

August 16, 2009



The Early Risers Class

**The Oaks
Baptist Church**
Grand Prairie, Texas



Teacher:

James Haymon

Class Leaders:

Joe & Comella Liles

Today's Guest Teacher:

Dr. Bill White

- 1 CORINTHIANS 15 -

Resurrection: Past, Present and Future

Outline: Harold L. Willmington

(1-4) The Gospel in a Nutshell

(5-11) "He's Alive, and Here's the Proof!"

(12-19) "If He Isn't, We're Doomed!"

(20-28) The Resurrection, the Reviewing Stand, and the Reign

(29-34) Exhortations in Light of the Empty Tomb

(35-38) Like a Grain of Wheat

(39-49) Earthly vs. Eternal

(50-58) Then Death Will Die

Singing, Sharing the Story...

PRAY FOR DR. WHITE



Aug. 17 - High Dale Club, 11 am

Aug. 21 - Lamar Baptist, Arlington
6 pm

Aug. 22 - FBC Dallas, 11:30 am
Texas Theater, 7 pm
Waxahachie

Resurrection: Past, Present and Future **1 Corinthians 15:29-58**

Most sections of this letter begin with a reference to why Paul was writing on a topic. Not here. Not until v12 do we learn that some of the Corinthians had denied the resurrection of the dead. Paul deals with this erroneous opinion, its presuppositions and its consequences. He goes back to when he was with them, reminding them of the importance of the resurrection in the gospel he had preached. "This is the classical Christian discussion of the subject. Christ's resurrection is fundamental...and implies the resurrection of the Christian" (Morris).

How do some among you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? (12). The Greek idea was of an immortal soul but no rising of the body. Those who believe this are striking at the foundation of the faith: i.e., "to deny the believer's resurrection is virtually to deny Christ's, which would ...involve a denial of the faith" (Guthrie).

In Light of the Empty Tomb (29-34)

If the Resurrection never happened we might as well quit making sacrifices for Christ—in danger every hour—and dedicate our lives to pleasure (30-32). But since He has been raised, we should be dedicated to Christian living (33-34). Paul did not endorse baptism for the dead (29), but used it as an argument against their assertion that there is no resurrection.

Like a Grain of Wheat (35-38)

What kind of body? (35) Paul did not say how God will raise the dead nor tell us what we will look like. Instead he compared it to the apparent death and resurrection of a grain of wheat, leading to thrilling conclusions:

- The resurrected body will be better

than our present one, just as a plant is more glorious than its seed (37).

- The old body, like a seed, must die to be changed (36; see John 12:24—Jesus had used the same reasoning). Death will not really kill the believer, but simply release his or her new body.
- The new body keeps its identity (38; see 13:12).

Earthly vs. Eternal (39-49)

Our resurrected body will differ from our mortal body as much as animal flesh differs from human flesh; as much as the sun differs from the moon; for the one is spiritual while the other is merely natural (39-44). We inherited our natural body from Adam but will receive our eternal body from Christ (45-49). There is both continuity and change.

Then Death Will Die (50-58)

When Jesus returns both the dead and the living will be changed in a flash. Bodies dead and decaying will become incorruptible; bodies still living but mortal will become immortal (50-53). *Now I say this*—this was important to Paul. *Flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God (50). The first body (flesh and blood) cannot participate in the spiritual kingdom because decay and corruption cannot be part of what is eternally incorruptible. A mystery (51)—could not be known apart from God's revelation. Some will die, and some will survive to the day Christ returns. But all will be changed!* Our earthly bodies won't do—but God takes care of everything! Jesus will complete his triumph over death (54-57, 26). With this assurance, believers should *be strong and steady (58 NLT)*.

- From *Willmington's Bible Handbook*; David Prior (*The Bible Speaks Today*); and teacher's personal notes