

MILILANI COMMUNITY CHURCH
ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES

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LESSON 6: THE ORDER OF SALVATION (Part 5): Glorification

"When Christ redeemed us he did not just redeem our spirits (or souls) – he redeemed us as whole persons, and this includes the redemption of our bodies. Therefore the application of Christ's work of redemption to us will not be complete until our bodies are entirely set free from the effects of the fall and brought to that state of perfection for which God created them." (Wayne Grudem, Systematic Theology, 828)

The redemption of our bodies will only occur when Christ returns and raises our bodies from the dead (see: Romans 8:23-24).

The stage in the application of redemption when we receive resurrection bodies is called GLORIFICATION (Romans 8:17). When Paul traces the steps in the application of redemption, the last one he names is glorification (Romans 8:29-30).

DEFINITION OF GLORIFICATION

"Glorification is the final step in the application of redemption. It will happen when Christ returns and raises from the dead the bodies of all believers for all time who have died, and reunites them with their souls, and changes the bodies of all believers who remain alive, thereby giving all believers at the same time perfect resurrection bodies like his own." (Wayne Grudem, Systematic Theology, 828)

CENTRAL PASSAGE ON GLORIFICATION

I Corinthians 15:35-58 is a very important passage on the subject of glorification and you need to be familiar with it. It has been said that this is the longest answer ever given in the NT to any particular question.

Glorification centers in the doctrine of the RESURRECTION OF OUR BODIES. The resurrection of our bodies is the thing for which and to which we look forward. We will live as resurrected believers in our new bodies and they will be perfectly suited for inhabiting the "*new heavens and new earth in which righteousness dwells*" (I Peter 3:13).

The denial of the resurrection of the body is a pagan doctrine. When Paul preached the doctrine of bodily resurrection among the pagans of his day at the Areopagus of Athens, he received different types of responses (Acts 17:31-34).

Down through the centuries there has echoed the mockery of the Areopagus, for men down through the centuries have laughed at this doctrine.

Four primary answers to the question: "What happens to us when we die?"

1. Atheistic humanism says that there is no life after death at all. When you die, that is the end. There is no more you or me after we die. We go into nothingness. (The old Schlitz beer commercial expressed this philosophy: "You only go around once in life, so grab all the gusto you can get").
2. Plato argued for a future life but not for a resurrection of the body. The Greeks taught that the body was just a prison for the soul and that the soul is liberated from the body at death.
3. Eastern religions teach that the soul goes through different reincarnations. Their hope is that the cycle of reincarnations will come to an end and their soul will be eventually submerged in the great world-soul, ending in non-entity as a person.
4. Christians have always believed in the resurrection of the body. We believe in resurrection of the body, not the resurrection of the spirit. The spirit does not die. James Denney: "If we are not prepared to speak of the resurrection of the body we should not speak of resurrection at all."

QUESTIONS ABOUT THE RESURRECTION OF OUR BODIES

I Corinthians 15:35: *"But someone may ask, 'How are the dead raised? With what kind of body will they come?'"*

How are the dead raised?

With what kind of body will they come?

1. Short Answer to these questions: Philippians 3:20-21
2. Specific Answers to these questions: I Corinthians 15:35ff
 - a. How Are The Dead Raised?

An illustration of resurrection from nature (I Cor. 15:36-38)

Dissolution – v. 36

Difference – v. 37

Continuity – v. 38

Identity – v. 38

b. What Will Our Resurrection Bodies Be Like?

A description of our resurrection bodies (I Cor. 15:42-44)

Our new bodies will be IMPERISHABLE

Our new bodies will be GLORIOUS

Our new bodies will be POWERFUL

Our new bodies will be SPIRITUAL

“We shall be LIKE HIM” (I John 3:1-3)

c. When Will We Receive These New Bodies? (I Cor. 15:50-58)

d. What Will Be The Process Of Receiving Them? (I Cor. 15:51-52)

e. What About Believers Who Die Before The Rapture? (I Thess. 4:13-18)

THE CERTAINTY OF THE RESURRECTION OF OUR BODIES

The Testimony of God’s Word (Romans 8:28-30)

The Testimony of God’s Power (Philippians 3:20-21)

THE ENTIRE CREATION WILL BE RENEWED

When Adam sinned God cursed the ground because of him (Genesis 3:17-19) so that it brought forth thorns and thistles and would only yield food useful for mankind by painful toil. But Paul says that *“the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and obtain the glorious liberty of the children of God”* (Romans 8:21).

Paul pictures all of creation on tip-toes so to speak, longing for that day: *“For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of god... We know that the whole creation has been groaning in travail together until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit groan inwardly as we wait for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies”* (Romans 8:19, 22-23).

THE UNBELIEVING DEAD WILL BE RAISED FOR JUDGMENT

Although the emphasis of the Bible is on the fact that believers will experience a bodily resurrection, there are some passages that state the unbelievers will also be raised from the dead. But they will be raised to face the final judgment. See Jesus' words in John 5:28-29. See also Acts 24:15, Matthew 25:31-46; Daniel 12:2; Revelation 20:11-15.

CONCLUSION

Paul says that the expectation of a future bodily resurrection is the "hope" in which we were saved (Romans 8:24).

So strong was Paul's longing for the future day of resurrection, and so aware was he of the hardships that we still suffer in this life, that he could say, *"If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all men most to be pitied"* (I Corinthians 15:19), and, *"If the dead are not raised, 'Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die'"* (I Corinthians 15:32).

C.S. Lewis wrote: "The load or weight or burden of my neighbor's glory should be laid daily on my back, a load so heavy that only humility can carry it, and the backs of the proud will be broken. It is a serious thing to live in a society of possible gods and goddesses, to remember that the dullest and most uninteresting person you talk to may one day be a creature which, if you saw it now, you would be strongly tempted to worship, or else a horror and a corruption such as you now meet, if at all, only in a nightmare ...There are no ordinary people..." (C. S. Lewis, The Weight Of Glory, 14-15)

Unbelievers have scoffed at death and resurrection. But listen to their death bed cries: Voltaire: "I am abandoned by God and men. I shall go to Hell. Oh Christ, Oh Jesus Christ!" Thomas Paine: "I would give worlds if The Age of Reason had never been published. Oh Lord help me...Oh Christ stay with me!"