

A BIG EXCHANGE

Request: “I am a little confused on the resurrection of the believer. For example, what does it mean, ‘the dead shall raise first?’”

- I hear two issues in this request. I hear the issue of confusion and the issue of the resurrection.

Let’s begin by addressing the issue of confusion. Confusion about a doctrine is different than ignorance. It indicates to me a failure to complete the faith cycle because of a previous held view regarding some doctrinal detail. The break down in the faith cycle is at believing.

Hearing
(Rom.10:17)

Completing
(Rom.4:21)

Believing
(Heb.4:2)

Applying
(2 Cor.5:7)

The other issue is details regarding the Resurrection of Church Age Believers (CAB’s). There are three great passages that give details (1 Cor.15; 2 Cor.5; and 1 Thess.4).

One of the reasons Paul wrote extensively on this doctrine is because of ignorance of details; “I do not want you to be ignorant or to grieve.” (1 Thess.4:13) One of those details is “And the dead in Christ shall rise first.” (1 Thess.4:16)

This lesson will study four aspects of the Big Exchange that comes with the Resurrection of the CAB’s.

1. In our lesson text, Paul used three illustrations from creation to teach details on the Resurrection of CAB’s.

- Botany (1 Cor.15: 36-38)
- Zoology (1 Cor.15:39)
- Astronomy (1 Cor.15:40-41)

2. Paul taught that there would be a dramatic change (metamorphosis) to all living CAB’s at the Rapture.

- “Behold, I tell you a mystery; we shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed.” (1 Cor.15:51)

The resurrection was not a mystery, but the Rapture resurrection of living CAB was a mystery doctrine (1 Cor.15:51-54). Paul explained this dramatic change would occur at the Rapture (1 Thess.4:13-18).

He explained this metamorphosis change in two different ways in Phil.3:21:

- “Who will **transform (metaschematizo)** the body of our humble state into **conformity (summorphos)** with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself.”

Paul called it being “clothed with our dwelling from heaven.” (2 Cor.5:2) Paul called it “putting on” in 1 Cor.15:53-54.

3. Paul taught that the CAB's resurrection would involve a Big Exchange.

He used two common terms to describe eight aspects to the Big Exchange: **Sown and Raised** (clothed; put on).

<u>Sown</u>	<u>Raised</u>	
Death	Life	(1 Cor.15:36; John 11:25)
Seed	Plant	(1 Cor.15:37-38)
Perishable	Imperishable	(1 Cor.15:42)
Dishonor	Glory	(1 Cor.15:43; Phil.3:21)
Weakness	Power	(1 Cor.15:43; 1 Cor.6:14)
Natural	Spiritual	(1 Cor.15:44-47)
Earthy	Heavenly	(1 Cor.15:48-49; 1 John 3:2; 2 Cor.5:1-2)
Mortal	Immortal	(1 Cor.15:53-54; 1 Tim.6:16; 2 Tim.1:10)
Earthly tent	Building, eternal in the heavens	(2 Cor.5:1)

“For **we know** that if the earthly tent which is our house is torn down, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.” (2 Cor.5:1)

4. Paul taught that all CAB's go to heaven when they die to await the Rapture resurrection.

- (2 Cor.5:8) “We are of good courage, I say, and prefer rather to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord.”

All CAB's will receive their resurrection bodies at the end of their dispensation in the mystery called the Rapture (1 Cor.15:20-23).

- (1 Cor.15:20) “But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who are **asleep**.”
- (1 Cor.15:23-24) “But each in his own order: Christ the first fruit, **after that those** who are Christ's at His coming, then comes the end.”
- (1 Cor.15:51-52) “We shall not all **sleep**, but we shall be **changed**, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the **dead** will be raised imperishable, **and we** shall be changed.”
- (1 Thess.4:14-17) “For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even **so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus**. For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, and remain until the coming of the Lord, **shall not precede those who have fallen asleep**. For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet of God; and the **dead in Christ shall rise first**. **Then we who are alive and remain** shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and thus we shall always be with the Lord.”