

## **What Does It Take to Have a Perfect Body?**

Series: First Corinthians

1 Corinthians 15:35-58

October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2018

### **What is true about our future body?**

1 Corinthians 15:35-57; John 11:25; 20:19-31; Luke 24:30-43; 2 Corinthians 5:1-10; Philippians 1:22-23; 3:19-21; John 14:1-7

1) It's not just an 'improved version' of what we have now

2) Our new bodies will be built for Heaven, not Earth

### ***Three things from 1 Corinthians 15:43-44...***

1) You will have a perfect body

2) You will have a powerful body

3) You will have a spiritual body

### **Four things heaven is not...**

1 Corinthians 3:10-15; 6:2-3; 2 Corinthians 5:10; Luke 19:11-27; Matthew 6:20; 7:21-27; 25:31-46; Luke 12:15-21; Genesis 1:28; 2 Timothy 2:12; Luke 22:28-30; Daniel 7:27; Revelation 2:26; 5:9-10; 20:4-6; 21:4; 22:5

1) Heaven is not the end, it's the beginning

2) Heaven is not a place of 'eternal rest'

3) Heaven is not a place where everyone is equal

4) Heaven is not a place of only positive rewards

### **Take-aways**

1 Corinthians 15:58; Matthew 6:20; 2 Corinthians 4:16-18; 2 Timothy 2:10; Romans 8:16-17

1) We see this life as a 'job interview' for the rest of eternity

2) We give ourselves fully to the work of God...not just to God

## **Growth Group Questions**

For the week of October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2018

### **QUICK REVIEW**

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

### **MY STORY**

1. On Sunday, Brian talked about how the bodies we have now are just a 'seed' of what we will one day be. We will have completely different bodies. As a kid did you ever wish you could take on a completely different form, like Superman or some athlete? Explain.

2. What are some 'ideas' that people have about heaven, or maybe you've had about heaven, that you have since learned are not biblically accurate?

### **DIGGING DEEPER**

1. Brian said that our life here on earth is kind of like a 'job interview' for our role in Heaven. In Philippians 4:17, Paul spoke to the Philippian church about "crediting to their account" based on how their 'job interview' was going. And it only makes sense to do the same in our lives – take account of how our 'job interview' is going. So the question is, if you had to stop all you were doing for the Lord for 3 months, what kind of spiritual impact would be most missed in your life?

### **Philippians 4:17**

<sup>17</sup> Not that I desire your gifts; what I desire is that more be credited to your account.

Have you found joy in serving Jesus? If so, describe what brings you joy?

Sometimes we think serving Jesus always has to be done at church...or just at certain times during our day or week. In what sense can 'serving Jesus' be viewed as something we're always involved in?

2. What does it take to receive rewards in heaven? How can I prepare for my ultimate assignment in Heaven? Read the following verses and underline phrases which answer those questions. Jot down any other thoughts that come to mind.

### **Luke 6:27-31**

<sup>27</sup> "But to you who are listening I say: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, <sup>28</sup> bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. <sup>29</sup> If someone slaps you on one cheek, turn to them the other also. If someone takes your coat, do not withhold your shirt from them. <sup>30</sup> Give to everyone who asks you, and if anyone takes what belongs to you, do not demand it back. <sup>31</sup> Do to others as you would have them do to you.

### **Luke 6:35-36**

<sup>35</sup> But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. <sup>36</sup> Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

### **Matthew 10:42**

<sup>42</sup> And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones who is my disciple, truly I tell you, that person will certainly not lose their reward."

### **Ephesians 6:5-8**

<sup>5</sup> Slaves, obey your earthly masters with respect and fear, and with sincerity of heart, just as you would obey Christ. <sup>6</sup> Obey them not only to win their favor when their eye is on you, but as slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from your heart. <sup>7</sup> Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not people, <sup>8</sup> because you know that the Lord will reward each one for whatever good they do, whether they are slave or free.

### **1 Corinthians 9:18-23**

<sup>18</sup> What then is my reward? Just this: that in preaching the gospel I may offer it free of charge, and so not make full use of my rights as a preacher of the gospel.

<sup>19</sup> Though I am free and belong to no one, I have made myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible. <sup>20</sup> To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews. To those under the law I became like one under the law (though I myself am not under the law), so as to win those under the law. <sup>21</sup> To those not having the law I became like one not having the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law), so as to win those not having the law. <sup>22</sup> To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some. <sup>23</sup> I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings.

Now go back through those verses and rate yourself on a scale of 1 to 5. How are you doing in each of these areas?

**3.** Seeking rewards in heaven by serving God and impacting others for eternity is not easy. But it gives us as followers of Christ an incredible sense of purpose, hope, and perseverance. Yet there are times where we can fall into the trap of thinking our 'good works' here on earth are the way we 'earn' our way to Heaven. How do the following verses help us avoid this erroneous mindset?

### **Ephesians 2:8-9**

<sup>8</sup> For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— <sup>9</sup> not by works, so that no one can boast.

### **Ephesians 2:10**

<sup>10</sup> For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

### **Ephesians 2:13-14**

<sup>13</sup> But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

<sup>14</sup> For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility.

### **Ephesians 2:19-21**

<sup>19</sup> Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household, <sup>20</sup> built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. <sup>21</sup> In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord.

### **Matthew 6:1-4**

"Be careful not to practice your righteousness in front of others to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven.

<sup>2</sup> "So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. <sup>3</sup> But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, <sup>4</sup> so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

In order for us to have a clear understanding of God's amazing grace, we need to have a clear understanding of our own sinfulness. Do you agree? Why or why not?

A simple definition of grace is 'getting what we don't deserve'. In what situations of your life have people been gracious toward you?

**4.** In 1 Corinthians 5:1, Paul says "For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven not built by human hands." These 'tents' can refer to our bodies, but it can also refer to this life. Read the following verses and identify what our response should be to the 'tents' of this life?

### **2 Corinthians 4:7**

<sup>7</sup> But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us.

## **2 Corinthians 5:1-4**

For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands. <sup>2</sup> Meanwhile we groan, longing to be clothed instead with our heavenly dwelling, <sup>3</sup> because when we are clothed, we will not be found naked. <sup>4</sup> For while we are in this tent, we groan and are burdened, because we do not wish to be unclothed but to be clothed instead with our heavenly dwelling, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life.

## **2 Peter 1:12-15**

<sup>12</sup> So I will always remind you of these things, even though you know them and are firmly established in the truth you now have. <sup>13</sup> I think it is right to refresh your memory as long as I live in the tent of this body, <sup>14</sup> because I know that I will soon put it aside, as our Lord Jesus Christ has made clear to me. <sup>15</sup> And I will make every effort to see that after my departure you will always be able to remember these things.

## **Hebrews 9:11**

<sup>11</sup> But when Christ came as high priest of the good things that are now already here, he went through the greater and more perfect tabernacle that is not made with human hands, that is to say, is not a part of this creation.

In Matthew 6:19-21, Jesus talks about the importance of storing up treasure in heaven rather than on earth. Read the verses, and then answer this question. How am I storing up treasure in heaven right now?

Do you ever think we have it too nice here in America? Most of us have nice houses, nice cars, plenty of food, etc. How might all the luxuries we have here in America affect how much we're looking forward to heaven?