

HIGHLANDS CHURCH

Study Guide

Resurrection Bodies

Thomas Slager
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Major Points

- 1 The resurrection is integral to the gospel; without it, faith is futile and believers remain dead in their sins**

1 Corinthians 15:16-17

- 2 Our current bodies are like seeds sown into the ground; what God raises will be far more magnificent than what was planted**

1 Corinthians 15:36-38

- 3 The natural body is sown perishable, dishonorable, and weak, but is raised imperishable, glorious, and powerful as a spiritual body**

1 Corinthians 15:42-44

- 4 All people are 'people of the dust' through Adam, but through faith in Christ they become 'people of heaven' who will bear the image of the man of heaven**

1 Corinthians 15:47-49

- 5 The blessed hope of resurrection frees believers from grieving without hope and empowers them to encourage one another with the promise of eternal communion with Christ**

1 Thessalonians 4:17-18

Key Quotes

"If Christ is still dead, if Christ is still in a tomb somewhere, then you and I, there are so many better things we could be doing.

at 3:08

"Our body's like a seed sown into the ground. And what comes out of the ground when we're raised is even more beautiful and far more glorious and magnificent than we can even try to understand or fathom.

at 14:13

"If God could create things that are so unique and wonderful in this creation, who's to say he couldn't create something far more unique and far more wonderful in his recreation?

at 15:17

"You don't make Jesus Lord. Jesus is Lord, period. You don't make Jesus the Lord of your life. Jesus is the Lord of your life. Will you agree with him or not?

at 28:29

“They are not lost. They are sown.

at 32:18

Discussion Questions

1. Pastor Slager said that if Christ is still dead, 'there are so many better things we could be doing.' How does the reality of the resurrection change the way you spend your time and prioritize your life?
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2. Pastor Slager used the illustration of a tiny seed producing a massive watermelon or a 300-foot sycamore tree. How does this analogy reshape the way you think about your own mortality and future body?
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3. Pastor Slager distinguished between 'people of the dust' and 'people of heaven.' What does it mean practically in your daily life to live as a person of heaven while still inhabiting a body of dust?
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4. Pastor Slager emphasized that we do not make Jesus Lord but rather confess him as Lord. Why is that distinction important, and how does it affect the way we approach salvation?
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5. Pastor Slager quoted Charles Spurgeon: 'They are not lost. They are sown.' How does viewing death as a sowing rather than a loss change the way you grieve and comfort others who are grieving?
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Word Studies

speirein (speiro)

Greek

To sow seed; used metaphorically in 1 Corinthians 15:42-44 for the burial of the human body. Just as a seed is placed in the ground with the expectation of new life, so the believer's body is 'sown' in death with the expectation of resurrection. The agricultural metaphor emphasizes transformation, not annihilation.

Usage: 52 times in NT

pithora (pithartos)

Greek

Perishable, corruptible, subject to decay. In 1 Corinthians 15:42, Paul contrasts what is sown 'in corruption' (pithartos) with what is raised 'in incorruption' (aphthartos). The word describes the inherent vulnerability of the natural body to disease, aging, and death.

Usage: 6 times in NT (adjective form)

psychikos

Greek

Natural, pertaining to the soul or natural life; contrasted with pneumatikos (spiritual) in 1 Corinthians 15:44-46. A psychikos body is animated by the soul (psyche) and suited for earthly existence, while the pneumatikos body is animated and empowered by the Spirit (pneuma) for heavenly existence. The contrast is not between physical and immaterial but between the present mortal condition and the future glorified state.

Usage: 6 times in NT

Cross References

Philippians 3:20-21

Paul declares that Christ will transform our lowly bodies to be like his glorious body, directly paralleling the contrast between perishable and imperishable bodies in 1 Corinthians 15:42-44.

Revelation 21:4

The promise that God will wipe away every tear and there will be no more death, mourning, or pain echoes Pastor Slager's description of the imperishable resurrection body free from disease and suffering.

Genesis 2:7

God forming Adam from the dust of the ground and breathing life into him is the foundational passage behind Paul's 'man of dust' language in 1 Corinthians 15:47-49.

Isaiah 55:10-11

God compares his word to seed that accomplishes its purpose, reinforcing the seed-sowing imagery Paul uses to explain how something buried can produce something far greater.

1 John 3:2

John writes that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is, directly supporting the hope that believers will bear the image of the man of heaven.

Further Reading

- **Surprised by Hope: Rethinking Heaven, the Resurrection, and the Mission of the Church**

by N.T. Wright

- **The Resurrection of the Son of God**

by N.T. Wright

- **Heaven**

by Randy Alcorn

Scripture References

| REFERENCE | TYPE | TIME | CONTEXT |
|-------------------------|------------|---------|--|
| 1 Corinthians 15:1-2 | Read Aloud | 0 : 32 | <i>Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I ...</i> |
| 1 Corinthians 15:3-4 | Read Aloud | 0 : 32 | <i>For I delivered to you as of first importance that...</i> |
| 1 Corinthians 15:12 | Read Aloud | 1 : 22 | <i>If Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, h...</i> |
| 1 Corinthians 15:13-14 | Read Aloud | 2 : 24 | <i>If there's no resurrection of the dead, then not e...</i> |
| 1 Corinthians 15:16-17 | Read Aloud | 2 : 24 | <i>If the dead are not raised, not even Christ has be...</i> |
| 1 Corinthians 15:22-23 | Read Aloud | 3 : 20 | <i>For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall al...</i> |
| 1 Corinthians 15:32 | Read Aloud | 3 : 50 | <i>What do I gain if humanly speaking I fought with b...</i> |
| 1 Corinthians 15:35 | Read Aloud | 4 : 59 | <i>But someone will ask, How are the dead raised? Wit...</i> |
| John 6:44 | Referenced | 7 : 42 | |
| John 11:21-27 | Read Aloud | 8 : 37 | <i>Martha said to Jesus, Lord, if you had been here, ...</i> |
| Deuteronomy 29:29 | Read Aloud | 10 : 44 | <i>The secret things belong to the Lord.</i> |
| 1 Corinthians 15:36-41 | Read Aloud | 11 : 27 | <i>You foolish person, what you sow does not come to ...</i> |
| 1 Corinthians 15:39 | Read Aloud | 14 : 53 | <i>For not all flesh is the same, but there is one ki...</i> |
| 1 Corinthians 15:40-41 | Read Aloud | 17 : 12 | <i>There are heavenly bodies and earthly bodies, but ...</i> |
| 1 Corinthians 15:42-44 | Read Aloud | 18 : 37 | <i>So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What i...</i> |
| 2 Corinthians 4:16-18 | Read Aloud | 19 : 12 | <i>So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is ...</i> |
| 1 Corinthians 15:45-47 | Read Aloud | 23 : 08 | <i>Thus it is written, the first man Adam became a li...</i> |
| John 1:1-5 | Read Aloud | 23 : 57 | <i>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was wi...</i> |
| John 1:14 | Read Aloud | 24 : 21 | <i>And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and ...</i> |
| 1 Corinthians 15:48-49 | Read Aloud | 25 : 08 | <i>As was the man of dust, so also are those who are ...</i> |
| Romans 3:23 | Read Aloud | 26 : 38 | <i>All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of G...</i> |
| Romans 6:23 | Read Aloud | 27 : 21 | <i>The wages of sin is death. But the gift of God is ...</i> |
| Romans 5:8 | Referenced | 27 : 41 | <i>God demonstrated his love for us in this: while we...</i> |
| John 3:16 | Referenced | 28 : 06 | |
| Romans 10:9 | Referenced | 28 : 45 | |
| 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 | Read Aloud | 29 : 58 | <i>For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord...</i> |

| REFERENCE | TYPE | TIME | CONTEXT |
|------------|------------|---------|--|
| Romans 6:9 | Referenced | 34 : 35 | <i>Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die...</i> |