Messy Grace **– wk 21 – Body 2.0**

**Corinthians written by the Apostle Paul to a church he planted 5 yrs earlier. Weird stuff was getting back to him. A challenge to grow up!**

**Paul has been correcting some wreck-lessness in their life**

**Easter – we journeyed through (Chap 15:1-26). Paul was correcting their views of the gospel and the resurrection.**

**Christ Resurrection**

**1 Corinthians 15:1 I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, 2 by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. 3 For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures… (The gospel in a nutshell)**

**Paul then gives eyewitnesses and facts of Jesus resurrection. He goes on to say that all of the gospel hinges on this fact…**

**Paul has dealt with their private life, their public life, their church life – now he talks about their future life.**

**Why was Paul dealing with this? Because they were teaching when you die it is the end of the road. Turn the lights out.**

**Most Greeks did not believe in a body after death, a resurrection.**

**1 Cor 15:20 But Christ has indeed (fact) been raised from the dead, the firstfruits (1st example of what is to come) of those who have fallen asleep. (preview for those who have died in Christ) 21 For since death came through a man, (Adam) the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. (Jesus) 22 For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive.**

**\*\* Christ resurrection guarantees – this is not the end!**

**If you are born again – you will be resurrected into eternal life – guaranteed. How do we know? Jesus is alive. This is not the end.**

**Paul then breaks down: Christ return - Christ resurrection - and then our In-Christ resurrection.**

**Christ Return**

**1 Cor 15:22 For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. 23 But each in turn: Christ, the firstfruits; (Jesus was 1st in this new resurrection) then, when he comes, those who belong to him. (when he returns, His family is resurrected) 24 Then the end will come, (after Christ return, the world as we know it will end) when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father (Jesus is a forever King who’s rule will never end, reigning over all – then presents the kingdom to the father as a completed mission) after he has destroyed all dominion, authority and power. (final judgment of Satan and fallen angels)**

**Jesus will put an end to all the evil in this life and world.**

**Possible line graph of the previous verse.**

**This life is not the end – The eternal kingdom of God is for real!**

**1st advent He saved us spiritually / 2nd advent He saves physical**

**Different views of how and timeline – but we have unity in this - Jesus is coming back to get His own!**

**1 Cor 15:25 For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet.**

**Quoting *Psalm 110:1* - about the Messiah - Meaning Christ must reign even now unless we self-destruct – He is not hand’s off.**

**Jesus rose from the dead and is right now sitting on the throne of eternity as the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Awaiting the return.**

**A day will come when He will have total visible conquest - until then he still reigns, even though we still experience evil.**

**\*\* Christ resurrection guarantees - final victory!!**

**We see the world, the chaos, evil, and hate – God still reigns. The empty tomb guarantees the end is coming – victory is already sealed.**

**You do not have to worry – it is already won!!!!**

**Christ resurrection guarantees full conquest over the enemy of death and over all spiritual enemies**

**1 Cor 15:26 The last enemy to be destroyed is death.**

**Death is an enemy! At His return, death will be dead! In your face!**

**27 For he (the father) “has put everything under his feet.” (Jesus) Now when it says that “everything” has been put under him, it is clear that this does not include God (the Father) himself, who put everything under Christ. (The Son) 28 When he has done this, then the Son himself will be made subject to him who put everything under him, so that God may be all in all.**

**This not saying Jesus is not God – but rather points to an eternal submission in his role – equal in person – submissive in role.**

**Jesus is forever now a glorified body on the throne - the visible image of the invisible God (Col 1:15, Jo 1:18, 14:9, 1 Tim 1:17). Jesus in his visibility is in submission to the invisible Father in function.**

**29 Now if there is no resurrection, what will those do who are baptized for the dead? (says, “those who do…” Not, “we do”) If the dead are not raised at all, why are people baptized for them? (not condoning - Lu 16:26)**

**Corinth pagan custom of baptizing for the dead. Paul’s point, “If there is no life after death, why do others do this? Even the pagans have a sense to believe in a resurrection, but not you?”**

**30 And (If the return of Jesus and the resurrection are not true) why do we stand in jeopardy every hour? (why put my life on the line and possibly die if this is?) 31 I affirm, by the boasting in you which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die daily. (I escape death daily – and die to myself) 32 If, in the manner of men, I have fought with beasts at Ephesus, (tortured / or people) what advantage is it to me? If the dead do not rise, “Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die!” (what is the point – why have a death wish? Why not just live it up and party!)**

**I live a life that honors Jesus because I know he is coming back! Perhaps that is why you don’t – maybe you’re not really sold deep down that this is true – that he is coming back. What we think/ believe about the return / resurrection shapes our actions!**

**33 Do not be deceived: “Evil company corrupts good habits.” 34 Awake (WAKE UP!!) to righteousness, and do not sin; for some do not have the knowledge of God. I speak this to your shame. (In regard to not believing in a return of Jesus)**

**They were starting to act and think like their pagan friends - it was affecting their actions and their beliefs.**

**You not only begin to act like them - you also begin to think like them. Accepting false views of God, death, eternity, sin.**

**\*\* Christ resurrection guarantees – our resurrection!**

**Wake Up!!! Don’t be moved on this. This has got to be core truth! It will ultimately affect the way we live and pursue life!**

**In-Christ Resurrection – A NEW BODY**

**1 Corinthians 15:35 But someone will ask, “How are the dead raised? With what kind of body will they come?” 36 How foolish! (will I still have this body and all its issues? Fools! Don’t be stupid) What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. 37 When you sow, you do not plant the body that will be, but just a seed, perhaps of wheat or of something else. 38 But God gives it a body as he has determined, and to each kind of seed he gives its own body.**

**1. A new body – our current body is like a seed for the new one**

**Our body is like a seed / corn kernel, it is only a seed and grows.**

**Pics - Sunflower seed = sunflower / watermelon seed = watermelon (you don’t plant a watermelon to grow watermelons) / pepper seed = peppers / cactus fruit seed. You would never look at that seed and think they are the same… same with us. Throw me an orange, you don’t throw seeds…**

**39 Not all flesh is the same: (diff kinds of bodies) People have one kind of flesh, animals have another, birds another and fish another. 40 There are also heavenly bodies and there are earthly bodies; but the splendor of the heavenly bodies is one kind, and the splendor of the earthly bodies is another. 41 The sun has one kind of splendor, the moon another and the stars another; and star differs from star in splendor. 42 So will it be with the resurrection of the dead. (each body has a design and is suited for a purpose – so will be your new body)**

**2. A new body – Made for heaven**

**A Glorified celestial body - a new type of body. Not just repaired.**

**We will get a body designed for heaven – suited for the next life, not this world. It will be different! Superior. Similar but different.**

**Re-made with heaven in mind – with new and diff abilities.**

**1 Cor 15:42b The body that is sown is perishable, it is raised imperishable; 43 it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; 44 it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. 44b If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body. (this body is a shell like corn kernel)**

**3. A new body – The upgrades = no more sickness!**

**Not just healed and whole but totally upgraded.**

**Our New Upgrades!**

**\*Imperishable - decays, diseased, dies, rotting corpse – to eternal body**

**\*Glorious – dull to - supernatural glorious / radiate / reflect God’s glory**

**\*Powerful - sick, weak, tired, worn down, fragile to – forever healthy**

**\*Spiritual – natural flesh to - glorified spiritual flesh body – not a spirit or ghost – Not a spirit body but spiritual body.**

**A resurrected body is not a resuscitated corpse. It is a new order of life and a body that will never die again.**

**45 So it is written: “The first man Adam became a living being”; the last Adam, a life-giving spirit. (Jesus the 2nd Adam, Rom 5) 46 The spiritual did not come first, but the natural, and after that the spiritual. 47 The first man was of the dust of the earth; the second man is of heaven. (Team Adam vs Team Jesus) 48 As was the earthly man, so are those who are of the earth; (will die and return to dust) and as is the heavenly man, so also are those who are of heaven. (new body) 49 And just as we have borne the image of the earthly man, so shall we bear the image of the heavenly man. (JC)**

**4. A new body – The upgrades = a body like Jesus!**

**Jesus resurrected Body (a first fruit) gives a preview of what is to come**

**What was Jesus Resurrection body like? (Luke 24, John 20, Matt 28)**

**He was flesh, He was glorified, ate, sat, talked, hugged, known as himself, was beyond time and space, walls were irrelevant. Those in Christ will have a glorified body like Jesus had!**

**Every loved one in Christ (parent, siblings, children, friends) will live again! Beautiful assurance we have in Christ - Hug & meal!**

**1 Cor 15:50 I declare to you, brothers and sisters, that flesh and blood (our present bodies) cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. (no walking into heaven without a new body)**

**How do we attain this new body?**

**51 Listen, I tell you a mystery: (something only the Spirit can help you understand) We will not all sleep, (die – there will be a final generation) but we will all be changed 52 in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. (return of Jesus) For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. (instantly – faster than Thanos can snap his fingers – you get your new body) 53 For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality. (1 Thess 4:15-16)**

**What happens until that day?**

**Believer - diff views - 2 Cor 5:8 …to be absent from the body is to be…**

**Unbeliever - NT/OT – Sheol, place of the dead & torment (Lu 16, Rev 20)**

**On that day of Christ return all will stand before God.**

**Matt 25:46 And these will go away into eternal punishment, (the unrighteous) but the righteous into eternal life.” / Phil 3:19 Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is set on earthly things. 20 But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, 21 who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.**

**The Bible says that not everyone goes to heaven. John 3:3, 36 Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, no one can see *(enter)* the kingdom of God unless they are born again.” Are you born-again?**

**1 Cor 15:54 When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, (When we get our new body) then the saying that is written will come true: “Death has been swallowed up in victory.” 55 “Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?” (guaranteed victory!!)**

**5. A new body – The Upgrades = no more heart break!**

**That sting of death – the heart ache of loss – the slow decline of health**

**Few things are more painful than the sting of death! (Jesus Wept).**

**Where is your triumph death? You are a loser! Where is your pain & sting? When Jesus returns it will be gone forever!**

**BUT - Until then… it still stings - and we fight it!**

**56 The sting of death is sin, (imagine a snake that keeps biting you – that sting is sin) and the power of sin is the law. (reminds us of our sin problem) 57 But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.**

**6. A new body – The upgrades = no more sin!**

**When Jesus returns – we get a new body that will be free from sin! Guaranteed victory over sin!**

**When Jesus returns, sin will no longer have a grip on my neck. It will control me no longer!! It’s power over me will be gone!**

**BUT - until then it still stings – and we fight it!!**

**We have something to look forward to and celebrate now!**

**Thank you Jesus sin will not have a hold on me forever!!!**

**So, what do we do with this? TWO THINGS!**

**1 Cor 15:58 Therefore, (in light of the gospel, the return of Christ, and our future eternity) my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.**

**\*\*\* Don’t Stop Believing!!! (Don’t stop believing!! Song)**

**1 Cor 15:58 …stand firm. (steadfast, unwavering in this!)Let nothing move you. (unmovable – be stubborn about this)**

**Don’t give up – don’t give in – be stubborn about this! When life gets hard - when life stings - when you lose a loved one in Christ – stand firm / steadfast / unwavering / plant your feet – illustrate**

**We have this hope – not a wishful thinking but a supernatural assurance of what is to come. A mystery only God can revel. (Heb 6:19, Rom 5:3-5) Plant your feet!!!**

**\*\*\* Don’t Stop Working!!! (Everybody’s working for the kingdom! Song)**

**1 Cor 15:58b …Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, (Jesus kingdom business) because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.**

**\*\* Give yourselves fully to the work of God, not just to God.**

**The kingdom is the only thing truly worthy of giving all you have to**

**This life is a job interview for the rest of eternity.**

**We live with eternity in mind! We work – labor!**

**“Your labor in the Lord is no in vain” - Your efforts are not in vain!**

**That time with your child, that friend, your neighbor, in Kidventure, driving that teen – when you labor in the Lord…**

**Paul a moment ago – said this is like a farmer planting seed. Imagine travail of a farmer- cold hard ground, laboring, toiling, sweating, beating the earth just to drop a kernal seed in the ground. Why does he continue and work so hard? Because he sees the promise of the harvest – and labors in joy and hope! Knowing it is not in vain! Because we know the final outcome - the ending – we live radical lives now!**

**1 Cor 15:50 I declare to you, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God…**

**How do we receive this new body? By being “in Christ”**

**You must be born again. Right now - forever counts!**