**Sermon Date** – April 18, 2021

**Series** – Corinthians: The Best Version of Myself

**Scripture** –

1 Corinthians 15:35-49 (ESV)

35 But someone will ask, “How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?” 36 You foolish person! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. 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. 38 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. 40 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. 41 There 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.

42 So is it with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable; what is raised is imperishable. 43 It is sown in dishonor; it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness; it is raised in power. 44 It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body. 45 Thus it is written, “The first man Adam became a living being”;[a] the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. 46 But it is not the spiritual that is first but the natural, and then the spiritual. 47 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[b] also bear the image of the man of heaven.

**Big Idea –** Jesus has the power to change me into the best version of myself.

**Summary** – God’s ***intent*** is to make us the best version of ourselves. He has the ***power*** to make us into the very best version of ourselves – in our thoughts, words, and actions. This is not a moral improvement plan. He wants a total resurrection. Jesus is the reigning, sovereign God with power to ***resurrect*** us into the likeness of His glory – a glory body for each of us.

**Questions** –

* From an earthly cultural perspective what would the best version of you look like in your thoughts, words, and actions?

What is your motivation for achieving the best version of you?

What does God’s best version of you look like in your thoughts, words, and actions?

What is His motivation for providing the best version of you?

* The Corinthians were arrogant and bought into the entertainment rhetoric of the day. They followed cultural customs and Greek philosophy that the body is bad and the spirit is good. In what ways does our culture affect our thinking?

What worldview is predominant in our culture?

How is that worldview different from the Christian perspective?

How do we guard against letting our culture’s worldview creep into our beliefs?

* Read verses 36-38. What lesson is Paul teaching about what is planted versus what is harvested?

Paul argues that science helps us understand biblical truth. How does Paul’s argument align with our culture’s worldview of science versus religion?

What position should we as Christians hold about science and religion? Explain your position.

* How do the first two chapters of Genesis provide foundation for verses 40-41?
* How do verses 42-44 inform the following statement? Your destiny is an unceasing existence in a GLORY BODY governed by God in His great universe.

What is the difference between a natural body and a spiritual body that Paul refers to?

* The world we live in is broken – broken by the devaluing of human life, broken by the sin of racism, broken by brutality, broken by a disregard for truth; and a world in denial of its brokenness. Paul challenges us to conduct our lives in such a way that it gives evidence of the life to come. How do we do that in spite of or because of the brokenness in the world around us?