

New Morning Magical - 8-19-20

If this isn't true, nothing is

The Apostle Paul is still berating the Corinthians over this business of resurrection, as if it weren't real. We'll pick up Paul's rant today in 1 Corinthians 15:29. Of course, you must know that I'm using the word rant with all due respect.

29 Else what shall those be doing who are baptizing? It is for the sake of the dead absolutely if the dead are not being roused. Why are they baptizing also for their sake?

30 Why are we also in danger every hour?

31 Daily am I dying. By this boast of yours, brethren, which I have in Christ Jesus, our Lord,

32 if, as a man, I fight wild beasts in Ephesus, what is the benefit to me? If the dead are not being roused, "we may be eating and drinking, for tomorrow we are dying."

In other words, there's just no point in anything we're doing, and certainly no point in the dangers we face or the sacrifices we make on your behalf. If the dead are not raised, then this whole effort is a farce and we ought to go to the nearest bar and have a gay old time.

33 Be not deceived: evil conversations are corrupting kind characters.

34 Sober up justly and do not be sinning, for some have an ignorance of God. To abash you am I saying it.

At first, this seems an odd interjection, until you remember that Paul started down this road because some were saying that resurrection does not or will not happen. There must have been a lot of conversations had on this subject amongst the ecclesia, and it is these conversations, I believe, that prompted Paul to deliberately embarrass the Corinthians for entertaining those conversations. (read 33-34 again)

35 But someone will be protesting, "How are the dead being roused? Now with what body are they coming?"

These questions frustrated Paul, as you'll see, because the ones asking them haven't understood what he's been saying to them.

36 Imprudent one! What you are sowing is not being vivified if it should not be dying.

You can't be vivified – made alive – if you haven't died!

37 And, what you are sowing, you are not sowing the body which shall come to be, but a naked kernel, perchance of wheat or some of the rest.

38 Yet God is giving it a body according as He wills, and to each of the seeds its own body.

Everything you do today benefits or harms the body you're in today, not the body that is to come. This is the body that is dying and will die. The Father has provided this body and the one to come. Nothing you do today CAN prepare for the body that is to come.

39 Not all flesh is the same flesh, but there is one, indeed, of men, yet another flesh of beasts, yet another flesh of flyers, yet another of fishes.

40 There are bodies celestial as well as bodies terrestrial. But a different glory, indeed, is that of the celestial, yet a different that of the terrestrial,

41 another glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars, for star is excelling star in glory.

42 Thus also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is roused in incorruption.

43 It is sown in dishonor; it is roused in glory. It is sown in infirmity; it is roused in power.

44 It is sown a soulish body; it is roused a spiritual body.

45 If there is a soulish body, there is a spiritual also. Thus it is written also, The first man, Adam, "became a living soul:" the last Adam a vivifying Spirit.

46 But not first the spiritual, but the soulish, thereupon the spiritual.

We get a better picture of this body: It is soulish, meaning mortal. If you've ever heard of an immortal soul, you can easily see here that no such notion is found in the Scriptures. The soulish body is the one that dies, and when it dies, the soul – your awareness – dies with it.

Paul is about to change his description from soulish to "soilish":

47 The first man was out of the earth, soilish; the second Man is the Lord out of heaven.

48 Such as the soilish one is, such are those also who are soilish, and such as the Celestial One **[he's talking about Christ here]**, such are those also who are celestials.

49 And according as we wear the image of the soilish, we should be wearing the image also of the Celestial.

The word soilish simply means made from Earth. The first man – ADAM – was formed from dirt, from soil. In a sense, Paul says, in verse 48, we're all like Adam in that we all come from dirt.

We'll also be the same as Christ – “the Celestial One” – too, made from spirit. Just as surely as we wear these soiled bodies, we'll also wear the celestial, spirit bodies.

50 Now this I am averring, brethren, that flesh and blood is not able to enjoy an allotment in the kingdom of God, neither is corruption enjoying the allotment of incorruption.

51 Lo! **a secret to you am I telling!** We all, indeed, shall not be put to repose, yet we all shall be changed,

52 in an instant, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For He will be trumpeting, and the dead will be roused incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal put on immortality.

54 Now, whenever this corruptible should be putting on incorruption and this mortal should be putting on immortality, then shall come to pass the word which is written, Swallowed up was Death by Victory.

55 Where, O Death, is your victory? Where, O Death, is your sting?

56 Now the sting of Death is sin, yet the power of sin is the law.

57 Now thanks be to God, Who is giving us the victory, through our Lord Jesus Christ.

We've looked at all this before; this secret that Paul is revealing to us. This is the allotment that we share with all who believe in Yeshua: our immortal, incorruptible bodies upon His return. That's when death loses its sting, and sin ends. And verse 57 is another one you ought to circle in your Bible: *“Now thanks be to God, Who is giving us the victory, through our Lord Jesus Christ.”*

58 So that, my beloved brethren, become settled, unmovable, superabounding in the work of the Lord always, being aware that your toil is not for naught in the Lord.

Here's a question: What is *“the work of the Lord,”* or *“the Lord's work,”* that Paul refers to in verse 58? Is it becoming a minister, a pastor? Is it serving wherever you attend church, if you do? Is it helping out in homeless shelters, soup kitchens, or food pantries? Is it visiting the elderly or the sick? What is the Lord's work?

I didn't know the answer until Barbara reminded me about something we read before in 1 Corinthians 12:4:

Now there are apportionments of graces, yet the same spirit,

5 and there are apportionments of services, and the same Lord,

6 and there are apportionments of operations, yet the same God Who is operating all in all.

7 Now to each one is being given the manifestation of the spirit, with a view to expedience.

8 For to one, indeed, through the spirit, is being given the word of wisdom, yet to another the word of knowledge, according to the same spirit

9 yet to another faith, by the same spirit, yet to another the graces of healing, by the one spirit,

10 yet to another operations of powerful deeds, yet to another prophecy, yet to another discrimination of spirits, yet to another species of languages, yet to another translation of languages.

11 Now all these one and the same spirit is operating, apportioning to each his own, according as He is intending.

12 For even as the body is one and has many members, yet all the members of the one body, being many, are one body, thus also is the Christ.

In other words, as Barbara reminded me, *"the work of the Lord"* is what you are called to do. So, the next questions are, what are you called to do, and how do you know? Well, for me it boils down to what you can't stop thinking about; what you can't shake; it's like if you don't get on with this stuff running in your head all the time, life just isn't right.

I'll conclude today with 1 Corinthians 12:18

18 Yet now God placed the members, each one of them, in the body according as He wills.

Look, none of this is hard: The Father is operating the purpose of the eons according to the counsel of His will. You ARE part of His will, an important part. He intends for you to be where you are today. So, if you can't shake a train of thought or you can't stop thinking about a direction to take, you may be staring your calling in the face. If that sounds vague, it's not my place to say more as I could presume anything about your life, which is entirely between you and your Father Who art in Heaven.

Let's stop here for today, so until next time,

May Yahweh bless you and keep you;

May Yahweh light up His face toward you
and be gracious to you;

May Yahweh lift His face to you
and appoint peace for you.

AMEN