



Pastor Scott Archer 06.18.2017*
Central Congregational Church
"For the Glory of God and the Good of our Neighbors"
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Resurrection Realities Pt. 2

1 Corinthians 15:12-58

Series: Following Jesus in the Real World

Central Passage

*1 Corinthians 15:50–52 (ESV) — 50 I tell you this, brothers: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. 51 Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and **the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed.***

Central Thought: The bodily resurrection of the believer, and the transformation of those alive at the return of Christ, is the singular hope of the Gospel, and the catalyst for a life of sacrificial love and service.

Resurrection Realities...

❖ No Resurrection = No hope!

*1 Corinthians 15:16–19 (ESV) — 16 For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised. 17 And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. 18 Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. 19 **If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied.***

1 Corinthians 15:32 (ESV) — 32 ...If the dead are not raised, "Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die."

❖ Christ's Resurrection = Our Resurrection and the Renewal of all things!

1 Corinthians 15:21–24 (ESV) — 21 For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. 22 For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. 23 But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. 24 Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. (See also 1Thessalonians 4:13-18; Revelation 21 & 22)

❖ Our Resurrection = New life and a New body!

1 Corinthians 15:42–45 (ESV) — 42 So is it with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable; what is raised is imperishable. 43 It is sown in dishonor; it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness; it is raised in power. 44 It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body. 45 Thus it is written, "The first man Adam became a living being"; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit.

1 Corinthians 15:49 (ESV) — 49 Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven. (See also 1John 3:1-3)

❖ Hope of Resurrection = How we live and what we do in the present, matters for the future.

*1 Corinthians 15:54–58 (ESV) — 54 When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory." 55 "O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?" 56 The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. 57 But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. 58 Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, **knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.***