

OPEN BIBLE CHURCH

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SERMON TITLE	Ultimate Restoration
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SERIES	Godly Reset
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DATE	3/28/2021
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KEY SCRIPTURE	1 Corinthians 15:35-58
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SYNOPSIS	There are better days ahead! Jesus is coming soon, and when he does there will be some major changes! Our bodies will be transformed from earthly to heavenly, weakness to power, mortal to immortal. We will be changed! It's the Ultimate Restoration!
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HIGHLIGHTS	
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☞ Ultimate Restoration

You ever watch one of those home renovation shows? I know it's preplanned and filmed, but never have I ever seen a family reject the home makeover. Now, why is that? Because they know they are getting something good. A brand-new home! Their old home is going to be transformed. The old one is going to be done away with. Sounds like a promise I have when I let Christ in. Old things pass away and ALL things become brand new!

We are living in the Last Days and we must be ready, because Jesus is coming soon! However, as believers, his return promises a change for the better in the extreme! Last week I quoted from Matthew 19... at the renewal of all things... Christ followers will receive a hundred times as much as they gave up. There will be an Ultimate Restoration. And, it's going to be soon.

Just like those renovation crews showing up at the designated home, it will happen all of a sudden. And, just like the family on the show, we will get a remodeling. In fact, in a lot of the renovations, the house is completely rebuilt. Often, all that is left from the original is the foundation; the rest of the house is completely new. Our transformation at Christ's return will be much like that. He is our foundation and God will rebuild us on Jesus Christ.

So, what will this change entail? There are many misconceptions about the afterlife... reincarnation, Nirvana, Enlightenment, people become angels, we will sit around on fluffy clouds playing harps, we have to check in with Peter at the pearly gates...

☞ Let's look at **1 Corinthians 15:35-58**...

35 But someone may ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body will they come?"
36 How foolish! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. 37 When you sow, you do not plant the body that will be, but just a seed, perhaps of wheat or of something else. 38 But God gives it a body as he has determined, and to each kind of seed he gives its own body... **42**
So will it be with the resurrection of the dead. The body that is sown is perishable, it is raised imperishable; 43 it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; 44 it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body... 49 And just as we have borne the likeness of the earthly man, so **shall we bear the likeness of the man from heaven**. 50 I declare to you, brothers, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. 51 Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but **we will all be changed**— 52 **in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye**, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. 53 For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality. 54 When the perishable has been **clothed with the imperishable**, and the mortal **with immortality**, then the saying that is written will come true: "Death has been swallowed up in victory." 55 "Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?" 56 The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. 57 But thanks be to God! He gives us the **victory through our Lord Jesus Christ**. 58 Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.



☞ We will be changed!

Philippians 3:21

...Jesus... will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.

Here, the word is metamorphosis = to change into another form; to change the essential nature of something. Bruce Banner becomes the Incredible Hulk; caterpillars become butterflies. This metamorphosis was used of Jesus in Matthew 17:2 when, “he was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as the light.”

☞ We will be changed! Just like the renovator shows us **before** and **after** pictures of the homes they remodel, let’s look at this passage in the same manner...

☞ **Before:** v. 42 **perishable** (KJV = corruption) - an inferior or worse condition; it is naturally short-lived and transient; this also speaks of moral corruption and depravity.

Romans 8:23 says this creation is in bondage to decay. In the natural, everything dies. It’s simply the way things are on earth as we know it. In the natural, we are all prone to sin. Sin doesn’t have to be taught, it comes quite naturally.

☞ **After:** v. 42 **imperishable** (KJV = incorruption) - not subject to decay; incorruptible

Can you imagine being in a state of health that never runs down? No more death; no more pain of any kind! Even sinful temptations will be completely overcome.

☞ **Before:** v. 43 **dishonor** – disgrace; shame

Romans 1:26 speaks of shameful lusts. In this life, we are often ashamed, because of the tendency towards immorality.

☞ **After:** v. 43 **glory** – honor, respect, excellence; dignity

This word is used most frequently in Scripture to describe God. God is fully of glory – he is completely honorable and dignified, always worthy of respect, and does everything with excellence. God is never ashamed. And, when we are changed, we will not be ashamed any longer. Have you been ashamed of a sinful past? A lot of us, even though forgiven, still struggle with shame. But that will be no more when we are completely transformed in glory.

☞ **Before:** v. 43 **weakness** - illness, disability

Romans 6:19 speaks of being weak in your natural selves. Even a microscopic germ or virus can seriously damage us.

☞ **After:** v. 43 **power** – ability, abundance; miraculous power



Revelation 21:4

There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."

One day we will have strength and power without any weakness. The older I get the more quickly I get tired and worn out. Just a little project around the house and I need a break to rest. Can you imagine unlimited stamina?

Isaiah 40:30-31

Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; 31 but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

☞ **Before:** v. 44 **natural body** – material; physical

☞ **After:** v. 44 **spiritual body** – not physical, but supernatural. More on this later.

☞ **Before:** v. 48 **earthly** - made of dust (cf. Gen. 2:6)

☞ **After:** v. 48 **heavenly** - derived from God

Hebrews 8:5 reminds us that the OT temple was just a copy and shadow of what is in heaven. The Rock Band, Queen asked the question, "Is this the real life? Is this just fantasy?" I answer, it's not just fantasy, but there is a heavenly reality that is so much more than this life. Cf. CS Lewis' "the Great Divorce" – people of Gray Town get a chance to visit heaven. When they arrive, they find that they are no more than wisps, translucent ghosts. Heaven is fuller and more *real* than they could have imagined, and its substance is so solid that the Ghosts find it nearly immovable; the grass is painful to walk on, and flowers are as hard as diamonds. The narrator isn't even able to pick up a leaf, which seems to possess an extraordinary weight... One day our bodies will be of heavenly substance, more real than anything we can imagine.

☞ **Before:** v. 53 **mortal** – subject to death

After: v. 53 **immortal** – not subject to death. Cf. Rev. 21:4

☞ **AFTER: Like Christ**

Philippians 3:20-21

our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, 21 who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.

☞ **Luke 24:**36-39

While they were still talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." 37 They were startled and frightened, thinking they saw a ghost. 38 He said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds? 39 Look at my



hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have."

Luke 24:42

They gave him a piece of broiled fish, 43 and he took it and ate it in their presence.

☞ **John 20:19-20**

On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" 20 After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

John 20:26-27

A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" 27 Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe."

☞ **Acts 1:9**

...he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

☞ **Different appearance; yet recognizable**

Physical interactions: touching; speaking; eating; "flesh and bones"

Yet not limited by the physical: appeared suddenly inside locked doors; ascended

Makes me wonder about the power of flight and instant locomotion. Suffice it to say, that the Ultimate Restoration will be phenomenal, beyond our wildest dreams. New bodies which are immortal, indestructible, and powerful; without pain, and never growing weary.

Therefore: v. 58 we don't labor in vain. All the promises listed above will make it all worthwhile.

☞ v. 58 **stand firm**

Colossians 2:6-7

So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, 7 rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.

☞ v. 58 **let nothing move you**

2 Peter 3:17 says, "be on your guard so that you may not be carried away by the error of lawless men and fall from your secure position." Deception is on the rise. It is so hard to know what to believe and what not to. Be grounded in God's Word, so you know the ultimate truth.

☞ v. 58 **give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord**



1 Thessalonians 4:1

Finally, brothers, we instructed you how to live in order to please God, as in fact you are living. Now we ask you and urge you in the Lord Jesus to do this more and more.

There are better days ahead! Jesus is coming soon, and when he does there will be some major changes! Our bodies will be transformed from earthly to heavenly, from weakness to power, from mortal to immortal. We will be changed! It's the Ultimate Restoration!

Changed In The Twinkling Of An Eye

When the trump of the great archangel; Its mighty tones shall sound,
And, the end of the age proclaiming; Shall pierce the depths profound;
When the Son of Man shall come in His glory; To take the saints on high,
What a shouting in the skies from the multitudes that rise;
Changed in the twinkling of an eye.

Refrain

*Changed in the twinkling of an eye,
Changed in the twinkling of an eye,
The trumpet shall sound, the dead shall be raised,
Changed in the twinkling of an eye.*

O the seed that was sown in weakness; Shall then be raised in pow'r
And the songs of the blood bought millions; Shall hail that blissful hour;
When we gather safely home in the morning; And night's dark shadows fly,
What a shouting on the shore when we meet to part no more,
Changed in the twinkling of an eye.