

RESURRECTION ILLUSTRATIONS

(1Cor 15:35-44)

Summary of 1-34: Believers will be raised because Christ has been raised

Comment on the parenthetical 1Cor 15:29-34...

To answer questions about the resurrection, look at Nature and Scripture

- **QUESTIONS:** “*How are the dead raised? With what kind of body will they come?*” (35)
 - I.e. How can people possibly rise after their bodies have decomposed?
 - I.e. What kind of body is a “resurrection body?”
 - Underlying MISUNDERSTANDING: Our resurrection bodies will consist of the same natures as our present bodies

Greek origin; cf. Odysseus visits his mother, Antikleia, in Hades:

“Mother, why will you not wait for me when I am trying to hold you, so that even in Hades’ with our arms embracing we can both take the satisfaction of dismal mourning? Or are you nothing but an image that proud Persephone sent my way, to make me grieve all the more for sorrow?” So I spoke, and my queenly mother answered me quickly: “Oh my child, ill-fated beyond all other mortals, *this is not Persephone, daughter of Zeus, beguiling you, but it is only what happens, when they die, to all mortals. The sinews no longer hold the flesh and bones together, and once the spirit has left the white bones, all the rest of the body is made subject to the fire’s strong fury, but the soul flutters out like a dream and flies away.*” (Homer, *The Odyssey*, Book 11, 210-222)

- Paul answers this misunderstanding by arguing that although our present bodies and resurrection bodies may both be material and identical, they will be *organized* differently
- **CLARIFICATION:** “Open your eyes! Look around! Use your head! Think about it!” (36-49)

All language about anything is analogical; we think in a series of metaphors. We can explain nothing in terms of itself, but only in terms of other things.... In particular, when we speak about something about which we have no direct experience, we must think by analogy or else refrain from thought. It may be perilous, as it must be inadequate, to interpret God by analogy with ourselves, but we are compelled to do so; we have no other means of interpreting anything. (Dorothy L. Sayers, *The Mind of the Maker*)

