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Sermon Notes

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Christ's Resurrection Body and Ours

Luke 24:25-44

I. The Glorious Resurrection of Christ

A. Our Greatest Enemy, Our Greatest Celebration!!!!!!!

Today we gather to celebrate the greatest victory that has ever been won in human history... the victory of Jesus Christ over the grave. Of this infinite and eternal victory the apostle sings in 1 Corinthians 15

1 Corinthians 15:54-57 "Death has been swallowed up in victory." 55 "Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?" 56 The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. 57 But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Throughout human history, death has stood over our prostrate bodies with its bloody hobnailed boot on our helpless necks, and we were powerless to resist. Death stood over us to mock everything we tried to accomplish... death mocked every human relationship, every expression of love, every human achievement

Death stood over us and mocked us, and we were powerless against its cold and inexorable power. Every breath we took brought us closer to our doom, every day we lived reduced the number allotted to us, every moment lived took us inexorably in one direction, always ever forward in a grim march to the cold grave.

Death was the foe no one could vanquish... doctors could do as much research as they wanted, they could eradicate forever one scourge—perhaps smallpox or yellow fever or bubonic plague—but another assassin would track us down relentlessly and in the end, would stand over our lifeless bodies and laugh hideously. And there was not a single thing we could do about it.

Until Jesus Christ made the sweetest promise in history, a promise by which I expect to live forever in the very presence of God... and a promise by which I realize that someday I will live in a resurrected body free from all death, mourning, crying a pain.

This is the promise on which I stand today: This is what Jesus proclaims to me as a believer...

John 11:25-26 "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die."

This promise is based on another promise He would make later:

John 14:19 Because I live, you also will live.

Today, we are here to celebrate what Jesus Christ has done: to defeat death by His mighty resurrection from the grave

B. Christ's Resurrection Predicted

1. Old Testament

Psalm 16:10 you will not abandon me to the grave, nor will you let your Holy One see decay.

2. Christ's Own Statements

a. Christ claimed absolute power over death

John 10:18, Living Bible "No one can kill me without my consent - I lay down my life voluntarily. For I have the right and power to lay it down when I want to and also the right and power to take it again. For the Father has given me this right"

b. Jesus staked His entire reputation to this one sign

Matthew 12:38-40 Then some of the Pharisees and teachers of the law said to him, "Teacher, we want to see a miraculous sign from you." 39 He answered, "A wicked and adulterous generation asks for a miraculous sign! But none will be given it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. 40 For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of a huge fish, so the Son of Man will be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.

R. M'Cheyne Edgar, The Gospel of a Risen Saviour

"Here is a teacher of religion and He calmly professes to stake His entire claims upon His ability, after having been done to death, to rise again from the grave. We may safely assume that there never was, before or since, such a proposal made. To talk of this extraordinary test being *invented* by mystic students of the prophecies, and inserted in the way it has been into the gospel narratives, is to lay too great a burden on our credulity. He who was ready to stake everything on His ability to come back from the tomb stands before us as the most original of all teachers, one who shines in His own self-evidencing life!"

B.B. Warfield: "Christ Himself deliberately staked His whole claim to the credit of men upon His resurrection. When asked for a sign He pointed to this sign as His single and sufficient credential."

c. the church stands or falls with this one issue... did Jesus rise from the dead or not?

Philip Schaff: "The resurrection of Christ is therefore emphatically a test question upon which depends the truth or falsehood of the Christian religion. It is either the greatest miracle or the greatest delusion which history records."

d. not a mere matter of metaphysical debate... but a historical matter

1 Corinthians 15:14-17 *And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. 15 More than that, we are then found to be false witnesses about God, for we have testified about God that he raised Christ from the dead. But he did not raise him if in fact the dead are not raised. 16 For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either. 17 And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins.*

Wilbur M. Smith Therefore Stand: Christian Apologetics: "The *meaning* of the resurrection is a theological matter, but the fact of the resurrection is a historical matter; the nature of the resurrection body of Jesus may be a mystery, but the fact that the body disappeared from the tomb is a matter to be decided upon by historical evidence. The place is of geographical definiteness, the man who owned the tomb was a man living in the first half of the first century; the tomb was made out of rock in a hillside near Jerusalem, and was not composed of some mythological gossamer, or cloud-dust, but is something which has geographical significance. The guards put before the tomb were not aerial beings from Mt. Olympus; the Sanhedrin was a body of men meeting frequently in Jerusalem. As a vast mass of literature tells us, this person, Jesus, was a living person, a man among men, whatever else He was, and the disciples who went out to preach the risen Lord were men among men, men who ate, drank, slept, suffered, worked, died. What is there 'doctrinal' about this? This is a historical problem"

e. Christ's predictions were frequent, detailed, and bold

Matthew 16:21 *From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.*

Matthew 17:9 **Matthew 17:22-23** **Matthew 20:18-19** **Matthew 26:31**

C. Christ's Death Accomplished

1. Prerequisite for resurrection: physical death
2. Jesus has literally died... there can be no doubt whatsoever

John 19:16-35 *Finally Pilate handed him over to them to be crucified. So the soldiers took charge of Jesus. 17 Carrying his own cross, he went out to the place of the Skull (which in Aramaic is called Golgotha). 18 Here they crucified him, and with him two others-- one on each side and Jesus in the middle.*

28 *Later, knowing that all was now completed, and so that the Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, "I am thirsty." 29 A jar of wine vinegar was there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put the sponge on a stalk of the hyssop plant, and lifted it to Jesus' lips. 30 When he had received the drink, Jesus said, "It is finished." With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.*

31 *Now it was the day of Preparation, and the next day was to be a special Sabbath. Because the Jews did not want the bodies left on the crosses during the Sabbath, they asked Pilate to have the legs broken and the bodies taken down. 32 The soldiers therefore came and broke the legs of the first man who had been crucified with Jesus, and then those of the other. 33 But when they came to Jesus and*

found that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. 34 Instead, one of the soldiers pierced Jesus' side with a spear, bringing a sudden flow of blood and water. 35 The man who saw it has given testimony, and his testimony is true. He knows that he tells the truth, and he testifies so that you also may believe.

3. Jesus' physical body had been wrapped up and buried in a cave
4. The atoning work of Good Friday is accomplished

1 Peter 3:18 For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God.

Romans 3:23-25 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, 25 whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith.

The precursor to the mighty resurrection victory has been set... the wrath of God has been absorbed; the death penalty for sin has been paid in full; the body of Christ is laid in a tomb and all creation waits the dawning of the New Creation age

D. Now... the First Day of the Week: Christ's Resurrection Accomplished

1 Corinthians 15:20 But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

II. The Promise of our Future Resurrection

A. Christ's Eternal Purpose: A Total Salvation from Sin

1. Sin a vicious enemy, affecting every area of our existence

our minds: darkened by sin

our emotions: clouded by sin

our motives: enticed by sin

our souls: polluted by sin

our bodies: corrupted by sin

2. Christ a total Savior from sin

Matthew 1:21 She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

- 3 God's eternal plan: total conformity to Christ

Romans 8:29-30 For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. 30 And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.

God created us both spiritual and physical... therefore, a complete salvation must extend to our bodies as well

B. Christ's Promises

John 11:25-26 "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die."

John 14:19 Because I live, you also will live.

C. The New Creation

1. Present creation: groaning under decay and corruption

Romans 8:20-21 For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God.

The Bible testifies that this present creation is groaning in subjection to decay, futility, corruption

Cycle of death and decay essential to present biosphere

God has ordained it this way, as a direct result of human sin

However, there is a clear promise from God that it will not be this way forever

2. The Promise of a Future New Creation

Isaiah 65:17 "Behold, I will create new heavens and a new earth. The former things will not be remembered, nor will they come to mind.

Hebrews 1:10-12 He also says, "In the beginning, O Lord, you laid the foundations of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands. 11 They will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like a garment. 12 You will roll them up like a robe; like a garment they will be changed. But you remain the same, and your years will never end."

In that new world, there will be no decay or death

Revelation 21:4 He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."

The "old order of things" is what we live in now... in the "new order of things" death will have no place

The "new Heaven and New Earth" are called by Peter the "home of righteousness"

2 Peter 3:13 But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness.

Only people made righteous by faith in Christ will be welcome there

III. The Present Physical Body Described

A. Fearfully and Wonderfully Made, But...

1. David's description

Psalm 139:14 I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.

2. Clear testimony from medical science

Dr. Jerry Bergman: Mankind has been fascinated with the form and function of the human body from the very beginning. For beauty and sheer simplicity of line, it is unmatched. As a machine, the human body is the pinnacle of God's work, formed on the sixth and last day of creation, after which God declared, it is very good."

Chemically, the body is unequalled for complexity. Each one of its 30 trillion cells is a mini-chemical factory which performs about 10,000 chemical functions. And every cell has one trillion bits of data —equal to every letter in ten million books! Each one also replaces itself every seven years. Each one is independent, yet cooperates with many millions of other cells.

The body's billions of parts all work together as a team—its 206 bones provide the framework and its 639 muscles enable it to move with incredible split-second timing. Its skill to balance is such that we can perform feats of acrobatics and yet have such strength that official human weight-lifting feats abound.

Our body is controlled and coordinated by over 16 billion neurons and 120 trillion "connection boxes" packed together into an unfathomably complex set of neuro-passways.

The whole body system functions as a unified whole to enable a human to run, sing, remember, create and achieve the myriads of other phenomenal tasks we usually take for granted.

3. Human body a marvel of God EVEN NOW

4. Yet, greatly affected by sin

B. Garden of Eden Prohibition

Genesis 3:22-24 And the LORD God said, "The man has now become like one of us, knowing good and evil. He must not be allowed to reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat, and live forever." 23 So the LORD God banished him from the Garden of Eden to work the ground from which he had been taken. 24 After he drove the man out, he placed on the east side of the Garden of Eden cherubim and a flaming sword flashing back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life.

Unnatural, sin-cursed eternal life is prohibited from humanity...

Imagine the mercy of God in this!!! Imagine living for thousands of years in an ever-decaying body, with lesser and lesser capability...

Imagine living two thousand years in a wheelchair or with no teeth or bad eyesight!!

No, God had a far better plan than that... an entire plan of redemption culminating in our glorification in every aspect of ourselves:

C. Various Descriptions of the Physical Body

1. "Body of Sin" Romans 6:6

2. "Mortal body" Romans 6:12

Word literally means "subject to death"... constantly dying, and destined to die

3. "Body of death" Romans 7:24

4. "Of the dust" and "Earthy"

Genesis 3:19 By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return.

[NASB] 1 Corinthians 15:47 The first man is from the earth, earthy; the second man is from heaven.

5. "Jar of Clay" 2 Corinthians 4:7

6. "Lowly body" Philippians 3:21

Word means bodies of humiliation

7. "Earthly tent"

2 Peter 1:13 I think it is right to refresh your memory as long as I live in the tent of this body

2 Corinthians 5:4 For while we are in this tent, we groan and are burdened, because we do not wish to be unclothed but to be clothed with our heavenly dwelling, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life.

A tent gives the sense of something moveable, something impermanent... and so it is

8. Battlefield against sin

Romans 7:22-23 For in my inner being I delight in God's law; 23 but I see another law at work in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within my members.

9. YET “Temple of the Holy Spirit” 1 Corinthians 6:19

10. Vehicle and instrument of our service to God

Romans 6:12-13 Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires. 13 Do not offer the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer the parts of your body to him as instruments of righteousness.

The general doctrine of our present bodies is that they were created fearfully and wonderfully by God, but are also lowly, corruptible, decaying things, which are the focus of intense spiritual struggle for control. They are also our present temples of the Holy Spirit and our instruments of serving God in this world.

D. The Reality of Aging

1. First seven patriarchs in Genesis 5, from Adam to Methuseleh, averaged 926 years of age before they died

2. However, after the flood of Noah, the ages came down precipitously

- Abraham lived 175 years
- Jacob lived only 147
- Moses lived 120 years
- David lived only 70 years

3. Modern times: the average lifespan of a human being is ...

Japan has the longest average expectancy at 79.9

US, however, expect to live to an average of 77.3.

men live to 72, while women live to 79

4. Optimistic statements based on science and modern trends

Website: Immortality Institute... “For Infinite Lifespans”

The Scientific Conquest of Death: Essays on Infinite Lifespans Publication: Spring 2004

In 1796, life expectancy hovered around 24 years. A hundred years later it doubled to 48. In our modern world of air conditioners, hand washing and booster shots, you have a good chance of living 63 years, which is the world average. However, for those fortunate enough to live in a first-world country, lifespan jumps considerably.

Nick Bostrom, founder of the World Transhumanist Association predicts in his article *Case Against Aging*(1)

"Aging is a biochemical process and humans will learn how to intervene in it and slow it down". Optimistically, Bostrom see the elimination of aging as "theoretically possible." While it may not be within reach now, it will be soon.

122 years – Current Lifespan Record

The only verified case of a human to live beyond 120 years was Jeanne Calment. She was a Frenchwoman who died in 1997 at 122 years. She rode a bicycle to the age of 100 and once met Vincent Van Gogh in her father's painting shop. Her longevity is likely linked to her genes as well as her lifestyle and the advance of medical technology during her lifetime. Her father lived to the age of 94 and her mother to the age of 86.

5. Greatest obstacle: aging process constantly reduces capability

- Why isn't Michael Jordan still playing in the NBA?
- Why isn't Ronald Reagan ever seen in public anymore?
- Why do female movie stars enjoy so brief moments in the public eye, and why is Hollywood the plastic surgery capital of the world?
- Why do many Americans dread their birthdays?
- Why do nursing homes have railings along the hallways?

America is a land that worships youth and despises aging

Burt Reynolds joked, back when he was enjoying his top-of-the-box office heap status in the '70s: **First it's 'Who's Burt Reynolds?'** **"Then it's 'Get me Burt Reynolds,' then 'Get me a Burt Reynolds type,' then 'Get me a young Burt Reynolds.' And then it's 'Who's Burt Reynolds?'"**

Once we pass a certain age, every passing year brings with it certain reduction of capabilities: not as fast, not as strong, not as good looking, less hair, more weight, not as clear thinking, not as much energy

This is part of the curse of decay and death that all of us are under, and under that curse we all GROAN:

Romans 8:23 Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.

Despite the optimistic pronouncements of the anti-aging industry out there, some things are inevitable about our physical bodies

E. The Future of the Present Physical Body

1. Gradual aging under corruption...

Barzillai said to King David, who wanted to reward him for his faithfulness by having him stay in the King's court and eat daily at the King's table

2 Samuel 19:35 *I am now eighty years old. Can I tell the difference between what is good and what is not? Can your servant taste what he eats and drinks? Can I still hear the voices of men and women singers? Why should your servant be an added burden to my lord the king?*

2. Physical death: the separation of the soul from the body

Hebrews 9:27 *... man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment*

3. Corruption in the ground

Psalm 49:14 *Like sheep they are destined for the grave, and death will feed on them. The upright will rule over them in the morning; their forms will decay in the grave, far from their princely mansions.*

4. Awaiting Resurrection and Judgment

John 5:28-29 *"Do not be amazed at this, for a time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice 29 and come out-- those who have done good will rise to live, and those who have done evil will rise to be condemned.*

IV. The Future Resurrection Body Described

A. Paul's Doctrine: Clearest Statements in 1 Corinthians 15

B. Christ's Resurrection Body the Pattern

1 Corinthians 15:20 *But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.*

1 Corinthians 15:49 *And just as we have borne the likeness of the earthly man, so shall we bear the likeness of the man from heaven.*

1. Christ's Resurrection Body was a physical body

Luke 24:36-40 *While they were still talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." 37 They were startled and frightened, thinking they saw a ghost. 38 He said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds? 39 Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have." 40 When he had said this, he showed them his hands and feet.*

So also will our resurrection bodies be real, live, physical bodies

2. Christ's Resurrection Body looked like a normal body to observers

- Disciples on the Road to Emmaus walked and talked with Him as if He were an ordinary man... at one point they asked if He was a stranger to Jerusalem

- Mary thought he was the gardener... thus no sign of radiant glory; he looked like a working man

3. Christ's Resurrection Body could eat food

- All told in the Gospels and Acts, Jesus centers time with His disciples around food five times
- His consumption of food in Luke 24 is one of the ways He proves His resurrection

Luke 24:41-43 And while they still did not believe it because of joy and amazement, he asked them, "Do you have anything here to eat?" 42 They gave him a piece of broiled fish, 43 and he took it and ate it in their presence.

So also we will be able to consume food at the banquet table of the Lord at the Great Wedding Feast; and we will be able to consume the perfected food of the New Heavens and New Earth

4. Christ's Resurrection Body had some continuity with His life before death

John 20:24-28 Now Thomas (called Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!" But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe it." 26 A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" 27 Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe." 28 Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!"

Jesus' nail marks seem to be a special case, however, because of the special role His death plays in the salvation of all who would come after Him

It is reasonable to assume that the resurrection body will have no scars or wounds or deficiencies of any sort

BUT there is some continuity with the past body, or there could be no resurrection

The continuity is similar to the relationship between a seed and the plant that springs from it... continuity BUT difference as well

5. THUS Christ's Resurrection Body looked different to people who knew Him well

- Mary Magdalene thought he was the gardener, though she was standing right near Him
- The two disciples on the Road to Emmaus spent most of the day with Him, and "were kept from recognizing Him." It seems God did something in their minds to prevent their recognizing of His face and voice

- The disciples fishing in John 21 did not recognize Jesus at first, but only after He suggested which side they should fish on, resulting in a miraculous catch
- In Matthew 28:16, it says “When they saw Him, they worshiped Him... but some doubted.” In Luke 24, doubts were rising in their minds... perhaps His different physical appearance contributed to this
- BUT in other appearances they recognized Him right away, no hesitation

6. And Christ’s Resurrection Body could do some amazing things

- Sudden Appearance

Luke 24:36 While they were still talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you."

John 20:19 On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!"

John 20:26 A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!"

- Sudden Disappearance

Luke 24:30-31 When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. 31 Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight.

- Travel through walls

John 20:19 On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!"

John 20:26 A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!"

Wayne Grudem points out that it never says that Jesus could pass through walls; simply that the doors were locked and Jesus came and stood amongst them. However, my deeper question is, “How did Jesus escape the tomb without passing through walls?” The account of the moving of the stone proves Jesus was already gone when the angel moved the stone:

Matthew 28:1-6 After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb. 2 There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. 3 His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. 4 The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men. 5 The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that

you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. 6 He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay.

How did Jesus get out of the tomb except by passing through the rock? And why should it surprise us that Jesus' resurrection body would have special powers?

- Ascent to heaven

Acts 1:9 After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

7. And Christ's Resurrection Body was free forever from death, corruption, and pain

Romans 6:9 For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him.

Revelation 21:4 He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."

V. Avoiding Speculation

A. Many Questions

What will the resurrection body be like

Robert L. Wilkin: The other day I found myself walking behind two small children being followed by their grandparents. The little girl, perhaps five years old, was rhythmically hopping across the mall, delighting in the quickness and flexibility of her body, oblivious to what was around; the grandparents were healthy able folk, not elderly, yet they moved deliberately, prudently looking down lest they slip. Later in the day I watched a very elderly man with a walker shuffle in to a hardware store, tiny step by tiny step, each made with a great act of will. Thinking medieval thoughts I wondered: Which body—that of the child, those of the middle-aged couple, or that of the man with the walker—will be raised in the resurrection? The medievals asked, Will there be differentiation by sex in heaven? Will we all be the same age? If so, what age? (Some said thirty!) Will limbs that were crippled or amputated be restored? What of those born with deformities? Will we have internal as well as external organs? Will a child that dies in infancy be raised as an adult? Will aborted fetuses rise?

1. Will everyone get the same kind of body, or will there be differences?
2. What will be the nature of eating and digestion in a world with no corruption?
3. How can a body be resurrected that had been totally destroyed... perhaps by fire, or by explosion, or ripped to shreds by animals?

Augustine: The doubter objects, "But look, what I see in the tomb are cinders, ashes, and bones. How will this pile of dirt once more receive life, skin, tissues, flesh and rise again?" I answer: "At least in the tomb you can see cinders, you can see bones; in your mother's womb there was nothing. Before you existed, there were neither

cinders nor bone; and yet you were made, when you did not exist at all. Do you really think that it is impossible that your bones will receive the form they *used to have*, when at conception you received a form you *never had before*?"

4. What will we look like? Will our friends recognize us?
5. Are there any racial distinctives?
6. What will our glory be like? Will we shine like radiant light bulbs?

B. Ancient Christian Sport: Speculating About End Times

C. Augustine Especially Indulged

"It remains, therefore, that we conclude that every man shall receive his own size which he had in youth, though he died an old man, or which he would have had, supposing he died before his prime...; all shall rise neither beyond nor under youth; For even the world's wisest men have fixed the bloom of youth at about the age of thirty; and when this period has been passed, the man begins to decline towards the defective and duller periods of old age." [Augustine, *City of God*, Book XXII, Chap. 15]

D. Paul Rebukes Excessive Interest in Details

1 Corinthians 15:35-36 But someone may ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body will they come?" How foolish! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies.

VI. Application: Setting Your Hope on the Future

A. Repent and Trust Christ

John 11:25-26 "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die."

B. Rejoice and Trust Christ: Because Christ Lives, You Also Will Live

C. Set Your Hope Fully on the Future Grace

1 Peter 1:13 Therefore, prepare your minds for action; be self-controlled; set your hope fully on the grace to be given you when Jesus Christ is revealed.

D. Do Not Lament the Destruction of this Body, or Spend Too Much on Combating Aging

E. Do Not Speculate Too Much... Just Know It Will Be Wonderful!!!