

**Sunday Service 4<sup>th</sup> October. The Service is prepared by Joan Smith,  
and the Sermon by Chris Tringham.**

**Call to worship:** Psalm 105:vs 1-4: :Give thanks to the Lord, call upon His Name; Make known among the nations what He has done. Sing to Him, sing praise to Him; tell of His wonderful acts. Glory to His holy Name; let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice. Look to the Lord and His strength; seek His Face always."

**Pra:yer** We give thanks for your promised presence with us and ask that you will empower us to worship you in spirit and in truth. As we earnestly seek Your face, fill us with joy and peace so that we may more worthily serve you today and in the days to come. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

**Hymn No. 12** in the red hymn book:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. O Worship the Kind, all glorious above;<br>O gratefully sing His power and His love;<br>Our shield and defender, the Ancient of Days,<br>Pavilioned in splendour and girded with praise.            | 4. Thy bountiful care what tongue can recite?<br>It breathes in the air, it shines in the light;<br>It streams from the hills, it descends to the plain,<br>And sweetly distills in the dew and the rain. |
| 2. O tell of His might, O sing of His grace;<br>Whose robe is the light, whose canopy space;<br>His chariots of wrath the deep thunder clouds form;<br>And dark is His path on the wings of the storm. | 5. Frail children of dust, and feeble as frail,<br>In Thee do we trust, nor find Thee to fail;<br>Thy mercies how tender, how firm to the end,<br>Our Maker Defender, Redeemer and Friend.                |
| 3. The earth with its store of wonders untold,<br>Almighty Thy power hath founded of old,<br>Hath stablished it fast by a changeless decree,<br>And round it hath cast, like a mantle, the sea.        | 6. O measureless Might, ineffable Love;<br>While angels delight to hymn Thee above,<br>The humbler creation, tho' feeble their lays,<br>With true adoration shall sing to Thy praise.                     |

1 Corinthians 15:58b, NIV. ...*Stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labour in the Lord is not in vain.* Joni Eareckson Tada wrote about the importance of a good witness in showing love for our neighbours. "We Christians shouldn't smirk at the misery of our contemporary culture or the frantic grabbing for diversions, attention, or pleasure. This is not ime for smug self-fighteousness. This is no time to get angry that our counbtry has been hijacked by this or that political movement. This is a season, perhaps like none other , to truly influence our nation, to showcase the love of Jesus through specific, practical acts of kindness. Others may whine and gripe about the world "going to hell in a hand basket" but honestly, we know better. We know that good will ultimately triumph. So let' show what this ultimate good will look like by rolling up our sleeves and helping our neighbours, feeding the hungry, and surprising people with courtesy and care in Jesus' Name. If you find yourself overly discouraged or pessimistic about today's culture then find a way to start serving that culture in ways that point to the love of Christ." Dr Anton Beukes, Perth Bible College Dean of Studies, wrote an article about missionary work and one of his comments was: "**Those that focused on being a blessing to others had a 48 times greater success rate, measured by numbers becoming Christians, compared to those focused primarily on making converts.**"

**Bible Reading:** Matthew 5:13-16. RSV. *You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled by men. You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.*

Hymn No. 257 in the red hymn book:

1. May the mind of Christ my Saviour  
Live in me from day to day;  
By His love and power controlling  
All I do and say.

2. May the Word of God dwell richly  
In my heart from hour to hour;  
So that all may see I triumph  
Only in His power.

3. May the peace of God my Father  
Rule my life in everything;  
That I may be calm to comfort  
Sick and sorrowing.

4. May the love of Jesus fill me  
As the waters fill the sea;  
Him exalting, self abasing-  
This is victory.

5. May I run the race before me,  
Strong and brave to face the foe;  
Looking only unto Jesus  
As I onward go.

6. May His beauty rest upon me  
As I seek the lost to win;  
And may they forget the channel,  
Seeing only Him.

**General Prayer:** Offer private prayer of praise to God for His majesty, power and love; Give thanks for His blessings ,both personal and general; prayer of confession and thanks for the precious blood of Christ given to purchase our redemption. Make petitions for personal needs, the perceived needs of others, missionaries, other concerns and then intercede on behalf of family, friends, local concerns, government and missions.

When I am Raised from the Dead, How will it Happen?  
What Kind of Body Will I Possess?

These are two questions the people asked Paul, 1 Corinthians chapter 15.35, and Paul answers them in this chapter.

When Jesus came into this physical world, as prophesied in Psalm 40.6-8, a physical body was prepared for Him, by which He was able as a man, to do all that God had intended for Him. His life, His death and His resurrection was a miracle. It was a work of God.

If you believe in and trust in Jesus Christ He will include you along with many, many others who also hear and trust Him. According to His promise He will raise you all up together on the last day of His ingathering. We have His promise for that. It is also a miracle, and happens only by the power of God in Christ. This promise is found in the Gospel of John 6.40,44 & 54. A miracle. Remember that.

We read of Him, Hebrews 10.5 "Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body have you prepared for me . . . v7 Then I said, 'Behold, I have come to do your will, O God,' as it is written of me in the scroll of the book."

When we came into this world we came on another basis, as an extension of the life that was Adam, the head and progenitor of the human race. He passed on to us what he was at that time, subject to some individual distinctives or traits. One acquired characteristic of the Adam life is that it is a process from cradle to grave. We and all creation from Adam down are liable to rebel against our maker and go our own way, thus we also born to die. We normally live long enough to pass our individual distinctives on to our children genetically, but the humanness is there. Then we start to lose it ourselves.

It is spring and it is time to sow seeds. Look at your crop of potatoes. Surely you planted the best you could find. Shortly, out of the ground come some leaves, these proliferated, strong and healthy. Then out came some flowers. Your crop is at the height of its perfection. Then the plant starts to die off. You cannot see them, but under the soil there is for each plant a potato family. So we dig them up, put the best of them in a cool place as seed for next year and over time eat the rest. The process is like that for us too. We are born to procreate and then to die. It is a slow death, but inevitable.

It well may go for us like this: Perhaps even before we are at the height of our powers, one of the first things to go for many of us is a tooth. Never mind, I have plenty more. But next is the ability to sharply focus our eyes. I used to run a building business and I noticed that the lights in my office were getting dim, so I called the electrician and he installed more lamps. That worked well. . . for a while. I was doing a shop repair at the time for an optician neighbour. I told him about it. No worries, he said, I will prescribe you some glasses - for free. How embarrassing! Me! Having to wear glasses!

A little later people start to mumble. Already we have lost the brilliance of our mane as the thick dark lustre is now threaded with gray, or, horror of horrors - white! Then we start to lose our memory. Not too bad, just the odd word at first, but then that new phone number, what was it again? Who has the contacts list? Our age can be counted in the things we have lost.

Then concentration begins to fail - it is easier to find something else to do, or reuse yesterday's recipe. Then the occasionally trip. It was that rut! Nothing to worry about. I don't need to borrow Grandma's old walker or anything like that. I won't bore you with any more, anyway it cuts too close to the bone! We all shrink from it.

At Primary School I had to learn verses of poetry. This one was in The School Book series, a graded sample of the best in English literature. How did such good stuff ever fall out of favour? In The Fifth Book we find 'Pioneers,' by Frank Hudson. It's about the migrant pioneers of the 1850's and it tells it all. It begins with this verse:

'We are the old world people,  
Ours were the hearts to dare;  
But our years are spent, and our backs are bent.  
And the snow is on our hair.'

To Adam, as the physical leader of all peoples, and on our behalf the Lord said, "By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return." He has given us a throw-away body. You don't like your body? Don't

worry, it is only a temporary arrangement!

The Resurrection of the physical body of Jesus.

Let us first consult the apostle John. In his first letter chapter 3 and verses 2&3. We quote:

Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is."

John says here that in the days to come when Jesus returns the child of God will be changed to be just like Him. It applies to those Christians who will be living on earth at the time. Notice those words, "when he appears we shall be like him," because "we shall see him as he is."

All this mystified Paul's friends in Corinth. He wrote to them to explain it further. Thankfully, his letter has been preserved for almost 2000 years, and is included in your Bible as 1 Corinthians.

There Paul the apostle explains to them how Jesus was raised from the dead and recognised by the people who knew him best. He was identified as the same Jesus who had been slain. There was Peter, 'the twelve' as the inner group of disciples were known, even though Judas Iscariot was possibly dead by this time. Jesus was then seen by five hundred of His followers, called brethren, and Paul commented that most of them were still alive even then, and therefore available for a sceptic to interview. He appeared to James and again to the remainder of the apostles, and lastly to Paul. All of these were people who knew Jesus intimately before his crucifixion and saw him again after his reported resurrection. Looking on Him they knew who he was - Jesus of Nazareth. Jesus has the same identification characteristics as the Jesus, who was the man, who walked the Galilean seashore.

My point in this paragraph is that people who knew Jesus recognised Him when they saw His resurrected body. He was physical. Not a fuzzy ghost or a vision. He was the Jesus that went missing from the tomb. They looked on, and touched, and some felt His body. Thomas who had a credibility problem at first was invited to conduct a simple internal examination by probing the nail prints in his hands, and a manual examination of his spear wounded side. But he, meeting Jesus face to face was thoroughly convinced, confessing Jesus as his Lord. He knew that this was the same Jesus by observing His body and hearing His voice and the logic of His reasoning. He certainly was the Jesus that they all knew. But was He exactly the same as the Jesus they all knew?

Consider these few points by Luke, concerning Jesus's interaction with His disciples, in those days!

Jesus could materialise anytime at will to interview His people. Luke 24.36.

He made his physical body available for their close inspection. Luke 24.39.

He could eat food along with the disciples, a physical act. Luke 24.43.

He completed training them, especially Peter as early leader. Luke 24: 44-49.

He finally, ascended physically into the heavens as they watched. Acts 1:9.

Throughout all of this, he spoke their language and knew their interests, religious orientation, traditions, and spatial relationships.

We turn now to the teaching of Paul in 1 Corinthians 15:35 to answer the question in that verse. How are the dead raised up, and with what body do they come?

Read now 1 Corinthians 15:35 - 58 and rejoice at what lies before you. Observe that Paul says God brings something new out of the old, but still recognisable grain. Wheat is still wheat. A person is still the person we knew, but yet the person they were meant to be. It represents a removal of the curse of Adam's transgression that passed to all creation, known as original sin. When a believer is raised they are not raised to live this life again, as Lazarus was, but to participation in the kingdom of God under the King of kings. And they are now the person God originally intended them to be.

It is sown in dishonour; 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. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body. 1 Corinthians 15:43 & 44.

We consider the nature of the body from birth compared to the body to be raised. There are four changes that will be evident and are restated here, using some of Thayer's Greek Lexicon options,

This body to be interred, already in decay, is to be raised as incorruptible.

This body is burdened with disgrace and contempt, the new is gloriously splendid.

This body is weak and diseased, whereas the new is strong and powerful  
This body is a lowly, and animal-like, but the new is filled with and governed by God.

This principle of death and renewal is found everywhere. It is spring. It is time to plant as the spring rains fertilise the soil which is being warmed by a resurging sun after a long winter.

Examine the seed that you plant, how it is full and complete. Dig up a plant which has recently germinated and the seed grain is perished, rotted, eaten up as food by the new life to which it gave birth and to which it supplied itself as nutriment. This is an illustration Jesus used; "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit." John 12:24. This is also Paul's model, used in his distinctive method.

As a child of God this fulfilment is what God has in store for you. It is called glorification. There are three great changes which take place when we, guilty sinners, respond to the Gospel.

The First all my sin against God is forgiven, past, present and future. This occurs because Jesus paid the penalty of my sin. *This is called justification.* It is a legal status. It is because the death of Jesus is enough to cover all sin, including all of yours, and all of mine.

The *Second is known as sanctification* and occurs as the Holy Spirit progressively changes my affections and actions in this life so that I am and behave more like Jesus Christ.

The *Third is glorification.* It is the bodily change that God has in mind for me, and all those whom he raises from the dead when they are made to be just like Jesus.

Justification and Sanctification may be mine right now not, but Glorification must await the coming of Jesus with and to redeem His own.

Paul tells us. There are heavenly bodies and earthly bodies, but the glory of the heavenly is of one kind, and the glory of the earthly was of another. Then there is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for star differs from star in glory. So is it with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable and is done with. What is raised is imperishable. It is sown in dishonour; 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. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body. 1 Corinthians 15:40-44.

Some Interesting Thoughts.

All these following observations will result from obedience to the will of God and in no way ought to be considered as a novelty, even though some aspects of them may be interesting or novel or amusing to us today. The 'as and so' statements concerning the resurrection status of Jesus suggest that we will be like Him in these ways too.

*Jesus could disappear or materialise at will.* When the disciples were locked into the upper room of an house, Jesus suddenly stood in their midst. He has authority over the physical. He had to deal with the shock his sudden appearance caused. His opening statement was "Peace to you."

Luke 24:36&7 As they were talking about these things, Jesus himself stood among them, and said to them, "Peace to you!" But they were startled and frightened and thought they saw a spirit. They found it hard to take v41. Will we be any different?

*Jesus could still eat and digest food.* Jesus wanting to show that He was still a man asked for food, which he ate in an ordinary every day manner. When the Lord left them at Bethany (v50&51) the fish he had eaten was presumably not left behind. There is no record of anything like that. His eating was not trickery. The assumption is that he had in that time digested the food.

*There are no gender distinctives in the kingdom.* In the resurrection time there will be no marriage relationship, and consequently no sexuality. God's intention for his highest creation in this world was that through procreation mankind would inhabit the whole world. The body we inhabit is designed to encourage that, and it is God's intention Marital union is intended by God as a loving, physically comforting, cooperative, spiritual relationship and Hebrews 13:4 tells us that the marriage bed alone is undefiled and God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous who abuse it. In the resurrection this normal special provision will lapse. See Luke 20:24&23

*Your body will not have blood like we do now.* It will be made of flesh and bones, but there is no mention of blood. It will not need it. When after the resurrection Jesus materialised before his disciples in the upper room, they were startled and he said to them, "See my hands and my feet, that it is I myself. Touch me, and see. For a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." Luke 24:39. On the cross the nails in his hands and feet and spear thrust upwards from His side into His heart, drained Him of blood and water, for the composition of his blood underwent physical change. Kenneth Wuest writes, "His precious blood has all run out from a heart pierced by the spear of the Roman soldier.\*" We would have said, "A spirit does not have flesh and blood as you see that I have." Blood is the body mechanism that sustains life as it circulates. God stated by Moses that "the life of the flesh is in the blood." Moses then was well ahead of modern medical science. It carries oxygen, to the flesh and organs, removes waste, distributes foods, fluids, repair materials and generates heat and carries away the excess. All this sustains life. But the new body will not depend upon this mechanism or principle. The new body is not subject to death. There is no tissue renewal as we know it today. It does not need blood as we do today. That may be hard for us to visualise.

*There will be no need of clothes.* This may be a surprise to you. Victims were crucified naked. It was deliberate humiliation for enemies of the empire and entertainment for the people. The garments of Jesus were given to the soldiers. His outer robe was of a higher quality and rather than destroy it they gambled for it. In the struggle to breathe the victim discharged his body waste onto the ground.

Joseph of Arimathea, a member of the Council, who was afraid of his peers came boldly and begged the body of Jesus for burial. He provided it with grave clothes. John 19:38-42. He bound it with spices and laid it in a new tomb.

When Jesus was raised, the grave clothes were found still laid out and the head cloth neatly folded and put aside. John 20:1-10. There is no mention in Scripture of Jesus needing clothes again.

Adam was created before Eve. Before they sinned they had no need of body covering. Awareness of nakedness was not an issue until they disobeyed God. Then clothing became an immediate necessity. And they hid amongst the trees and draped themselves with leaves. Genesis 3:8-11.

That is all very well, but what will my body be like? It will be like the body you have now, in as much as that people can identify you and you can identify them. They will be recognisable and you will be recognised by them. It will also morally and spiritually be like that of the Lord Jesus.

Endnotes: \* "Great Truths to Live By" Kenneth Wuest. Eerdmans, p151. The Bible text quoted is the **ESV**.

Hymn Number 375 Channels Only in the red hymn book:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. How I praise Thee precious Saviour;<br>That Thy love laid hold of me;<br>Thou has saved and cleansed and filled me<br>That I might Thy channel be. | 3. Witnessing Thy power to save me,<br>Setting free from self and sin,<br>Thou who bought me to possess me,<br>In Thy fullness, Lord, come in. |
| 2. Emptied that Thou shouldst fill me,<br>With no power but as Thou givest<br>Graciously with each command.<br>A clean vessel in Thy Hand;            | 4. Jesus, fill now with Thy Spirit<br>Hearts that full surrender know;<br>That the streams of living water<br>from our inner man may flow.     |

CHORUS:

Channels only, blessed Master,	Flowing through us, Thou canst use us
But with all Thy wondrous power	Every day and every hour.

**.Benediction:** *May the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, equip you with everything good for doing His Will, and may He work in us what is pleasing to Him. Through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.* Hebrews 13: 20,21, RSV.