

May 29th, 2022

We Shall Bear the Image of the Man of Heaven

1 Corinthians 15:35-49

Christianity is Eschatology

How important is the doctrine of eschatology? How vital is the doctrine of the end times? Please don't misunderstand me. I'm *not* talking about how things will play out in *this age*. We've already covered that. I'm talking about the final act, the consummation of the ages, *eternity*. How important is *that* aspect of eschatology? One theologian has said that "Christianity is eschatology...[it] is hope, forward looking and forward moving, and *therefore* [it] is also revolutionizing and transforming the present."¹ In other words, your view of eternity absolutely effects *how* you live now.

The moon and the sun

The gnostics in Corinth perfectly illustrate this truth. Their view of eternity was a purely spiritual world—nothing physical—including us. They believed we will have no physical body in the New World. Now Paul has already dealt with this absurdity. If the dead are not raised, then Christ was not raised and we are dead in our sins and the most miserable of all people. So now Paul anticipates a somewhat snarky objection. Essentially the objection goes like this "Ok if we are going to have bodies, then tell us, what kind of body will we have?" And what follows are some of the most glorious, comforting, life-impacting words in all Scripture. The difference between our bodies now and what will become us is the difference between the moon and the sun. In this age, our fallen bodies are like that dead rock in the sky, only luminous enough to be seen at night. But in the next world, our bodies will be like the sun, that nuclear powered ball of fire that gives light to everything in our solar system. Jesus said

¹ Jürgen Moltmann quoted in Kenneth L. Gentry Jr., *He Shall Have Dominion* 3rd Edition, (Chesnee, SC.: Victorious Hope Publishing, 2021), pg. 7

in **Matthew 13:43** “*Then* [on that future day] the righteous *will shine like the sun* in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear.” *Why* will our bodies be so glorious? Because on that day, we will bear the image of the Man of Heaven, the Lord Jesus Christ. And that alone is what will will make us fit for next world.

The Big Idea...

Our bodies must bear the image of Christ at the resurrection, otherwise we will not be fit for dwelling in the New World

- ☆ Our Doctrine
- ☆ Our Duty
- ☆ Our Delight

I. Our Doctrine

Answering the first question

In **v.35** Paul anticipates two separate questions from this gnostic group within Corinth. Look at the **first** question. **v.35** “But someone will ask, “*How* are the dead raised?” Paul shows this is a disingenuous question. Notice his rebuke in **v.36** “You foolish person! What you sow does not come to life *unless* it dies.” Paul saying, ‘...look around you *fool*. Look at *how* God built the world.’ The story of our resurrection is told every time a seed is planted in the earth. Trees and plants come to life from dead seeds.² And this truth is seen every time you go to the grocery store, every time you eat a salad, and every time you step outside. New life sprouts from the dead everywhere around us. Now someone might object and say ‘But a dead body is different than a dead seed. The germ in

² John 12:24. “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.”

that dead seed remains so that it is rejuvenated in the soil and water. But a body disintegrates into dust and is dispersed into the earth. There's nothing of the body that remains.³ To answer that objection, we would just echo the words of Christ from **Matthew 12:29** "...you know neither the Scriptures nor the power of God." What kind of a God do you think created the world? He doesn't need pre-existing matter to create. He creates and re-creates out of nothing. That's how he answers the **first question**: To object to the resurrection of the dead *because you don't understand how it's done* is to deny the reality of the created order *and* the power of God. That's foolish.

Answering the second question

Look at the **second** question that is asked, halfway through **v.35** "With *what kind* of body do they come?"⁴ Here it seems the gnostics were assuming that *if* we were to be raised *then* our body would be *exactly the same as it is now*. Are our bodies going to be the same? You can see why the gnostics would object to this idea. So Paul gives **four answers** to this question.

Answer 1: Paul appeals to botany

Look at **v.37** "And what you sow is not *the body that is to be*, but a bare kernel, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain." In other words, you plant a seed into the ground, but a very different body comes up. A seed goes in, but a flower comes out. Our bodies at death will go into the ground, but it is not the

³ "It may be said that the apostle does not pursue the objection; that the body is not only disorganized but dispersed; its elements scattered over the earth, and embraced in new combinations; whereas in the seed the germ remains, so that there is no interruption of the organic life of the plant. To those who make this objection our Savior's answer is, that they err, 'not knowing the power of God.'" Charles Hodge, *A Commentary on 1 & 2 Corinthians*, (Carlisle, PA.: The Banner of Truth Trust, Reprint 2018), pg. 343

⁴ Note this discussion is not regarding the intermediate state. Larger Catechism Q.86 What is the communion in glory with Christ which the members of the invisible church enjoy immediately after death? A. The communion in glory with Christ which the members of the invisible church enjoy immediately after death, is, in that their souls are then made perfect in holiness, and received into the highest heavens, where they behold the face of God in light and glory, waiting for the full redemption of their bodies, which even in death continue united to Christ, and rest in their graves as in their beds, till at the last day they be again united to their souls. Whereas the souls of the wicked are at their death cast into hell, where they remain in torments and utter darkness, and their bodies kept in their graves, as in their prisons, till the resurrection and judgment of the great day.

exact same body that will come forth at the resurrection. This doesn't mean our future bodies will completely disconnected from our present ones. An acorn goes into the ground and comes out an oak tree. There is a sameness between the acorn and the oak, but there is a great difference, a great transformation. That's his **first answer** to this second question: our second body will be as different from our first, as the oak is from the acorn.

Answer 2: Paul appeals to anatomy

Look at **v.38-39** "But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body. ³⁹*For* not all flesh is the same, but there is one kind for humans, another for animals, another for birds, and another for fish." God has ordained *a different kind of body* for every creature under the sun. He gives different bodies for different creatures that corresponds to the environment in which they live. People have different bodies than fish because we don't live where fish live. The next world will be different than this world. The curse will gone. It would be foolish to think that our bodies would be exactly the same as they are now. That's his **second answer**.

Answer 3: Paul appeals to astronomy

Look at **v.40-41** "There are heavenly bodies and earthly bodies, but the glory of the heavenly is of one kind, and the glory of the earthly is of another. ⁴¹There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for star differs from star in glory." There is a tremendous difference between the earthly bodies in **v.39**—people, birds and fish, and these heavenly bodies in **v.41**—the sun, moon and stars. What does a fish have in common with a star? *But* Paul goes further and says that even within the heavenly bodies, there is so much difference. The sun is a ball of fire. The moon a rock. And even within the class of the stars, each star is far different from other stars. White dwarf stars (the smallest stars) are about the size of our earth. One million white dwarf stars could fit inside of our sun. On the other hand the largest star, the hyper giant known as UY Scuti is so immense that 5 billion of

our suns could fit inside it.⁵ That means the largest star is 5 quadrillion times larger than the smallest star. How big is that number? A 1,000 thousands is a million. A 1,000 millions is a billion. A 1,000 billions is a trillion. A 1,000 trillions is a quadrillion. That's unfathomable. Now look at v.42 "So is it with the resurrection of the dead." Meaning, as vast as the difference is between a rainbow trout and the moon; as vast as the difference is between a white dwarf and it's 5 quadrillion times larger counterpart UY Scuti; is as vast the difference between what we are and *what we will be*. He lays out the difference in v.42-44. We will return to these shortly. For now, this is his **third answer**: the differences between heavenly and earthly bodies, and between heavenly bodies themselves, show us how much different our bodies will be at the resurrection.

Answer 4: Paul appeals to the two Adams

Look at v.45 "Thus it is written, 'The first man Adam became a living being'; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit." Paul is quoting **Genesis 2:7** when God formed Adam out of the dust and breathed the breath of life in him thus making him a living being. If Adam would have obeyed God, he would have been able to eat from *the tree of life* and then he would have transformed and he would have lived forever. The point is that Adam was a *mere man*, and did not have life *in himself*. But the last Adam—the Lord Jesus Christ—was the *Tree of Life Incarnate*. The first Adam needed life given to Him, but the last Adam is the very source of all life.⁶ These two Adams, are, as Calvin says "...the two roots of the human race."⁷ Our present body belongs to the root of Adam. It will die and go into the ground. But the body that will be raised belongs to the root of Christ. It will rise to life and live forever. Look at v.46 "But it is not the spiritual that is first but the natural, and then the spiritual." Paul is not giving us mere chronology: *first* comes this *then* comes that. Rather he's laying down a

⁵ That's unfathomably large considering 1 million earths could fit inside our sun. Source: <https://www.space.com/41290-biggest-star.html> Accessed May 29, 2022

⁶ John 5:26 "For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself."

⁷ John Calvin, *Calvin's Commentaries, Vol. XX*, (Grand Rapids, MI.,: BakerBooks, 2009), pg. 53

law. God's redemptive plan operates on a law of progress from the lesser to the greater. As Charles Hodge says here "The present life is like a seed time, the harvest is hereafter."⁸ Look at **v.47-49** "The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. ⁴⁸ As was the man of dust, so also are those who are of the dust, and as is the man of heaven, so also are those who are of heaven. ⁴⁹ Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven." Adam is from the earth and the root of the old world. Christ is from Heaven and the root of the new world. In this age we have borne the image of Adam. But in the next age, we will bear the image of Christ. **Philippians 3:20-21** "But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹ *who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body.*" In the next world, our body will no longer be like the first Adam, but it will be like Christ's resurrected body.⁹ That's Paul's **fourth answer**: what *kind of body* will we have at the resurrection? A body just like the Lord Jesus Christ's body. We shall bear the image of the Man of Heaven.

Our doctrine: we need new bodies so we can be survive Heaven

Here's the question: Why is this great transformation necessary? Why will need to be 5 quadrillion times better? Why will need a body like Christ's? Because if we possess *anything less*, we cannot live in Heaven. That brings us to **our doctrine**: *Our bodies must bear the image of Christ at the resurrection, otherwise we will not be fit for dwelling in the New World.* Children, boys and girls, we can illustrate this very easily. What happens if you put a fish in the desert, or a cactus in the ocean? They will die. The New World will possess an environment that no mere man can survive if they are not transformed. It will be

⁸ Hodge, pg. 351

⁹ 1 John 3:2 "Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is." Romans 8:29 "For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son." 2 Corinthians 3:18 "And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another."

filled with the infinite happiness and holiness of God Almighty.¹⁰ The New World requires a fundamental change in our bodies, otherwise we cannot live there. So let's see **three proofs** of this from the Scripture.

Proof #1: From the high priest's clothing

In the OT, the high priest who entered the holy of holies he was required to wear a specific type of clothing in order to enter into God's presence. He was to wear a breast plate bearing all the names of the sons of Israel over his heart (**Exodus 28:29**). He was to have a robe of the ephod all of blue (**v.31**). On its hem golden bells were to be attached (**v.34**) so that their sound will be heard when he enters the Holy Place before the Lord and when he comes out, "...so that he will not die" (**v.35**). Many other garments were specified, a plate of pure gold with the words "Holy to the LORD" was to be fastened to his turban (**v.37**); a coat in checker work of fine linen, a sash embroidered with needlework (**v.39**); they were to be anointed with a unique oil lawful only for the temple (**v.41**); they were to have linen undergarments to cover their nakedness (**v.42**). And then Moses sums it all up in **v.43** "...they shall be on Aaron and on his sons when they go into the tent of meeting or when they come near the altar to minister in the Holy Place, lest they bear guilt and die." The Holy Place was of such an environment that death was threatened twice for entering God's Holy Presence without the proper clothing.

Proof #2: From the design of the seraphim

When Isaiah saw the vision of the Pre-Incarnate Christ sitting on the throne in Heaven, the seraphim around His throne were calling out "Holy, holy, holy." **6:2** says that these seraphim "each had six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew." That's strange isn't it? A six winged angel? Actually it's not strange at all considering where these seraphim dwelt. As R.C. Sproul says here: "God's creatures are suitable

¹⁰ Paul when speaking about getting caught up to the third Heaven or paradise—the place where God dwells—he said "...he heard things that cannot be told, which man may not utter" (2 Corinthians 12:4).

for their environment. Birds have wings and light bone structures, because the air is their habitat. Fish have gills, scales, and tails for underwater. And seraphim have an anatomy that is functional for their natural habitat—the presence of God.”¹¹ They had two wings to fly as God’s servants going to and fro wherever He commanded. They had two wings to shield their face from the white hot holiness of Jehovah.¹² They had two wings to cover their feet for the ground that surrounded the throne was holy ground.¹³ The point of course was that God gave these seraphim bodies that was suitable for that environment. Isaiah in merely observing this vision declared “Woe is me! For I am *undone!*”¹⁴ He felt as if he was literally coming apart because he was wholly inadequate and unfit to even look upon that environment.

Proof #3: From the parable of the wedding feast

In **Matthew 22:1-14** Jesus tells the parable of the wedding feast. We pick up in v.11 “But when the king came in to look at the guests, he saw there a man who had no wedding garment. ¹² And he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding garment?’ And he was speechless. ¹³ Then the king said to the attendants, ‘Bind him hand and foot and cast him into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ Jesus is making it plain that no one can enter the kingdom of Heaven (the wedding feast) without the righteousness of Christ (the wedding garment) clothing them. Without that heavenly clothing, you and I are unfit for the environment of Heaven.

¹¹ Source: <http://www.desiringgod.org/conference-messages/the-holiness-of-god>. Likewise Ken Gentry says here: "God gives fish bodies appropriate to water, birds appropriate to flight, and so on (vv 39-41). And all bodies have a level of "glory" appropriate to their estate (vv 40-41), whether they be "earthly" or "heavenly" (v 40)." Gentry, pg. 537

¹² Though they were sinless and holy as created beings, their creaturely holiness was not adequate to behold God. Job 4:18 “Even in his servants he puts no trust, and his angels he charges with error.”

¹³ When Moses came before at the burning bush, he was told to remove his sandals for the place he was standing was holy ground (**Exodus 3:5**). Now angels are not men, they don’t have feet of clay, but the ground which surrounded the throne of Christ was still holy, and therefore they had to cover their feet. cf. R.C. Sproul, *The Holiness of God*, (Wheaton, IL.: Tyndale House Publishers, 1985), pg. 37-38

¹⁴ v.5 in the KJV

Summa Theologica

So what we see from each of these proofs 1) the high priest's clothing; 2) the anatomy of the seraphim; and 3) the parable of the wedding feast is that we must be properly clothed in order to be in the special presence of God. That's what the New World is, the eternal realm where the special presence of God abides. We cannot go there without being clothed in Christ. That's **our doctrine**: *Our bodies must bear the image of Christ at the resurrection, otherwise we will not be fit for dwelling in the New World.*

II. Our Duty

1. Informatory Use

Our first duty is to simply *meditate* on the glories of this new body—the glories of bearing the image of Christ in our resurrected bodies. There were **four qualities** that Paul mentions. Let's take them one at time.

Quality #1: We will have an *imperishable* body

v.42 says “What is sown is perishable; what is raised is *imperishable*.” Meaning we will never get sick, for sickness belongs to that which is perishing. We will never experience pain, there will be no need for hospitals, no need for medicine. There will never be death again. Every horrible disease that kills men and women: HIV, cancer, MS, diabetes, Alzheimer's, strokes, heart disease, will not follow us into that world. We will live forever. Just as Christ's resurrected body is invincible so we will be invincible. It's simply impossible to conceive of living forever and ever and ever. What is an infinite duration? Imagine if astronauts wanted to transfer all the grains of sand on Earth to Mars. One mathematician estimated there are seven quintillion, five hundred quadrillion

grains of sand¹⁵ on earth.¹⁶ Now let's suppose they only took one grain of sand per trip. That's 14 month round trip journey.¹⁷ Do the math. 14 months *times* seven quintillion, five hundred quadrillion grains of sand. How many years is that? Now imagine once these astronauts transferred all that sand, they decided the beaches on Earth were better, so they turned around and undid everything, transferring all seven quintillion, five hundred quadrillion grains of sand one 14 month round trip at a time. Now subtract all that time from eternity. How much is left? You haven't lessened the number in the least. Beloved, that's what it will mean to bear the image of the Man of Heaven in your resurrected body. You will have a body fit for the New World one that is imperishable.

Quality #2: We will have a *glorious* body

v.43 says "It is sown in *dishonor*; it is raised in glory." The Greek word for dishonor (*ἀτιμία atimia*) is a word used to describe the loss of rights of citizenship. What will happen when our body dies? Our corpse will no longer have citizenship in this world, we will have lost our rights.¹⁸ Oh but on that Day we will be raised in glory. Not only will we possess a full citizenship in that World, but because our bodies will bear the image of Christ's body, we will be radiant, glorious, full of splendor. "The righteous *will shine like the sun* in the kingdom of their Father" (**Matthew 13:43**). Our bodies will be so beautiful, so lovely, that just like Christ's body we will shine. Remember when He was transfigured? Scripture says that "...his face shone like the sun" (**Matthew 17:2**). Oh think of the contrast between the beauty of bodies in this world and the next. The most beautiful supermodels in this world, would be grotesque and ugly in the next because here they are still under the curse. What will the glory be in the next? All the shame attached to our bodies because of the fall will disappear. We will

¹⁵ 7.5×10^{18}

¹⁶ Source: <https://www.npr.org/sections/krulwich/2012/09/17/161096233/which-is-greater-the-number-of-sand-grains-on-earth-or-stars-in-the-sky> Accessed May 28, 2022

¹⁷ Source: <https://mars.nasa.gov/mars2020/timeline/cruise/> Accessed May 28, 2022

¹⁸ Our bodies will be sown in dishonor, having lost everything in this world.

no longer bear the image the first Adam, but we will bear the image of the Second. We'll never feel insecure, or embarrassed, we'll never have to hide or "...try to look beautiful—we will be beautiful."¹⁹ Christ will have redeemed every cell of our body. We will have bodies fit for the New World, bodies that are full of glory.

Quality #3: We will have a *powerful* body

Halfway through v.43 we read "It is sown in weakness; it is raised in power." What is the weakest thing in this world? A dead corpse. One day your body will die, and then your body will be able to do nothing, resist nothing.²⁰ Oh but when you rise your body will be raised with δύναμις *dynamis*, with the power of Divine dynamite. Because your body will bear the image of Christ, every faculty, every sense or your resurrected body will be an inlet of delight. Every part of your body will be as full of pleasure as it can hold. Our flesh will never grow weary of spiritual pleasures like we do now. We will never say "The spirit is willing, but the body is weak." (**Matthew 26:41**). Our bodies will be so full of power, that we will never grow weary of seeking God, of studying His works and ways. Our delight in God will grow from strength to strength. Heaven will be the reverse of earth. Here our bodies grow old as each day passes. But at the resurrection, our bodies will become younger and younger, not in terms of age, but in terms of vigor, and activity, and beauty. As we drink from the rivers of God's delight, we will participate more and more in the Divine Nature. We will have bodies fit for the New World, bodies that are raised in power.

Quality #4: We will have a *spiritual* body

v.44 says "It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body." This does not mean that we will be a disembodied spirit. That is the very thing Paul has been arguing against. Plus Paul has made it clear that our bodies will be just like Christ's resurrected

¹⁹ Randy Alcorn, *Heaven*, (Carol Stream, IL.: Tyndale House Publishers, 2004), pg. 290

²⁰ Hodge, pg. 347

body, He had physicality. Rather this is essentially summing up what we have already seen. Our spiritual body is *just that*, it is unlike anything on this earth. C.S. Lewis sums it up best.

“It is a serious thing to live in a society of possible gods and goddesses, to remember that the dullest and most uninteresting person you can talk to may one day be a creature which, if you saw it now, you would be strongly tempted to worship, or else a horrid and a corruption such as you now meet, if at all, only in a nightmare...There are no ordinary people. You have never talked to a mere mortal. Nations, cultures, arts, civilizations—these are mortal, and their life is to ours as the life of a gnat. But it is immortals whom we joke with, work with, marry, snub, and exploit—immortal horrors or everlasting splendors.”²¹

Beloved mediate on those four attributes of your future resurrected body. You will one day have a body that is imperishable, full of power and glory.

2. Admonitory Use

That brings us to our second duty, *rebuke*. Are you a fool? Are you living as if that Day is a myth and a fairytale? Are you living in rebellion to the risen Christ? If you have not yet called upon the name of the Lord, then rebuke yourself. If you do not put on Christ by faith, then you will not be raised to glory. On the day of your resurrection, you will be horrid, full of corruption. You will be immortal still. But you will be an immortal horror. The reverse will be true of you. As the saint’s bodies will be as full of pleasure as they can hold, so your body will be as full of weeping and gnashing of teeth. Remember what you have heard from God’s living word. The man who refused to put on the right wedding garment—the man who refused to hope in Christ alone, and repent of his sins—was cast out into the outer darkness. Dear friend, don’t be a fool. Christ is offered to you here this morning. He’s making His appeal

²¹ C.S. Lewis, *The Weight of Glory*, (New York, NY.: Harper Collins, 1949), pg. 45-46

through this Word. “Come to me” He calls out to you. “And you will find rest for your soul.” Do you want an imperishable life? Put on Christ, He will be your life. Do you want a life full of power and glory? Christ is the power of God unto salvation and the glory of God. This is the only way you will be fit for the New World.

III. Our Delight

1. Consolatory Use

There are some of you who are experiencing tremendous suffering in your current body. And the longer you live, the worse it gets. Take *comfort* loved ones. Paul calls this affliction *light* and *momentary*. **2 Corinthians 4:17** “For this *light momentary affliction* is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison.” Did you hear that? Your life up to this moment has been preparatory. You haven’t even’t really begun to live yet. Your final body that is imperishable, full of glory and power is still being prepared for you in the New World. Your cancer will be gone, your heart problem will be gone, you will have no more diseases, no more painful nights in bed, no more looking in the mirror at a body that is languishing and wasting away, no more mysterious sicknesses, no more joint or crippling back pain, no more mental disability, no more depression or worry or fear.

Instead you will be given over to a new set of afflictions.

- ◆ You will be afflicted with perfect hearing so that you will hear the King say “Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.”²²

²² Matthew 25:34

- ◆ You will be afflicted with perfect sight so that you will always see the Lamb, your Great Shepherd, in the midst of the throne.
- ◆ You will be afflicted with a perfect appetite so that at that great wedding feast, you will taste the sweet meal that seals you to Christ for all eternity.
- ◆ You will be afflicted with life everlasting, fullness of joy, and pleasures at God's right hand forevermore, so that each day is better than the last.

This light momentary affliction is preparing you for *that*. Be patient loved one. You will very soon bear the Image of the Man of Heaven.

2. Celebratory Use

There are others of you who might be saying, 'No, what we have heard is *too wonderful* to be true. How can a holy and infinitely lovely God bestow such happiness and glory on worms like us?'²³ Oh but dear friend, if God has freely given us His only begotten Son, what else would He consider too wonderful to give us? "He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?"²⁴ If God crushed His Son for our iniquity, and publicly set Him forward to be a spectacle for all the universe, a propitiation for our sins and the defeat of Satan's kingdom, what must the end of the matter be? No dear friend, I have only spoken poorly of the New World. I have only spoken poorly about our resurrected bodies. These are things that eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor has it ever entered into the heart of man. What an infinitely glorious place that will be. Every citizen there will bear the Image of the Man of Heaven. Everywhere we look, we will see is Christ. The glory of every resurrected body will pour forth His grace, His truth, His kindness. Every resurrected body will shine forth His generosity, His mercy

²³ Much help here from Jonathan Edwards, *The Works of Jonathan Edwards Vol. 2*, (Carlisle, PA.: The Banner of Truth Trust, Reprint 2009), pg. 903

²⁴ Romans 8:32

and love. He is the Vine, and every branch—every resurrected saint—will stream forth His life giving sap for all to taste and see.

3. Hortatory Use

Therefore in closing, let me *exhort* you dear saints. I said at the beginning, that Christianity is eschatology. It is hope. Seeing that this is the end of the matter, what type of saints ought we to be? What a shameful thing it would be to live *as if* our portion *is in this life*,—to live no better than the worldling. No we must live with the end in view. Beloved walk worthy of this beatific vision. “Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.”²⁵ Seeing that your inheritance is so unspeakably great, seeing that you will one day bear the Image of the Man of Heaven, see to it that your life is distinguished in everything you do—in your loving, in your repenting, in your generosity, in your hospitality, in your confessing, in your zeal, in your service, in your life as a citizen, in your patience under trials, in your outdoing one another in brother love, in your loving your enemies. See to it that people are asking you what is the reason for the *hope* within you. Live your eschatology. Live as if you really shall bear the Image of the Man of Heaven. Because you will.

²⁵ Matthew 5:16