



# Daily Reflections

**September 17, 2016**

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## Scripture

### **1 Corinthians 15: 35-49**

Brothers and sisters:

Someone may say, "How are the dead raised?  
With what kind of body will they come back?"

You fool!

What you sow is not brought to life unless it dies.

And what you sow is not the body that is to be  
but a bare kernel of wheat, perhaps, or of some other kind.

So also is the resurrection of the dead.

It is sown corruptible; it is raised incorruptible.

It is sown dishonorable; it is raised glorious.

It is sown weak; it is raised powerful.

It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body.

If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual one.

So, too, it is written,

"The first man, Adam, became a living being,"  
the last Adam a life-giving spirit.

But the spiritual was not first;  
rather the natural and then the spiritual.  
The first man was from the earth, earthly;  
the second man, from heaven.  
As was the earthly one, so also are the earthly,  
and as is the heavenly one, so also are the heavenly.  
Just as we have borne the image of the earthly one,  
we shall also bear the image of the heavenly one.

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## **Our Scripture Reflection**

The idea of a resurrection was a difficult concept for the hard headed Corinthians to accept. They had been educated in philosophy which gave them the notion of reincarnation. Paul struggles to change their deep seated beliefs and does so by using the image of a seed sown in the ground. As the seed dies and becomes a new plant, so too, when we die we receive, in imitation of Jesus, a new and gloried body. What a powerful transformation to ponder: From death to new life!

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## **Food for your Journey**

Lonnie Porter was a janitor for almost all his life at United Theological Seminary. When he wasn't mowing the lawn or washing windows, he was talking with students. His income was small, but his heart was large. Or as he put it, "My mother taught me to do two things: sew and save." So he did. He sewed together a life of service at a seminary, and he saved as much money as he could for that seminary. When he died a few years ago, Lonnie Porter left over \$100,000 in his will to the work of the seminary. By action of the trustees, who were moved by this large gift from a small income, United's premier program in African American ministries is now known as the Lonnie Porter Program in African American Ministries, the only known endowed educational program in the church named after a janitor.

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## **Prayer from the Heart**

Precious Lord, Take away my worry and fear about death. Instead, give me a rock solid faith in Your promise to raise me and those I love from death to new and glorious life. Amen.