

Text: 1 Corinthians 15:21-26,30-42

Theme: Resurrection of the Body

Grace, mercy, and peace be to you from God our Father and our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

My dear beloved flock, the text for our meditation this morning is the Epistle lesson of Saint Paul's First letter to the church in Corinth, chapter fifteen, verses twenty-one through twenty-six and thirty through forty-two.

Boys and girls, I pray that you are doing well this morning. Do you know what I have here? I have a bunch of seeds. How important are seeds? They are very important. They can grow into a wide variety of different plants, peas, beans, corn, wheat. In order for them to grow into all of these plants, they must first die and then this plant grows from them. Saint Paul uses this fact of life as a way to show how our bodies will be at the resurrection. How will that be? What is the connection between us and seeds? Ponder these questions as you hear the rest of the sermon. You may go back to your seats and those who love you.

### **How are the dead Raised? Akin to a seed**

Saint Paul continues his line of thinking concerning the resurrection of the body in our text for today. Last week we saw how the resurrection is of first importance in our lives. This week Saint Paul tackles the question of how exactly that resurrection happens and what it will look like for us. Paul begins with why people die. That though Adam came death as

the punishment for disobeying the Law of God in eating of the fruit of the tree. This is something that we still face, just as in Paul's day, people still die because of their sins. We are surrounded by pain, sadness and death because we live in a sinful world and we still have our sinful nature. This tempts us to fall into the same trap as the people of Corinth. They thought that the dead were not going to rise again. If this is true, then we should indeed "Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die." If the dead are not raised, then let us enjoy life to the fullest we can in this short time that we have. Let us indulge in every passion and desire that we have. We can eat as much as we want. We can drink as much as we want. We can use whatever means we need to in order to get what we desire. We desire that big TV, that new car, all that new money, we can lie, we can cheat, we can steal. We want that employee then we can lure them away with a higher paycheck. After all, the dead are not raised so let us enjoy the small amount of time that we have left upon this earth.

Yet there has come a second Adam, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, by His death and resurrection, we do not have eternal death. Rather, we have been granted life eternal. This is a clear and evident fact but one that is not seen with physical eyes today. Jesus rose and so too will we. The dead will indeed be raised. Saint Paul opens our eyes to this great mystery by using the illustration of a seed. The same as a seed is buried into the ground, dies, and a new plant spring forth from the dust, so it is with the resurrection. We are buried in the ground, awaiting the

day when we spring forth from the dust in the newness of life granted to us by Christ.

**Different from how they die, just as a seed is planted and grows into something different**

What will that look like? We do not know. Saint Paul says that to ponder such questions is foolishness. We do not know what we will look like. It will be different than how we currently are, as we will no longer be stained by sin. What exactly that looks like, we do not know. Jewish thinking was that when you were raised, you would still bear the marks of how you died. If you died in a fire, you would bear burn marks on your body. If you were mauled by beasts, you would bear the wounds still. If you drowned, you would still have water in your lungs. If you died by beheading, you would have to carry around your head like the headless horseman legends. Is this true? We do not know, the only thing we do know is that we will be like Christ.

**In the likeness of Christ, glorified as He is glorified**

We know that we will be like Christ because He has made His glory our glory as well by the union of humanity with the Godhead. God has created different glories. We see this in nature, the glory of the planets and stars are different than the ones upon earth. “And there are bodies heavenly and bodies terrestrial; but the glory of the heavenly bodies is one, and that of the early bodies is another. The stars and all the heavenly bodies is one and that of the early bodies another....and the same God that produced all these miracles is full able to produce bodies for His saints at the time of the resurrection which will be

altogether suited to the glory of Christ's coming kingdom. Simply because our bodies are now grossly material, it would be a mistake to conclude that they cannot, at God's command exist in an enterally different and far higher state."

We do not confess what we do not know. Instead, we hold fast to what we do know. We know that the dead will be raised, the bodies transformed, and we will be with our Lord and Savior in His blessed kingdom forever. We await that day, when like a seed, new life will spring forth from the ground.

May the peace of God which surpasses all understanding guard and keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Amen