

## “RAISE THE DEAD”

### 2018 Resurrection Day Mini-Series

#### 1 Corinthians 15

### “Grave Clothes or Grace Clothes?”

The good news of God is that by the death, burial and resurrection of His Son Jesus, sin and death have been completely and totally defeated for every truly born-again believer. This promise is in **Romans chapter 6** and is the key to victorious Christian living after becoming saved. Becoming a Christian doesn't mean that you are merely **free from the penalty of sin** (*eternal death in the lake of fire*); it also means being **free from the deadly power of sin** during this earthly life also (**Romans 6:22**). The idea of **Romans 6** is that once your life has merged by faith with Christ's life, two things happen instantly:

- 1) your sinful past life is dissolved and absolved into His holiness, and
- 2) His eternal life and everything about it are also yours in Him NOW.

His sacrifice on the cross is **now** permanently and personally yours forever. His burial portrays the funeral and putting off of your old previous life of sinfulness **now**, which always happens if you're truly born-again (**2 Corinthians 5:17**). His resurrection into a holy, glorified way of life that exists only to glorify God is also your new lifestyle, **now**, this side of heaven. Because of your life **now** being inseparably linked with Christ's, you are able to be free from the power of any sin or temptation that may try to lure you into unfaithfulness to Jesus, the new 'love of your life' (**1 Corinthians 10:13, 1 John 4:17**). **Romans 6:11-14** is the simple discipline every Christian should memorize and practice daily until it becomes an automatic behavioral reaction to all temptation – Whenever you are tempted:

- 1) **Reckon** (v 11) (*agree that this absolutely true because God says so, regardless of how you feel or what others may say differently about it*) / 'you (the new you) is DEAD to sin and alive only unto God' – deceased people aren't tempted and defeated;
- 2) **Refuse** (v 12-13a) (*just harmonize with your Savior and say 'NO' to anything even questionable – if it helps say it out loud*); and
- 3) **Render to righteousness** (13b-14) (*Immediately go do or say or sing or read or think something very righteous with your physical mind and body – you are retraining your flesh to please God rather than yourself and/or other sinners like you used to do*).

Living like this **now**, consistently, in every part of your daily life is the way you 'take off the grave-clothes' of your old life and 'put on the grace-clothes' of your new Christ-like resurrection life. Believers who fail to employ this new mindset are doomed to the frustration of mixing their wardrobe with a little of the old life grave-clothes and a little of the new life grace-clothes. These lifestyles are as incompatible as formal attire over dirty, ugly smelly, despicable and cheap factory-reject clothing. The new life in Christ can't make the old life better and the old life just contaminates and fouls and spoils the new resurrection life. The problem of many in the Corinthian church was they couldn't *put on* the new because they wouldn't separate completely from the old, former, bad influences and it was ruining them personally, doctrinally, socially and corporately as a church family (**1 Corinthians 6:8-11, 10:20-22, 15:33-34; 2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1, 11:12-15**).

**Chapter 15 of 1 Corinthians** is the Holy Spirit through the apostle Paul, reasoning with these carnal Christians to get their lives clean for the new resurrection body they will be putting on at the 'rapture' (*vs. 50-53*). When you are going out somewhere extra special with someone you love, cleaning yourself up before putting on your best clothes is just the right thing to do. The Corinthians were being reminded that their 'DATE' was coming for them at any time and they needed to get cleaned-up so they could dress-up in the new formal attire of the resurrection life their Lord was giving to them just before He returns. Today, you and I are the 'body of Christ' on earth – we have reservations sitting on the banquet table of heaven – our DATE, the Lord Jesus, may be coming at any moment to pick us up to take us out and carry us away to His home, so we can meet the Father (**John 14:1-3**)! Before He arrives, why not take one more look in the mirror (**2 Corinthians 3:17-18**). Is everything as good-looking for Him as you can possibly make it? Do you think the eternal wedding garment (that new resurrection body which He is sending just before He arrives) will fit comfortably and compliment the new 'you'? Do you like what you see? **Do you think He will?**

*“And now, little children, abide in Him, that when He appears, we may have confidence and not be ashamed before Him at His coming. If you know that He is righteous, you know that everyone who practices righteousness is born of Him. Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed upon us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore, the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.”*  
1 John 2:28-3:3

**Raising**  
**The Final Resting Place**  
*(‘Will It Be Worth It and What Will It Look Like?’)*  
1 Corinthians 15:29-44

**Will It Be Worth It?**  
**Only if There’s a Resurrection!**  
*(The Coming Resurrection is an Awesome Incentive for Discipleship)*

**Dedication Demonstrates Your Doctrine**

*“...Otherwise, what will they do who are baptized for the dead, if the dead do not rise at all? Why then are they baptized for the dead? And why do we stand in jeopardy every hour? I affirm, by the boasting in you which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die daily. If, in the manner of men, I have fought with beasts at Ephesus, what advantage is it to me? If the dead do not rise, ‘Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die!’”*  
15:29-32  
*(Job 14:14 & 19:25-27, Romans 8:18-23, 1 Peter 4:12-13, Revelation 2:10)*

**Darkness Distorts Your Devotion & Doctrine**

*“Do not be deceived: ‘Evil company corrupts good habits.’ Awake to righteousness, and do not sin; for some do not have the knowledge of God. I speak this to your shame.”*  
15:33-34  
*(1 Thessalonians 5:23, 1 Corinthians 5:9-11, 2 Corinthians 6:14-18, Ephesians 5:5-7 & 5:11-12, 2 John 8)*

**How About That Resurrection Body?**

**One Size Doesn’t Fit All!**  
*(The Resurrection Body – What You’ve Sown Now is What You’ll Get Then)*

**Diving is the Next Step of Perfection**

*“But someone will say, ‘How are the dead raised up? And with what body do they come?’ Foolish one, what you sow is not made alive unless it dies. And what you sow, you do not sow that body that shall be, but mere grain – perhaps wheat or some other grain. But God gives it a body as He pleases, and to each seed its own body.”*  
15:35-38  
*(Daniel 12:2-3; Hebrews 11:35b; 2 Timothy 4:8; Revelation 2:10, 3:11-12, 19:8,14)*

**Diversity is the Beauty of Perfection**

*“All flesh is not the same flesh, but there is one kind of flesh of men, another flesh of animals, another of fish and another of birds. There are also celestial bodies and terrestrial bodies; but the glory of the celestial is one, and the glory of the terrestrial is another. There is one glory of the sun, another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for one star differs from another star in glory.”*  
15:39-41

**Deliverance is the Power of Perfection**

*“So also is the resurrection of the dead. The body is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption. It is sown in dishonor; it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness; it is raised in power. It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body.”*  
15:42-44  
*(1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, 1 John 3:2-3)*