

# “THAT WHICH THOU SOWEST”

## INTRODUCTION

- I. There were some in the Corinth church in the first century who doubted the concept of a bodily resurrection.
  - A. Paul sums up their doubt by presenting their thoughts with some vital questions. 1 Cor. 15:35
  - B. Then, Paul states, “*Thou fool, **that which thou sowest** is not quickened, except it die.*” v. 36
- II. Our lesson at this time is taken from 4 words of this passage, “*That Which Thou Sowest,*” as stated in the KJV of the Bible, as we think about the cycle of life, birth, death, burial and the resurrection.

## DISCUSSION

### I. The 1<sup>st</sup> part of the cycle of life: THE BIRTH OF MAN. 1 Cor. 15:36

- A. Paul said that which is SOWN (in this text) is the **burial** of the physical body (which we will consider in a moment), but this **IMPLIES** that it previously **existed** so it *could be sown or buried, and also implies that **death** has occurred.*
  1. Our text deals with the resurrection, as being “raised up” (v. 35) is used interchangeably with “quickened” in verse 36.
  2. Being “raised up” is that which is “quickened.” (Read verse 35 and 36 and explain)
  3. That which is “sown” is the body that has died, and is to be “quickened” or “raised up”, and **NOT** the body that “shall be”, but the body that is sown is likened to “bare grain”. v. 37
- B. The body that is sown (buried) **HAS** to have had life before sowing, or before burial.
  1. The grain of wheat **HAD** to have lived before it’s “bare grain” is sown, just so, man has to have been born or have a body that is ultimately “sown” in a burial after death.
    - a. Life was in the grain as soon as the grain began it’s development in the ear of grains.
    - b. Just so, the baby that develops in the womb is alive, and does not **BECOME** a baby on the day of birth, but developed from another seed in conception—the seed of man.
  2. Just so, physical life is in the baby from the time of conception, and to destroy that developing body is to destroy the spirit or soul that is **IN** the body, for **LIFE** consists of the body **AND** spirit. Jas. 2:26
    - a. Those who practice abortion today are destroying physical life (or the work of God) that exists prior to it’s appearance of body and soul to the eyes of the living.
    - b. God hates the practice of destroying “innocent blood” of infants, who have been conceived and ultimately born—still in “innocency”. Prov. 6:16-17

### II. The 2<sup>nd</sup> part of the cycle of life: THE DEATH OF MAN.

- A. Before there is a “quickening” or “raising up” of bare grain (i.e., the body), there must be a death, or the “maturity” of the grain harvested and ready for planting. 1 Cor. 15:36
  1. Death takes place when the body no longer can house the spirit that God gives **TO** the body of each individual born on earth. 2 Cor. 5:1-4
  2. Even Jesus had to **die** in order to be raised (furthering His cycle of life on earth), that He might become the “firstfruit” **OF** the resurrection, to give **US** who die, the hope of living again. 1 Cor. 15:19-23
- B. The Corinthians were concerned about **HOW** the dead could be raised, so they, and all people, are aware of death itself, so Paul explains how death is a part of the cycle of life that ultimately results in a resurrection, or a raising up of the body.
  1. Death came upon all mankind when Adam sinned, and he and all of us no longer have access to the “tree of life” to live without dying. Gen. 3:22-24
  2. Adam was separated **FROM** the “tree of life”, and **WE** never had access to that tree while we are here on earth.
  3. But, being “raised up”, we will have our glorious bodies, and have eternal access **TO** the “tree of life.” Rev. 22:1-3

### III. The 3<sup>rd</sup> part of the cycle of life: THE RESURRECTION OF MAN.

- A. God will give a resurrected body to every seed sown. 1 Cor. 15:38
1. Paul illustrates the KINDS of bodies that are in the celestial (heavenly) realm, and in the terrestrial (earthly) realm. 1 Cor. 15:39- 41
  2. If God can give glory to these kinds of bodies, He **can** and **will** give glory to the resurrected body of man as well. Phil. 3:20-21
- B. Then, Paul enumerates the changes of the resurrected body, in contrast with the body that is sown.
1. The *corruptible* body will be raised to **incorruption**. v. 42
  2. The *dishonorable* body will be raised in **glory**. v. 43A
  3. The *weak* body shall be raised in **power**. v. 43B
  4. The *natural* body will be raised a **spiritual** body. v. 44
- C. ALL these changes are necessary, as the physical bodies we now have are not suitable for eternity. 1 Cor. 15:50
1. Believers who do NOT die will be changed to bear the same glory as the resurrected bodies of believers.
  2. This resurrection, AND change, will occur when the Lord returns. 1 Cor 15: 52, 23

#### **CONCLUSION**

- I. When the cycle of life is completed, from **birth**, through **death**, and then the **resurrection**, we can FULLY thank God and praise Him for the victory through Christ. 1 Cor. 15:57
- A. In view of this assurance, we need to be steadfast in the work of God. v. 58
  - B. If we go through the cycle of life without Christ, there will be no victory at the end, for this glory will be only for those IN Christ.
- II. Are you IN Christ? Are you faithfully abiding IN Him?

Don Tarbet

