

# The Resurrection & the Believer

by Charles E. Fuller

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*The resurrection of believers' bodies is a demonstration of God's power and a promise of eternal life with Christ.*

**Duration:** 50:00

**Scripture:** 1 Corinthians 9:27, Ephesians 5:11, 2 Peter 3:9

**Topics:** "Resurrection"

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## Description

In this sermon transcript, the preacher begins by expressing gratitude for the support that allows them to spread the good news through radio broadcasts. The congregation is encouraged to sing a hymn for those going through difficult times. The preacher then acknowledges the joy of being able to understand and connect with the message without translation. The sermon includes references to hymns and the importance of faithfulness and salvation through Jesus Christ. The preacher also mentions receiving letters from listeners and asks for prayers for those in hospitals and on the battlefields.

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## Transcript

Free in Cooperation with Fuller Seminary proudly presents the Old-Fashioned Revival Hour, a broadcast of the Gospel with Dr. Charles E. Cooper. Greetings to you, friends. This is an interesting little magazine clipping that came to us, evidently from missionaries in Belgium.

Midnight church service, Thursday midnight. We rub our eyes, grab our bath robes, and grope around in the dark until we find the door, and then we hurriedly shuffle out into the hall and down the stairs. No, it's not a fire.

We're going to hear a church service. We are virtually starved for an American service, so each Thursday at midnight, we join the friends downstairs around their radio and listen to the Old-Fashioned Revival Hour. We cannot tell you how good it is to hear our old familiar hymns and music, and most of all, to be able to understand every message, every word of the message, without bothering to translate it.

That's interesting, isn't it? A good letter comes from missionaries in northern Nigeria, West Africa, saying that the broadcast comes in very fine and clear there, and it means so much to them so far from home. A lady very ill in Switzerland writes how she looks forward every Thursday night to the broadcast. It comes there from twelve midnight to one o'clock, but she hears it and finds great inspiration.

And then a man writes from England that he accepted Christ as Savior the first time he heard the Old-Fashioned Revival Hour. Returning home late at night, a singer on the stage, he just turned on the radio and heard the way of salvation made plain, accepted Christ, and he's so glad that he did listen that night. An Irish lad, nineteen years old, writes in the breezy way of youth his appreciation of the hour.

Dear Dr. Fuller, for a year I have wanted to write to you, and now I'm going to do it. All the Christians here are so glad about your radio service. In this area, about six miles radius, we hear nothing but that program on Thursday night from Luxembourg.

And Charles E. Fuller seems as well-known as our next-door neighbor. Heavenly sunshine has become a hit tune among the Christians here. May God reach through you the ears of those who otherwise would never hear of salvation.

A lady writes from Pennsylvania, our son Keith is stationed in Greenland in the Air Force, and he writes us that he often hears Reverend Fuller of California over the short wave, and he says we like it. So you see, the lady continues, so you see God is using your voice, Mr. Fuller, of far ways, and our servicemen particularly do need it. And then this last letter is from a serviceman who writes from a hospital in Colorado.

Dear Mr. Fuller, I thank my Lord I can hear my favorite program, though I have to sneak to do it. After nine, lights out and radios off in this hospital. But I put my little radio under my pillow and I really drink in the whole service.

The first time I heard of you was in Korea when a friend sent me a copy of your heart-to-heart talks. That is such a helpful little paper. Please pray for us in the hospitals and for those men on the battlefields and elsewhere.

And that is all for today, friends. It shall never end, nothing holds, Nor crosses and ephahs, Alleluia! Alleluia! Defying every glass, Alleluia! Alleluia! The winds of hell have blown, The world its fate has shown, Yet it is not overthrown, Alleluia for the cross! It shall never end, never shall be lost, Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia for the cross! Alleluia! Alleluia! It shall never suffer loss! It is the overall sin, Alleluia! Alleluia! Its triumvirate has held, Alleluia! Alleluia! The grace of God He has shown, Through Christ the blessed Son, Who gives for sin agon, Alleluia for the cross! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia for the cross! Alleluia! Alleluia! It shall never suffer loss! Alleluia! Alleluia! It shall never suffer loss! Alleluia for the cross! Alleluia! Alleluia! It shall never suffer loss! Alleluia for the cross! Alleluia! Alleluia! We pray that those who feel under a load of sin or under a load of anxiety and worry, that they may learn to commit everything unto Thee and to believe in Thy Son, Jesus Christ. We pray especially for our servicemen today, that Thou wilt be with them and bless them.

Bless those that are sick and wounded. Bless likewise those that are out on the battlefield today. And be especially with those of their loved ones who are at home here in America.

We pray also, Lord, in these closing days that Thou wilt bring a great revival across the land. We pray that many may turn to Christ in this year. And we pray especially that Thou wilt bless the colleges and universities of America.

And in these days, many may turn to Christ and find Him to be a live option. For we ask it in Jesus' name. Amen.

A shadow of almighty rock Within a weary land A hole within the wilderness For rest upon And the burden of the day I take across Thy shadow And the sunshine of His great glory Were you there when Were you there when They crucified my Lord Were you there Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble Tremble, tremble Were you there when They crucified my Lord Were you there when They laid Him in the tomb Were you there Were you there when They laid Him in the tomb Were you there Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble Tremble, tremble Were you there when They laid Him in the tomb Were you there when He rose up from the dead I feel like shouting glory Glory Glory Were you there when He rose up from the dead You have your Bibles open to 1 Corinthians 15:35 How are the dead raised up and with what body do they come? False teaching concerning the resurrection of the believer's body had crept into the early Corinthian church. First, there was the flat denial of the bodily resurrection of Christ from among the dead, and as a result of that, second, the false teaching concerning the resurrection of the bodies of believers from the dead. In 1 Corinthians 15, the Holy Spirit, speaking through Paul, sets forth God's eternal truth concerning the resurrection of the body.

First, of Christ's bodily resurrection, and then second, the resurrection of all true believers' body from the dead. The line of teaching or false teaching prevalent in the early church in reference to the resurrection went something like this. If the body be not raised, then was Christ's body not raised.

Then the resurrection was not a fact, and if the resurrection never occurred, then the redemption of man, which Christ came to accomplish, he failed to perform for his resurrection, was a demonstration of the perfection of his work on Calvary's cross. If Christ were not risen, sin was not put away, the gospel was not true, our faith is then vain, empty, void, useless. The apostles were false witnesses, the believers of all men most miserable.

The loved ones whose body had fallen asleep had perished eternally. That's the line of false teaching. And so in 1 Corinthians 15, the apostle first defines and declares the gospel, and that that gospel, which is the power of God unto salvation, rests upon two great eternal foundation stones.

First, Calvary's cross, where Christ bare our sins in his own body on the tree, and second, upon the bodily resurrection of Christ, the firstfruits from among the dead. And after declaring that fact of Christ's resurrection, the Holy Spirit then proceeds to unfold the teaching concerning the resurrection of the bodies of believers. So we read, two questions are asked, very pertinent questions, and very important questions, and very interesting questions.

How are the dead raised up, and with what body or what kind of body do they come? And the balance of chapter 15 from verse 35 to the end is devoted to answering these two important questions. How are the dead raised up, and with what kind of a body do they come? But before we find God's answers to these questions, may we make it very, very, very plain that the teaching herein set forth does not apply to the unsaved and their bodies. Now mark that down.

He's giving instructions here in the 15th of I Corinthians to the members of the body of Christ, all truly born-again believers. I Corinthians 15 does not instruct us as to the resurrection of the wicked dead. Briefly and quickly, God's Word sets forth very clearly that there will be two general resurrections.

The first resurrection of those who die in the Lord, or the resurrection of the bodies of all true believers. And this resurrection will take place when Christ comes for His own. The second resurrection in point of time, at least, is a thousand years later when all the wicked dead will be raised.

All who have died in their sins, unrepentant from the days of Adam and down to the end of time, will be raised and judged according to their sinful and damnable works, and then cast into the lake of fire which burneth forever. Revelation 20, verses 11 to 15. Now the wicked dead, at that time at the second resurrection, will be lessened carefully, will be reunited to their sin-laden, sin-cursed body, remaining throughout the eternal ages to come, filthy, vile, sinful, unrighteous, no second chance, no chance of escape, and the spiritual condition of every man at the time of death is fixed once for all for all the eternal ages to come.

Let's meditate, however, upon the brighter side and find the answers to the two questions that are put forth in verse 35 of 1 Corinthians 15. How are the dead raised up and with what kind of body do they come? The unrighteous shall perish, flee away from the presence of God. Keep always in mind that God is revealing truth concerning the resurrection of all believers, those who have died in the Lord.

As I have thought through and re-read 1 Corinthians again, I have been struck with the many occurrences of the word body, D-O-D-Y, 44 times in 1 Corinthians this word occurs, and I believe it is the essential key that unlocks this marvelous epistle. For example, in 1 Corinthians 6, God warns the believers against the sins committed in the body and then closes that great chapter by saying, knowing not that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, and any man that will defile that temple God will deal with you. And then in chapter 7, instructing those who are united in the holy bonds of marriage on the proper use of the Bible, of the body.

And then in chapter 9, Paul says, I keep my body in subjection less than any time having preached to others I might become cast away, set on the sidelines, not usable. Chapter 10, all the believers are members of Christ's body. Chapter 11, instructing believers relative to the Lord's Supper to be discerning concerning the Lord's body.

That is, fellowship with those that are like mine, that are real members of the body of Christ and have no fellowship with the works of darkness. Chapter 12, I will be in Christ, yet differently placed in Christ's body. Now, how are the dead raised up? And we might add when.

Bear in mind that all this is in reference to the bodies of those who have died in the Lord. Now, when death, as we speak of it, comes to a believer and this last enemy that will be put under Christ's feet someday has done his deadly work, no soul and spirit depart to be with Christ, which is far better, absent from the body at home with the Lord. And the earthly tabernacle in which that person lived so many years, that earthly tabernacle is laid away in the grave.

Note now, please, the tabernacle, the body is laid away in the grave to sleep. No such thing as soul sleep in God's Word. And that body is to sleep until the morn of the first resurrection.

Now, note 1 Thessalonians 4, 13. How are the dead raised? Blessed, for I would not have you ignorant brethren concerning them which are asleep, that ye sigh not, even as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, which is the basis of the gospel, even so them which also sleep in Jesus, will God bring with him that we which are alive and remain under the coming of the Lord shall not precede them which are asleep.

For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ shall arise first then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so shall we ever be with the Lord.

Wherefore, comfort one another with these words. How is he going to do it? Listen, the same mighty power that brought the Lord Jesus from the dead, that same mighty power will be wrought in us who believe when Christ comes for his own. And when that last soul is saved and completes that body composed of the called out ones, he's coming.

We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be chained in a moment in the twinkling of an eye at the last trump, for the trumpet shall sound and the dead shall be raised incorruptible and we shall be chained. And then in Philippians the third chapter, verse 21, a very precious passage of Scripture. How that the Lord is coming some day, here it is, who shall fashion this body of our humiliation that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body.

In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, our bodies will be chained. Now the second question briefly, what kind of a body will a believer come forth? First Corinthians 15 from verse 35 answers this question. This body, when death takes place, will be sown in corruption.

It is raised in incorruption. And so we read that corruption must put on incorruption. The second contrast it is sown in dishonor.

It is raised in glory. Beloved, it does not yet appear what we shall be, but we know that when he shall appear we shall be like him for we shall see him as he is. It is sown a natural body.

It is raised a spiritual body. The third appearance in the twenty-first chapter. Oh, it's marvelous how he came and he walked and he talked with his disciples in his spiritual body.

And then suddenly out on the hills and the slopes of Mount Olive as he was talking to his disciples we find these words. And when he had spoken these things while they beheld he was taken up and a cloud received him out of their sight. And while they looked steadfastly towards heaven as he went up they beheld two men stood by them in white apparel and they said this same Jesus which is taken up from you into heaven shall so come in like manner as you've seen him go into heaven.

So supposing death comes to you if you're in Christ Jesus you'll depart to be with Christ which is far better absent from the body at home with the Lord close upon with the eternal house not made with hands eternal in the heavens your body will be laid away to sleep until the morn of the first resurrection and then you'll become close upon with that glorious body like under his eternal glorious body. This is only to those that are in Christ Jesus. To you outside of Christ there's no hope you're without God and without Christ it'll be the blackness of eternal separation forever unless now you believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and be saved.

He's not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance and whosoever will may come. Let's bow our heads in prayer no one stirring please. Every head bowed serious before God are you a member of the body of Christ if not you're lost dead in trespasses and sin but God says come now come all ye laboring heavy laden I'll give you rest will you come for him that cometh I will in no wise cast out to you in the radio audience kneel where you are and look up into the Father's face and say God be merciful to me a sinner and save me for Christ's sake and God will hear your prayer and receive you.

How many in this wonderful visible audience in Long Beach will quickly put their hands up and say Brother Fuller pray for me God bless you God bless you I need Christ as my personal Savior today God bless you God bless you over there anyone else in the lower floor God bless you back there hands going up up in

the balconies to the right anyone up there put your hand up yes God bless you the balcony to the rear yes several hands balconies to the left we'll continue yes God bless you God bless you we'll continue the altar call in a few moments every head bowed this is Charles E. Fuller bidding you goodbye and God's richest blessing upon you

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