

Lesson Notes:

Lessons of a Butterfly

I recently attended a funeral in which the pastor spoke of our deaths and resurrection as a process similar to Metamorphosis. Early in its life cycle a butterfly will start its life as a caterpillar. During the end of its existence as a caterpillar the caterpillar will spin itself into a cocoon and for all intents and purposes be in a lifeless state of existence. But as spring comes the mass of DNA within the cocoon has mysteriously transformed into a beautiful butterfly. The butterfly emerges from the cocoon and flies away in a completely transformed body. Scientists are baffled by this process to this day. What triggers this process? How is it controlled?

This is very similar to the process of resurrection that Paul describes in the New Testament. Following are descriptions by Paul of the process that we will follow during the resurrection:

Paul's Description of the Process

- 1) **1 Corinthians 15:42-44** - So will it be with the resurrection of the dead. The body that is sown is perishable, it is raised imperishable; it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body.
- 2) **1 Corinthians 15:52** - For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed in the twinkling of an eye.
- 3) **1 Thessalonians 4:16-18** - For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words

Christ's resurrection and transformation is similar to that of a butterfly with the only difference being that the resurrection of Christ (and ourselves) is eternal and not temporary.

- 4) **Luke 24:37** – When the disciples first saw the resurrected Christ they thought they were seeing a spirit as they could not comprehend the resurrection.
- 5) **Luke 24:41-43** - And while they still did not believe it because of joy and amazement, he asked them, “Do you have anything here to eat?” They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate it in their presence.
- 6) **1 Peter 1:3** – Peter affirms Christ's resurrection by stating, ““begotten us again unto a lively hope, by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead”.

So how should we respond? As a result of this hope that Christ has given us Paul encourages us to run our Christian life like we are running a race. Run (live our life by turning away from sin and following Christ) to win.

- 1) **1 Corinthians 9:24** - Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to win the prize.

- 9) **Show patience in Tribulation- Romans 12:12-** Children watch to see how we stand up during times of sorrow and tribulation. How strong our faith is will determine the strength of their faith as well.
- 10) **Prayer should be a part of the daily family life.- Philippians 4:6-** God blesses families that pray.