

Life Group Notes
Sunday 28 May 2017

Speaker: Mark Amos

Passage: 1 Corinthians 15:35-49

Title: The Resurrection Body

Read 1 Corinthians 15:35-49 together

The resurrection is world news. This was suggested in the 1962 Tim magazine article featuring the theologian Karl Barth who stated that "the goal of human life is not death but resurrection."

The first point raised was a reminder that resurrection, although being the goal of life, does require death. This seems to be something that the Corinthians did not feel comfortable with. Secondly, based on verses 37-41 we saw that the resurrection body involves similarity and dissimilarity in relation to our current existence. Thirdly, we focussed on the particular nature of the resurrection as involving a Spirit filled physical body. The key to this is the difficult to translate verse 44. It was suggested that the meaning that Paul wanted to convey was that we now have "ordinary human life", but will be raised into "a life indwelt by the Spirit of God" (N.T. Wright *The Resurrection of the Son of God*) Resurrection life is therefore physical, but empowered by the Spirit.

The final point was that this Spirit filled resurrection life is inaugurated in Christ's life and resurrection. We can know this life in part *now*. We can therefore hope for God's Spirit to even now be transforming this physical world. The Spirit brings something of heaven to us as an act of grace. This should cause us to care for this world and care for each other's physical needs hand in hand with spiritual needs. It is not that we create a kind of heaven on earth on our own terms, but that we gratefully cooperate with the Holy Spirit who raised Jesus from the dead.

Questions (Pick and choose!)

1. Why do you think that Paul wants to insist on the necessity of death?
2. In what ways do we taste the resurrection life now?
3. In what ways can we live in the light of the resurrection?
4. In what ways do we aim to create heaven on our own terms?
5. Where do we see the incorruptible more than the corruptible?
6. To what extent should we care about our physical world? How might we express this?
7. How does this apply to the general election? (very optional!!)