

Le Nouvel Esprit:
A Video Series on the Theology of
the Body

TOB 70, General Audience of Jan. 27, 1982

Introductory Remarks

- Analyze St. Paul's account of the resurrection of the body in 1 Cor. 15
 - This account stands within Paul's faith and experience of the risen Christ on the road to Damascus
- 1 Corinthians is St. Paul's rebuttal to those who reject the resurrection of the body
 - Greek philosophy rejects the resurrection in its major forms, eg, Platonism, Neopythagoreanism, Stoicism, Epicureanism
 - Christ appealed to the reality of the Old Covenant and God's love, eg his reply to the Sadducees
 - Paul appealed to the reality and truth of Christ's resurrection as the foundation of the faith
 - "If Christ has not been raised, our preaching is in vain and also your faith is in vain...But now Christ has been raised from the dead" (1 Cor 15:14, 20)

The Resurrection of Christ

- The resurrection of Christ is the final and fullest self-revelation of God being God of the living and not the dead
- The resurrection is God's answer to the inevitability of death
- Christ's resurrection
 - Victory over death, death is vanquished
 - Begins the eschatological fulfillment where everything is returned and subjected to God
- “What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised full of 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. Thus, it is written, that the first man, Adam, became a living being, but the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. But it is not the spiritual that is first, but the natural, and then the spiritual.” 1 Cor. 15:26
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1 Corinthians 15

- Synthesis of Paul's anthropology in light of the resurrection
- Consistent with the Synoptic Gospel accounts, but more developed
- Paul writes with eschatological perspective that is based on faith in Christ's resurrection
 - This is still in reference however to the beginning and historical man's situation
 - The body of historical man is explained as perishable, weak, natural, in dishonor
- The recipient of Paul's message comes face to face with the last Adam, directing us to our eschatological fulfillment
- Paul also reminds us of the first Adam, so directing us to the beginning
- The Pauline synthesis reproduces Christ's message of the beginning, resurrection, the heart, and concupiscent desire

Historical Man, the Bearer of Sin and Hope

- Paul's synthesis recalls the truth of creation
- Historical man is the man of original sin
 - He is the man of slavery, corruption, his body perishable, in dishonor
 - All of creation suffers because of this sin, subjected
- Man's sin is interior and cosmic
 - Creation groans, in labor pains with hope for the new man
- Historical man's body is the body of slavery, corruption, and also hope
 - This hope indicates the presence of the mystery of redemption
 - Man can break out of slavery because redemption is at work in man's soul through the gifts of the Holy Spirit

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