**Scripture Reading:** 1 Corinthians 15: 19-58

**Singing:** 408:1-3 – 398:1-3 – 361:1-4 – 31:1-4, 7

Intro: Since Paradise’s Fall, lost our ‘at ease’ and now are ‘dis-eased.’

A. That reality applies to *both body and soul*

B. Over against this *reality* God declares the Good News

 1. His redemption applies to *soul and body* (Mark 2:1-11)

 a. Jesus’ miracles are prophetic about the future

 b. though the initial phase of redemption applies to the soul, the

 final phase will include the body (1 John 3:1-2; 1 Cor. 15:49)

What does Jesus teach us about the *after-this-life*? (2)

I. That our soul will join Him immediately

***II. That our body will be made like unto His***

III. That our joy will be everlasting

**II. After this life, our body shall be made like unto Jesus**

A. Plenty voices with different arguments oppose this *Christian hope*

 1. those who *believe* ‘dead is dead’ (1 Cor. 15:32b)

 a. God commands us to avoid *such company of thinkers (33-34)*

 2. those *who deny resurrection as impossible*

 3. those *who don’t want a ‘resurrection of body’*

 4. Paul answers all these objections:

 a. vs. 36-38 about the *how can dead be raised?*

 b. vs. 39-52 about *with what body are they raised?*

B. How is it possible that the dead are raised?

 1. Each seed turning into a plant confirms this miracle of God (36ff)

a. the seed-plant journey describes the journey of Christ’s people

C. With what bodies are the dead raised?

 1. The resurrection of our body is also the Gospel of redemption (42-44)

 2. What will be the qualities of this new body?

 a. *incorruptible* body (vs. 42b)

 b. *glorious* body (vs. 43a)

 c. *powerful* body (vs. 43b)

 d. *spiritual* body (vs. 44a)

 3. How will all this be accomplished? (52; 1 Thess. 5:16-18)

**Final Reflections:**

A. Do we contemplate the glories to come too little in our journey?

 *For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy*

 *to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us (Rom. 8:18)*

 *For our light affliction, which is but for a moment worketh for us a*

 *far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory. (2 Cor. 4:17)*

 *For we know that all things work together for good … for them that*

 *love God (Rom. 8:28)*

 *I will behold thy face in righteousness: I shall be satisfied, when I awake, with thy likeness (Ps. 17:15)*

*For thou wilt not leave soul in hell neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption. Thou wilt shew me the path f life: in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore.* (Ps. 16:10-11)

God fits our soul here to possess a glorious body after; and He will fit the body finally as a perfect home for glorious soul. (Richard Sibbes)

We are surer to arise out of our graves that out of our beds. (Thomas Watson)