

Questions Answered by Dr. Bauman

Louis T. Talbot

And good morning my radio friends and friends of the Bible Institute of Los Angeles. This is Louis T. Talbot welcoming you to another Bible study. And I do so in the wonderful name of our wonderful Lord. And on behalf of the faculty and the student body of the Bible Institute of Los Angeles. Many of you would like to be students in the Bible Institute of Los Angeles but circumstances have made this impossible. And so every morning we bring the Bible Institute right into your home by way of radio.

Let me remind you that we are celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of our school. And now we have entered upon the second half of a century of service for Christ in the training of young men and young women who are to be the missionaries of tomorrow. Now Dr. Paul Bauman, the former vice president of the Bible Institute of Los Angeles and now the vice president of the Grace Seminary of Winona Lake Indiana, has been with me in the studio and we have been discussing together what the Bible teaches about heaven and how our future ministry will be rendered when we reach the believers' eternal home.

You know that these are questions that have arisen in the minds of many of God's people but the Bible is very clear in its teaching concerning these things, concerning the eternal state as it relates to every child of God. And we are taking the questions that have been sent to us from time to time and we are answering them in this series of studies about the starry universe, the believers' future empire. You know that there are many many people as they think about heaven

and the questions that arise in their minds as they-, as they think about heaven they have the idea that those questions can never be answered until they leave this world and enter into the presence of God. But that is not so. You know that God has recorded a great deal in His book, in the bo-, the word of God. They are given to us through the writings of inspired men. And so we are taking these questions and bringing them under the lens of Holy Writ.

Now Dr. Bauman there is some who profess to believe in a spiritual resurrection. That is that they deny the literal resurrection of the body. I cannot understand how anyone can fail to understand the clear teaching of God's word on this subject. Don't you think that the question asked in that marvelous resurrection chapter of the Bible, 1 Corinthians chapter 15 is pertinent here? Of course I refer to 1 Corinthians chapter 15 and verse 35. Where the apostle Paul says "but some man will say, How are the dead raised up? And with what body do they come?" I want you to note the word "body." The apostle Paul there is talking about the resurrection of the body but he is asking the question that is some have been asking the apostle Paul about the nature of this body. Now what does the Bible teach in regard to that?

Dr. Paul Bauman: Well Dr. Talbot the Bible is certainly crystal clear in its teaching that the resurrection body of the believer will be a literal body, just as literal as our present bodies of flesh and blood. I commend to our friends a careful study of this great resurrection chapter First Corinthians 15. We can't discuss all of it in this series. The first portion of the chapter has to do particularly with the resurrection of the body of our Lord. And the reality of that resurrection. He discusses that very carefully giving the evidences for the resurrection of Christ, his literal resurrection.

Now of course that's important because Christ's resurrection became a pattern or a picture of the resurrection of the believer. And the whole argument is that just as Christ's resurrection was a literal bodily resurrection so also will a resurrection of the believer's body be just as literal. And I would call our friend's attention here in this chapter to a number of the phrases that certainly certainly indicate that as clearly as words can possibly teach. For example, in verse 40 the writer is talking about literal bodies not our bodies in this case but the various bodies which we know to be literal and can't take as being anything else.

Verse 40 is an example where he says there are also celestial bodies that is bodies in the heavens the stars and so forth, and bodies terrestrial that is bodies on this earth. And that little word "are" is a Greek word which means literally "to exist," there exists celestial bodies. Now we know that. We know that there exists bodies upon this earth. And then again in verse 42 he says "so also is the resurrection of the dead." That is just like these other bodies are literal so also is the resurrection of the body of the believer.

And again in verse 44, this certainly is the climax to the answer to this whole question as to the literal resurrection of the body. For he says "it is sown a natural body," that is when the body is placed in the grave, it's a natural human body. "It is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body." Certainly if you take the first part of that literally that there is or exists a natural body then you can interpret the second half of that verse otherwise when he says there is a spiritual body. And so the writer simply calls our attention to the fact that just as the natural body is real so also the spiritual body will be real.

Dr. Talbot: Dr. Bauman, don't you think our Lord's appearance to His disciples following His own resurrection furnishes us with good proof as to the resurrection of the-, the reality rather of the-, of the resurrected body?

Dr. Bauman: Yes, I do Dr. Talbot, and you doubtless have in mind the story recorded in the 24th chapter of Luke. You'll remember that our Lord following His resurrection, we're told in verse 36 of Luke 24, stood in the midst of them, and said unto them, "peace be unto you." But we're told they were terrified and affrighted and supposed that they had seen a spirit. And we read that He said unto them, "Why are ye troubled? And why do thoughts arise in your hearts? Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself." Now you'll notice that Jesus didn't say here "I'm surprised that you think you saw a spirit, don't you know that a spirit doesn't have any hands or feet?" That's exactly what He's saying here. But He says "Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have." And then we're told that He showed them His hands and His feet and He also took food and He ate it. And in other words gave them every scientific evidence He could possibly present to them as to the reality of that resurrection body.

Dr. Talbot: I think Dr. Bauman that uh-, that the Lord ate that broiled fish just to demonstrate the fact that His body was real. Now don't you think that the reference in Luke chapter 24 verse 44 is the Psalms 16?

Dr. Bauman: I do, Dr. Talbot. You'll remember that David here says that "Thou wilt not permit Thine Holy One to see corruption," and we are not left in doubt as to the meaning of that passage of Scripture, that it is definitely a re-, a reference to the resurrection of the body of Christ. For Peter over in his sermon on the day of Pentecost quotes this verse from the 16th Psalm: "Thou wilt not leave Thine Holy One to see corruption," and he tells us that it refers to the body of Christ, that it was not permitted to lie in the tomb and corrupt as other bodies that go back to the dust. And so there's no doubt about it, the references to the literal bodily resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Dr. Talbot: I noticed a moment ago, Doctor, that the passage that we were discussing in 1 Corinthians chapter 15 contrast two kinds of bodies: the natural and the spiritual. Now what is the difference between what the Bible calls a natural body and a spiritual body?

Dr. Bauman: Well let me read, first of all, the verses here in 1 Corinthians 15 that refer to these two bodies. We read in verse 44, "it is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body." Then look at verse 47, "the first man is of the earth, earthy; the second man is the Lord from heaven." And you'll notice that we have a part of the answer to that question here in this 44th verse. For we're told here that the first man, that is Adam, to whom he refers in verse 45, is of the earth, earthy, that is it's a body that was fashioned out of the dust of the ground, and God breathed into that body the breath of life and Adam became a living soul, a living soul of a body created out of the dust but which became flesh and bone and blood.

And you'll notice the second part to the answer in verse 50; "Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God." And so the answer to the first part of the question "what is a natural body" is this: that a natural body is a body that was made out of the dust of the ground and is an earthy body, a body-, the life sustaining element or the life sustaining factor is blood. You know the Bible says the life of the flesh is in the blood and when the blood supply is cut off from any portion of the body that portion of the body dies.

Now the resurrection body is not a body of flesh and blood. And again the body of our Lord was the pattern here, for you remember His life blood was drained from His body and His human body lost its life sustaining factor at the time He died. In a very real sense of the word therefore Jesus when He died gave His life because He gave his blood. But when the Lord Jesus was raised from the dead, we're told elsewhere in the New Testament that He was raised by the Spirit of God. And here's a wonderful promise, we're told also that the Spirit of Him that raised up Jesus shall also quicken and or give life to our mortal or deathly bodies.

And so we come to this conclusion that where the life sustaining element or factor of a natural body is blood. The life sustaining factor in a spiritual body is the Spirit of God that raised up Jesus and someday will raise up ours. There's a very precious thought about that. Dr. Talbot. It simply means this: that in the body which the Lord will raise from the dead, that is the resurrection body, it will be vitalized by a Spirit that is a deathless Spirit, the Spirit of the living God Himself. What a precious hope that is.

Dr. Talbot: Yes, indeed it is. But that-, it's the reality of the spiritual body as to substance that seems to bother so many people. Can you give us any evidence that the spiritual body will have real substance? And if so, what will be-, what will be this substance? That is what will be the spiritual body? What will uh-, will the spiritual body be composed of?

Dr. Bauman: Well Dr. Talbot I believe, again that the resurrection body of our Lord is the pattern for us here, and we have light on that subject too from verse 50 in 1 Corinthians 15; "Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God." You'll notice the phrase here is "flesh and blood." But the resurrection body of our Lord was not a body of flesh and blood, it was a body rather of flesh and bone. As someone has said I'm not sure if it was Spurgeon but some great minister said the only thing Jesus left on this earth when He ascended back into heaven was His blood, and the body which was raised from the dead was a body of flesh and bone, vitalized not by the blood but now by the spirit of the eternal God. And that means that the substance of our bodies therefore will be flesh and bone resurrected, changed indeed, but genuinely real just as real as the resurrection body of the Lord Jesus Christ Himself.

Dr. Talbot: You know, doctor, a moment ago we were speaking of the resurrection, the resurrected body of the Lord Jesus Christ as being a body of flesh and bone. Now if that is true, which it is, how do you account for the fact th- the Lord's ability to disappear through the walls? That you were in the upper room and you'll remember that they had the doors all locked and the Lord appeared evidently He came right through the walls and then after the conversation He disappeared in the same way. Now how would you account for that in view of the fact that He said that He had a body of flesh and bone?

Dr. Bauman: A few years ago, Dr. Talbot, that would have been quite a problem especially from a scientific standpoint but no longer is it a problem as we've come to learn more about the nature of God's universe. You can find the answer in the reorganization of the matter of which the body is composed. And indeed the Bible gives a hint to that as we look at verse 51 for He says "Behold, I shew you a mystery; we shall not all sleep," that is the sleep of death, "but we shall all be changed." And this change if you'll look at the context here both the verses that precede and the verses that follow applies to the change in the nature of our body.

And so through the reorganization of matter, that thing will be possible. For example, science tells us and I know this sounds a little strange but we know it's true that there's no reason, indeed only one reason why one couldn't pick up the chair here in your office and throw that chair directly through the wooden door. Well there is one reason and that is because the nature of the structure, the atomic structure of that chair is so like the structure of the door that the one cannot pass through the other. But all you would need to do would be to change the structure of that chair so that it would not conflict with the structure of the door, and it could go right through.

We see that indeed in two kinds of substance for example light. Light passes through a window, a solid substance; light is also a substance. The reason is that the nature of light, that is the substance of light, differs from the nature of the substance of the window. And it's a wonderful truth to know that we shall be changed and these barriers and human limitations will no longer prevail that are obstacles to us. Sometimes, Dr. Talbot, in the dark as we try to go through a room where our wife has changed the furniture.

Dr. Talbot: Yes, well. You know doctor you are answering a lot of my own questions here this morning in regard to these things. Now some people have objected to the literal resurrection of the body on what they call scientific grounds. They say, for example, that after a man dies his body decomposes; its very substance may be taken up by the roots of a plant like wheat, and then the wheat may be eaten by an animal which in turn is eaten by another human being. And thus the actual substance of a-, of a body is constantly changing. Now how would you answer a question like that? You know I have had a lot of questions like that Dr. Bauman, and to tell you the truth some of these questions to my mind would-, would puzzle the Archangel Michael. But what would you say in regard to a question of that kind?

Dr. Bauman: Well once again I believe Dr. Talbot that modern science has given us the answer to that question, and yet the statement to truth was written 20 centuries ago in the Word of God. For example, here in verses 35 to 38 He discusses this very identity of the human body that remains even though the substance may change at least in its form. For He says "how are the dead raised up? And with what body do they come?" And then He answers the question by saying "Thou fool, that which thou sowest is not quickened," that is made alive, "except it die."

In other words, you place a grain of wheat in the ground and that grain dies it decomposes, it loses its identity but at the same time it's made alive through the plant that grows out of the wheat. And He says "that which thou sowest, thou sowest not that body which shall be, but bare grain, it may chance of wheat, or of some other grain: but God giveth it a body as it hath pleased him, and to every seed his own body."

In other words, it's not the-, the identity remains the same. Wheat brings forth wheat; corn brings forth corn, and the body that's put in the grave will bring forth a body identical to that which was placed in the tomb. And yet the substance may change. Let me illustrate this I believe may make it just a little bit more clear. We know that the substance in our own physical bodies is changing constantly. Skin is being sloughed off, dead skin, and is being constantly renewed. Yet the identity of the body remains the same.

I have on the bottom of my left foot a long scar. I received many years ago when I stepped on a piece of broken bottle on the beach, down in Long Beach. Now that scar has remained with me for quite a number of years and it's just as clear and just the same shape as it was 20 years ago. And yet do you know that there's not a single element in my body that was there 20 years ago. Not the same, exactly the same substance but the identity has been preserved. And somehow even those scientists tell us our bodies change every seven years or every three years whichever it may be. Yet there is an identity which goes on year after year. And those who would have known me 10 years ago would know me today, they'd see a tremendous change but they'd still know me.

And so it's-, it's a wonderful truth to realize that even though substance may change, the identity of the person continues on and that certainly expresses a very precious truth to me. You know I want my own body. The Scripture says "to every seed his own body." When I get over there, Dr. Talbot, I want my own body. I don't want yours. There may be some debate as to which might be the better, so far as looks is concerned but I want my own. And there's another precious thought.

I want to see my mother whom I never knew. She died when I was 20 months old. I don't want to see someone else. I want to see her and the identification, thank God, will remain.

Dr. Talbot: Yes and I thank God with you Dr. Bauman. Now I've just been looking at the watch and we have a whole bunch of questions here. And we'll have to continue most of them in our next study. But we got time, I think, for just one more. And the question is this: how would you answer someone who says that there isn't sufficient amount of all the elements to take care for the resurrection of all who have died through the centuries, millions and millions of them. Now that question has been put before me. Now how would you answer that?

Dr. Bauman: Well I think such a question, in light of our advancing knowledge of the universe, is almost a silly question to begin with because there are not enough of the elements here on the earth. There certainly are in the great bodies of the heavens above us. However, you know when I hear that question I'm reminded of a story I once heard of a little Cornish Methodist minister who was approached by a man who thought he had great knowledge and erudition. And he asked this man, he said it had been scientifically demonstrated that there wasn't enough of some of the elements like calcium or sulfur or phosphorus to take care of all that had died in addition to all that were raised.

And he said uh-, he gave that as an objection to the resurrection of the body. A little Methodist minister said he didn't know very much about sulfur, calcium or phosphorus but he did know that the Bible said the dead in Christ shall rise first. And he said they'd get in on the elements first, and that was sufficient for him. Well I'm firmly convinced, Dr. Talbot, that the God who made

the elements to begin with will not lack of material to make the resurrection body in the day of His appearing.

Dr. Talbot: Well that is interesting and may be a little selfish on the part of that methodist preacher you know that he was going to get in on the elements first, in view of the fact that the dead in Christ shall rise first. But my dear friends you know that it's wonderful how up to date the word of God is. "The grass withers and the flower fades but the word of God abideth forever" (Isaiah 40:8).

There are some questions that may be raised in regard to the future life that can never be answered until the actual resurrection takes place. There are a lot of questions that are raised in regard to the believers' future state that can be answered. And those are the questions that we are bringing under the lens of Holy Writ but if there are any questions that that that have risen in your mind that cannot be answered, well they have-, they have arisen in the mind of Dr. Bauman and in my mind also. And one of these days that the Lord is going to sit down and He's going to give to us the answer to all of the questions that may be in our mind.

Well thank you for listening and tune in again! We're going to continue this study where we have left off today.

The Lord's richest blessing be yours.