. But what most Christians do not realize is that there are three feast which take place during Passover. You have the feast passover, feast of unleavened bread, and first fruits. Jesus was died on passover but he was resurrected as First Fruits.
 - ii. First Fruits - In first fruits, the first of the fruit of harvest was brought to God, just like the first born of man and animals were given to God. The first of grain harvest we brought before God. It was given by the people to the priest who waved it before God as an offering. Jesus is our First Fruits!
 - iii. The word first is "aparche" a Gr word meaning the first of a new kind! It means primacy both in time and in rank! Jesus is the first man to receive a glorified, resurrected body! And because He

is the first to rise from the dead He has supremacy and has conquered death! And because this man, Jesus was given a new body we now live with the hope that we to will be given a new body to live with God forever!

- c. Verse 23...*“But each one in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those who are Christ’s at His coming.”* (1 Corinthians 15:23, NKJV)
- i. Jesus has been raised from the dead and given a new body. Afterward when He returns we will be given new bodies. *“It will happen in a moment, ... when the last trumpet is blown. For when the trumpet sounds, those who have died will be raised to live forever.”* (1 Corinthians 15:52, NLT)
 - ii. Jesus after the feeding of the 5k in John, three times says of those who believe, *“I will raise him up at the last day.”* John 6:40,44,54. Last day meaning Christ’s return.
 - iii. Jn 11:23-26 Jesus declares himself to be the resurrection and the life for those who believe. But there is one thing interesting here. He is not talking about the last day. He is talking about now! For those who believe the resurrection life is already at work in you! That is why Jesus could say, “though he die, yet shall he live.”
 1. There is a spiritual resurrection for those who believe because death is not a barrier for us from Christ. Therefore when we die we do not sleep until the last day. We are with Christ immediately upon death, if you have believed in Him. Lk 23:43 Jesus tells the thief, *“Today you will be with me in paradise.”* Not at the last day. Resurrection life after death is not that of the body. Bodily resurrection belongs to the day of Christ’s return! What did Jesus say in Luke 23:46, *“Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.”* Stephen, *“Lord Jesus receive my spirit.”*
 2. Let me answer this for someone: The Bible speaks of death as falling asleep. (Dan 12:2; Mt 27:52; Jn 11:11; Acts 7:60; What this implies is this: death like sleep is not a permanent matter/state. Therefore, we understand that between death and the final resurrection there is an interim period where we are the same person but in different state of being. We are present with God in spirit and yet in the last day we are given a new body!
- d. The Christian faith is dogmatic in the resurrection of the body and not simply spiritual immortality.

2. That Body Will Be Different

- a. What kind of body will it be? *“They are buried as natural human bodies, but they will be raised as spiritual bodies. For just as there are natural bodies, there are also spiritual bodies.”* (1 Corinthians 15:44, NLT) We are not raised spirits! We are not raised as ghosts. We are raised with spiritual bodies. It will be a body adapted to the new order of things that is to come.
- b. Let me read Paul’s words from the Message Bible about this understanding of a new body: 1 Cor 15:35-38 *Some skeptic is sure to ask, “Show me how resurrection works. Give me a diagram; draw me a picture. What does this ‘resurrection body’ look like?” If you look at this question closely, you realize how absurd it is. There are no diagrams for this kind of thing. We do have a parallel experience in gardening. You plant a “dead” seed; soon there is a flourishing plant. There is no visual likeness between seed and plant. You could never guess what a tomato would look like by looking at a tomato seed. What we plant in the soil and what grows out of it don’t look anything alike. The dead body that we bury in the ground and the resurrection body that comes from it will be dramatically different.* Message
- c. The resurrected body is different. Jesus made this point with the Sadducees in our first teaching on the resurrection from Mt.22:28-ff. Jesus said, *“In the resurrection they neither marry or are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven”* vs 30 The mistake that the Sadducees were making was to

view life in the resurrection as being under the same conditions of our lives now in this fallen state.

We have a tendency to do the same because we know of nothing different except by the Word of God.

- d. Lets look at what is the same between the natural body and the spiritual body.
- i. The person raised from the dead is not a different person. He will be as recognizable as he was in this life. He is the same individual as he was before. Of Jesus the scriptures say he was beaten beyond recognition but when resurrected they all knew him! He was recognizable.
 - ii. The person raised from the dead will not assume another body. But on the other hand, the resurrected body will be different. For it will be a spiritual body not a natural one or (physical one as we know it.)
 - iii. They will be bodies appropriate to the world/age to come, therefore eternal, not fading, not aging, a “more perfect edition, corrected and amended by the Author.” Ben Franklin.
 - iv. The person raised from the dead is identifiable as the person they were prior to death and they still have a body that can be touched and handled. Lk 24:39 Jesus said, “touch me, I am not a ghost. Give me something to eat, I am not a spirit.” He was the same Jesus with a newer human body.
- e. How was it different?
- i. Lk 24:31 When the two on the road to Emmaus recognized Jesus, he vanished from their sight.
 - ii. Lk 24:36 Later when they are sharing with the other disciples, and the doors are closed Jesus suddenly comes through the doors, closed doors. He was operating in a new dimension. He had not become a spirit, He had transcended the earthly limitations of His prior being.
 - iii. He was both spiritual (heavenly) and earthly.
 - iv. Though this present body passes away the future body of the resurrection remains forever. This is the glory of being in Christ by faith. We live forever in existence with God, with Life!
- f. *“And we believers also groan, even though we have the Holy Spirit within us as a foretaste of future glory, for we long for our bodies to be released from sin and suffering. We, too, wait with eager hope for the day when God will give us our full rights as his adopted children, including the new bodies he has promised us.”* (Romans 8:23, NLT)
- g. In the beginning God created Adam to have an eternal existence, like God. What the first Adam lost the second Adam, Jesus gets back. The is what make the resurrection something to look forward to. To have a body to enjoy the full realm of what God has created for man.

3. Everyone Will Be Raised

- a. When we speak of the resurrection, as believers we get excited for this gives us hope! It gives us an expectation both now in this life and in the life to come. What I want us to understand under this third point is that everyone, both righteous and unrighteous will be raised from the dead. The righteous will be raised up at the return of Christ to be with Him. But the unrighteous will also be raised from the dead, later, to face an eternal judgment...to be forever separated from Him, from life. (Daniel 12:2, NLT) *“Many of those whose bodies lie dead and buried will rise up, some to everlasting life and some to shame and everlasting disgrace.”* Rev 20:11-15 John gives us the picture of this. *And I saw a great white throne and the one sitting on it. The earth and sky fled from his presence, but they found no place to hide. ¹² I saw the dead, both great and small, standing before God’s throne. And the books were opened, including the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to what they had done, as recorded in the books. ¹³ The sea gave up its dead, and death and the grave gave up their dead. And all were judged according to their deeds. ¹⁴ Then death and the grave were thrown into the lake of fire. This lake of fire is the second death. ¹⁵ And anyone whose name was not found recorded in the Book of Life was thrown into the lake of fire.* Rev 20:11-15

- b. If you do not know Jesus Christ as your personal Savior that death starts now. With out Jesus you are already dead. How do I know?
- i. I know by the thief who repented, Jesus told him today you will be with me in paradise.
 - ii. I know by Luke 16:23 The account of the rich man and Lazarus. Lazarus was carried by angels to Abraham. The rich man was in torment in hell where he could see Lazarus. And he begged Abraham to let Lazarus bring him just one drop of water from his finger.
 - iii. I know by 2 Peter 2:9 NLT *“So you see, the Lord knows how to rescue godly people from their trials, even while keeping the wicked under punishment until the day of final judgment.”*
- c. Jesus speaks of all the dead being raised. (John 5:28–29, NLT) *“Don’t be so surprised! Indeed, the time is coming when all the dead in their graves will hear the voice of God’s Son, and they will rise again. Those who have done good will rise to experience eternal life, and those who have continued in evil will rise to experience judgment.”*

Conclusion:

- *“For if we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. Therefore, whether we live or die, we are the Lord’s. For to this end Christ died and rose and lived again, that He might be Lord of both the dead and the living.”* (Romans 14:8–9, NKJV)
- Knowing that we will all be raised, doesn’t it make sense to choose Christ today?
 - Moses said it this way before he died, “Choose you this day whom you will serve.”
 - Joshua who lead Israel after Moses before he died said this, “Choose you this day whom you will serve.
- Those who die in Christ are with Him. And when He comes again they will be given new bodies to live with Him forever.
- Those who die without Christ are dead. They are raised at the last judgment only to find that their death in their sin is forever.