

Dr. Cecil A. Fayard
Elliott Baptist Church
July 14, 2002

The Believers Resurrection Body
I Corinthians 15:51-54

INTRO: Think of the words found in I Cor 15:51: "...we shall not all sleep, but we shall be changed." When Jesus comes back in the clouds, believers will be caught up, snatched away from all the stress, pain, disappointment, and discouragement of body, soul, and spirit.

The body in which we live is a house for our soul and spirit. It is a house that sometimes needs fixing. It is a house that aches and groans, a house that has burdens to bear. Yet, one of these days, we will lay down this house of clay and put on a new body (II Cor 5:2-4).

An old Southern Gospel song puts it this way:

*On the resurrection morning when all the dead in Christ shall rise,
I'll have a new body, Praise the Lord, I'll have a new life;
Sown in weakness raised in power, ready to live in Paradise,
I'll have a new body, Praise the Lord, I'll have a new life.
I'll have a new home of love eternal with the redeemed of God to
stand,
There'll be no more sorrow, no more pain, There'll be no
more strife;
Yes, raised in the likeness of my Savior, ready to live in glory land,
I'll have a new body, Praise the Lord, I'll have a new life.*

The opening words of I Cor 15:51 say: "Behold I show you a mystery...." You and I are not in the dark concerning what is going to happen when Christ comes back for us in the air. The mystery is revealed to us, revealed to God's children. Right now we are "troubled on every side..." (II Cor 4:8). We are persecuted, and we are weary. Remember this dear saved friend, when Jesus comes back, we will be delivered from those who trouble us (II Thes 1:6-10).

I. WHEN WE SHALL BE CHANGED

- A. We will be changed when Christ comes in the clouds.
 - 1. I Cor 15:52.
 - 2. I Thes 4:16, "For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout..."

- B. Christ arose and the saved dead will rise at the coming of the living Son of God (I Cor 15: 20,23). Because He arose, we shall rise.
 - 1. This resurrection of the saints is called in Hebrews 11:35, “the better resurrection....”
 - 2. In Rev 20:6, it is called “the first resurrection.”
 - 3. John 5:29 calls it, “the resurrection of life.”
 - 4. Luke 14:14 says it is “the resurrection of the just.”
 - 5. Daniel 12:2 calls it the resurrection of “everlasting life.”

II. THE QUICKNESS OF THE CHANGE

- A. The speed of our change is given in I Cor 15:52a: “In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye....” That is fast!
 - 1. “Moment” is the Greek word *atomos* meaning “that which cannot be cut in two or divided.”
 - 2. The Lord’s coming will be quick and unannounced.
 - a) Because He will come suddenly, we need to be abiding in Him. I John 2:28, “And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming.”
 - b) Those who are right with the Savior love His appearing. They are waiting and watching (II Tim 4:8).
- B. Our change will take place “in the twinkling of an eye.”
 - 1. Not the blinking, but the twinkling of an eye.
 - 2. They say the twinkling of the eye is 11/100 of a second.

III. THE POWER OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE JUST

- A. The same power that resurrected Christ from the dead has brought the child of God from spiritual death to spiritual life (Eph 1:17-20).
- B. The mighty power of God that now sustains the entire universe holds the sun, moon, and planets in their places will one day move upon us (Eph 3:20-21).
 - 1. Because He is coming we are to stand fast, to do right (Phil 4:1).
 - 2. Our resurrection body will be like unto the resurrection body of Christ (I John 3:2-3).
 - 3. If you are saved, God will raise you up (Rom 8:11).

IV. BELIEVERS ARE PROMISED A RESURRECTION BODY

- A. Without a body, man is naked, unclothed (II Cor 5:1-3).
- B. Because of the fall, because of sin, the separation of soul and spirit from the body was brought about.
 - 1. Physical and spiritual death were brought about by Adam’s sin (Gen 2:17).
 - 2. The Bible tells us of both deaths.
 - a) Physical- Rom 5:12.
 - b) Spiritual- Rom 6:23.
 - 3. The child of God will not suffer spiritual death, also known as the second

death (Rev 20:6). But because of sin, we suffer physical death, separation of the body from our soul.

- C. The redemptive work of Christ is a complete work.
 - 1. Right now soul and spirit are redeemed. When Jesus comes again, our body will be redeemed.
 - 2. Right now our bodies are mortal. One day, they will be immortal (I Cor 15:53-54). Now they die; one day they will be raised to die no more.
 - a) The bodily resurrection of Christ guarantees our resurrection.
 - b) Death will be swallowed up in victory (Isa 25:8; I Cor 15:55-57).

V. THE RESURRECTION BODY WILL BE FLESH AND BONES

- A. The resurrection body of Jesus was a real body.
 - 1. He appeared to the ten disciples in the upper room (Luke 24:39-40). (Bones vs 39 *ostea*- same as in John 19:36).
 - 2. Jesus invited Thomas to touch His body (John 20:27).
 - 3. With His resurrection body, Jesus ate broiled fish and honeycomb (Luke 24:41-43).
- B. Our new bodies, our glorified bodies, will be spiritual; and they will be flesh and bones. There will be no blood in them.
 - 1. Yes, the life of the flesh is in the blood.
 - 2. Our spiritual life, our eternal life, is wrapped up in the blood of Jesus. It is because of His blood that we have eternal life.
 - a) Heb 9:24-25.
 - b) The blood of Jesus is in heaven right now for He brought it there (Heb 9:11-14).
 - c) Before Jesus ascended with the blood of redemption, He told Mary not to touch Him. This was because He is our High Priest and could not be touched until He had fulfilled His High Priestly duty of applying the blood to the Mercy Seat (John 20:17). Later He was met by others, and they were allowed to touch Him because the blood had been applied (Matt 28:9).

CONCLUSION: Because of what Christ has done for the believer, we will have new bodies, redeemed bodies, bodies with no pain or sickness, bodies without restrictions (John 20:19; I John 3:2).