

4-17-22 SUNDAY SCHOOL RESURRECTION PASSAGE

This is resurrection Sunday. I would like to veer from our normal course of Study in the book of I Samuel and focus in on one subject this morning. That subject is the resurrection. Let us meditate on this subject in preparation for the Sunday Morning message.

Every week, by meeting on Sunday we actually celebrate the resurrection, but this is the actual time and day of the year that our Lord arose from the dead. There is some controversy about the day that our Lord was crucified, but there is no controversy over the day he was resurrected. It was the first day of the week after the Passover. The fact of the resurrection is the most important event in the history of mankind. Yet why is it that we say we must believe this by faith? Faith, yes, because we have not seen but it did not take faith on the part of those who were eyewitnesses. In fact ,concerning His resurrection we read:

Acts 1:3 To whom also he shewed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God:

Consider, believing in the resurrection is an essential part of the gospel and you cannot be saved if you do not believe in the resurrection..

I Corinthians 15:1 Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand;

I Corinthians 15:2 By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain.

I Corinthians 15:3 For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures;

I Corinthians 15:4 And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:

This is the gospel message. Note our faith is not based on fabrications or fairy tales. He was seen by eye witnesses.

I Corinthians 15:5 And that he was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve:

I Corinthians 15:6 After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep.

NOTE: 500 people saw Him.. and were witnesses of His resurrection! This thing was done in a corner.

I Corinthians 15:7 After that, he was seen of James; then of all the apostles.

I Corinthians 15:8 And last of all he was seen of me also, as of one born out of due time.

I Corinthians 15:9 For I am the least of the apostles, that am not meet to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.

Yet in spite of these great cloud of witnesses, why is it that some doubt?

TEXT:

Consider Paul's rebuke to those who denied the resurrection of the dead.

This morning we are going to study the resurrection chapter in Corinthians. What better topic to speak on this Easter Sunday morning.

First of all consider:

1. THE SKEPTICS OF THE RESURRECTION ARE REBUKED.

1. THE SKEPTICS ARE CALLED FOOLS BECAUSE THEY REJECT SO GREAT A CLOUD OF WITNESSES (THOSE WHO WERE EYEWITNESSES).

Paul is amazed that some would reject so great a cloud of witnesses.

I Corinthians 15:12 Now if Christ be preached that he rose from the dead, how say some among you that there is no resurrection of the dead?

How is it that these people could reject what has been proclaimed and preached so long to them?

It never ceases to amaze me, that people sit under preaching so long, and don't believe a thing that is being preached!!!!

2. PAUL GIVES ALL THE LOGICAL REBUTTALS TO THOSE WHO DENY THE RESURRECTION.

I Corinthians 15:13 But if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen:

I Corinthians 15:14 And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain.

I Corinthians 15:15 Yea, and we are found false witnesses of God; because we have testified of God that he raised up Christ: whom he raised not up, if so be that the dead rise not.

If there is no resurrection, than all the apostles are liars and false witnesses. The 500 are false witnesses. The message is false.

Either it is true or it is a lie. WHICH IS IT?

3. IF CHRIST IS NOT RESURRECTED, CONSIDER THE DOMINO EFFECT IT HAS IN OUR FAITH AND BELIEVE SYSTEM.

I Corinthians 15:16 For if the dead rise not, then is not Christ raised:

I Corinthians 15:17 And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins.

I Corinthians 15:18 Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished.

I Corinthians 15:19 If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable.

Paul starts out this Chapter with the declaration of the gospel message by which we are saved. Notice he says that we are saved through the gospel message. Each tenet of the gospel is based off of Scripture. We died according to the Scripture. He was buried and arose according to the Scripture.

Think about this, just how much of the Scripture can you deny and still be saved? I believe you can be saved and not know all the Scripture, but you cannot be saved and deny the Scripture you know..

4. PAUL GOES BACK TO THE BEGINNING OF SCRIPTURE TO SHOW HOW THE RESURRECTION FITS IN AND IS NECESSARY

I Corinthians 15:20 But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept.

I Corinthians 15:21 For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead.

I Corinthians 15:22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

From Adam came death. It was necessary that Jesus undo the curse of sin and death that Adam brought into this world.

5. THERE WILL BE DIFFERENT SEGMENTS OF THE RESURRECTION.

I Corinthians 15:23 But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming.

I Corinthians 15:24 Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power.

I Corinthians 15:25 For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet.

I Corinthians 15:26 The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death.

I Corinthians 15:27 For he hath put all things under his feet. But when he saith all things are put under him, it is manifest that he is excepted, which did put all things under him.

I Corinthians 15:28 And when all things shall be subdued unto him, then shall the Son also himself be subject unto him that put all things under him, that God may be all in all.

There is an order to the resurrection.

Jesus was first.

Then His Church will be second.

Then before the Millennium He will resurrect all the Old Testament saints to be in the Kingdom.

After the Millennial Kingdom, all that survive the millennial kingdom will have to be transformed.

Then there is a final resurrection of the unjust. This is the great white throne judgment.

Finally everything will be wrapped up like a scroll and there is to be no more death or sorrow.

When our God wraps everything up like a scroll and makes a new heaven and a new earth, then there will be no more death or sorrow.

Revelation 21:1 And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.

In that day every one will be locked into their positions.

Revelation 22:11 He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still.

6. *WHY DO WE PRACTICE BAPTISM AND SAY IT IS A PICTURE OF DEATH BURIAL AND RESURRECTION IF THE DEAD RISE NOT?*

I Corinthians 15:29 Else what shall they do which are baptized for the dead, if the dead rise not at all? why are they then baptized for the dead?

I Corinthians 15:30 And why stand we in jeopardy every hour?

I Corinthians 15:31 I protest by your rejoicing which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die daily.

I Corinthians 15:32 If after the manner of men I have fought with beasts at Ephesus, what advantageth it me, if the dead rise not? let us eat and drink; for to morrow we die.

I Corinthians 15:33 Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners.

I Corinthians 15:34 Awake to righteousness, and sin not; for some have not the knowledge of God: I speak this to your shame.

When we baptize do we not say that we are buried in the likeness of His death and raised in the likeness of His resurrection.

Paul says it plainly If there is no resurrection let us eat drink and be merry for tomorrow we die.

7. HOW SOME ARGUE AGAINST FAITH IN THE RESURRECTION WITH FOOLISH ARGUMENTS.

I Corinthians 15:35 But some man will say, How are the dead raised up? and with what body do they come?

I Corinthians 15:36 Thou fool, that which thou sowest is not quickened, except it die:

I Corinthians 15:37 And that which thou sowest, thou sowest not that body that shall be, but bare grain, it may chance of wheat, or of some other grain:

I Corinthians 15:38 But God giveth it a body as it hath pleased him, and to every seed his own body.

I Corinthians 15:35 But some man will say, How are the dead raised up? and with what body do they come?

I Corinthians 15:36 Thou fool, that which thou sowest is not quickened, except it die:

A fool refuses to accept the reality of the truth of the resurrection.

The Resurrection is not a hypothesis, or a theory. It is an historical fact.

Acts 1:3 To whom also he shewed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God:

Acts 1:4 And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me.

Acts 1:5 For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence.

Jesus came back from the dead and shewed Himself alive to his disciples for 40 days.

Something is true if it is verified by two or three witnesses.

How amazing is it that mankind believes in evolution, yet there is not one eye witness to any form of this crazy notion that we have evolved from a lower species to a higher. Yet there were hundreds who were eyewitnesses to the resurrection and the world denies it!

I Corinthians 15:5 And that he was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve:

I Corinthians 15:6 After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep.

I Corinthians 15:7 After that, he was seen of James; then of all the apostles.

I Corinthians 15:8 And last of all he was seen of me also, as of one born out of due time.

8. THE SKEPTICS ARE CALLED FOOLS BECAUSE THEY REJECT THE ILLUSTRATION OF NATURE ITSELF OF HOW THESE THINGS CAN BE TRUE.

A. NATURE TEACHES THAT SEED MUST ROT AND DECAY BEFORE IT BRINGS FORTH LIFE:

Death is the first step to the resurrection. Just like the burial of a seed is a step on to germination and growth.

Think about it. You can store seed for years and years, yet it will not rot or go bad.

Ancient. In the tombs in Egypt grains of wheat were discovered and if planted these grains would spring up and reproduce.

Why is it hard to believe that if a person goes into the grave God can resurrect him? Is not a person of greater value than any plant that bears seed? So even if our bodies remain in the grave for thousands of years, yet God will raise us up at His time.

John 12:24 Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit.

B. NATURE TEACHES THAT DIFFERENT SEED PRODUCES DIFFERENT PLANTS.

I Corinthians 15:37 And that which thou sowest, thou sowest not that body that shall be, but bare grain, it may chance of wheat, or of some other grain:

I Corinthians 15:38 But God giveth it a body as it hath pleased him, and to every seed his own body.

I Corinthians 15:39 All flesh is not the same flesh: but there is one kind of flesh of men, another flesh of beasts, another of fishes, and another of birds.

I Corinthians 15:40 There are also celestial bodies, and bodies terrestrial: but the glory of the celestial is one, and the glory of the terrestrial is another.

I Corinthians 15:41 There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars: for one star differeth from another star in glory.

I Corinthians 15:42 So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption:

I Corinthians 15:43 It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power:

I Corinthians 15:44 It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body.

Note how it is, that different seeds produce different plants. You can't tell what that seed will produce just by looking at it, lots of the seed look alike.

Can't tell what that new body is going to look like just by looking at the seed that is planted.

The resurrected body will be perfect.

The resurrected body will be incorruptible.

The resurrected body can dwell in heaven as well as on earth.

The resurrected body will be something like the angels. Angels inhabit eternity and have supernatural powers. They can fly and do great wonders.

WON'T GET SICK. NOTHING CORRUPTIBLE ABOUT US THEN.

It is not possible in these earthly bodies to inherit eternal life.

I Corinthians 15:50 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption.

II. THE SPIRITUAL NATURE OF THE RESURRECTION IS EXPLAINED.

I Corinthians 15:37 And that which thou sowest, thou sowest not that body that shall be, but bare grain, it may chance of wheat, or of some other grain:

I Corinthians 15:38 But God giveth it a body as it hath pleased him, and to every seed his own body.

I Corinthians 15:39 All flesh is not the same flesh: but there is one kind of flesh of men, another flesh of beasts, another of fishes, and another of birds.

I Corinthians 15:40 There are also celestial bodies, and bodies terrestrial: but the glory of the celestial is one, and the glory of the terrestrial is another.

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1. ALL SEED BEARS FRUIT AFTER ITS OWN KIND. THE RESURRECTION OF THE DEAD IS A SPIRITUAL RESURRECTION.

I Corinthians 15:37 And that which thou sowest, thou sowest not that body that shall be, but bare grain, it may chance of wheat, or of some other grain:

I Corinthians 15:38 But God giveth it a body as it hath pleased him, and to every seed his own body.

I Corinthians 15:39 All flesh is not the same flesh: but there is one kind of flesh of men, another flesh of beasts, another of fishes, and another of birds.

I Corinthians 15:40 There are also celestial bodies, and bodies terrestrial: but the glory of the celestial is one, and the glory of the terrestrial is another.

I Corinthians 15:41 There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars: for one star differeth from another star in glory.

A. EACH RESURRECTED PERSON WILL BE UNIQUE.

B. EACH RESURRECTED PERSON WILL HAVE DIFFERENT DEGREES OF GLORY 15:41 Depending on what we have done on earth. Different ranks and different positions.

Think about this. What if what you do for the Lord will be the basis of the glory of your resurrected body for all eternity.

The Bible teaches that there will be different levels of reward in eternity. Most of us think well as long as I make it I will be happy. But what if that reward will be what kind resurrected body you receive. Since the verse clearly says that one resurrected body will differ from another.

I Corinthians 15:41 There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars: for one star differeth from another star in glory.

I Corinthians 15:42 So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption:

I Corinthians 15:43 It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power:

Think about what people do to improve their earthly bodies.

We go to the dentist.

We exercise.

We diet.

Woman wear makeup.

All so these earthly bodies that are going to perish can be made more presentable , seeking earthly glory the things we do.

Yet the Bible says, in the resurrection each of our resurrected bodies will differ one from another.

How will they differ? They each will have their own unique glory.

I can't help but think that that glory will be given to each based on our service and what we have done for the Lord in this present life.

If we really believed in the resurrection we would get busy serving God while we can.

2. THE SEED OF THE RESURRECTED BODY IS SPIRITUAL IN NATURE.

I Corinthians 15:42 So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption:

I Corinthians 15:43 It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power:

I Corinthians 15:44 It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body.

Seed bears after it's kind.

Only Spiritual seed can produce a spiritual resurrection.

Spring is a time of planting seed - trees, gardens, grass etc.

Two resurrections and two kinds of spiritual seed.

Either a person is a child of the devil or a Child of God.

Matthew 13:24 Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is likened unto a man which sowed good seed in his field:

Matthew 13:25 But while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went his way.

Matthew 13:26 But when the blade was sprung up, and brought forth fruit, then appeared the tares also.

Matthew 13:27 So the servants of the householder came and said unto him, Sir, didst not thou sow good seed in thy field? from whence then hath it tares?

Matthew 13:28 He said unto them, An enemy hath done this. The servants said unto him, Wilt thou then that we go and gather them up?

Matthew 13:29 But he said, Nay; lest while ye gather up the tares, ye root up also the wheat with them.

Matthew 13:30 Let both grow together until the harvest: and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat into my barn.

Explanation of the Parable by the Lord:

Matthew 13:37 He answered and said unto them, He that soweth the good seed is the Son of man;

Matthew 13:38 The field is the world; the good seed are the children of the kingdom; but the tares are the children of the wicked one;

Matthew 13:39 The enemy that sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; and the reapers are the angels.

Matthew 13:40 As therefore the tares are gathered and burned in the fire; so shall it be in the end of this world.

Matthew 13:41 The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity;

Matthew 13:42 And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.

Matthew 13:43 Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.

In the resurrection either a person has the word of God and Christ sown in their hearts or the word of the enemy the devil.

So there is a spiritual resurrection of the just and the unjust.

Matthew 13:38 The field is the world; the good seed are the children of the kingdom; but the tares are the children of the wicked one;

Just as God has seed so too the devil has his seed, these are his children.

What makes the resurrection of the dead such a fearful thing is that everyone is going to be resurrected!

John 5:28 Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice,

John 5:29 And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.

Those who are the tares, will be cast into everlasting fire in a resurrected body.

The book of revelation gives a glimpse at this.

Revelation 20:10 And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.

Revelation 20:11 And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.

Revelation 20:12 And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.

Revelation 20:13 And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.

Revelation 20:14 And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

Revelation 20:15 And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

III. HOW TO BE A CHILD OF GOD AND BE A PARTAKER OF THE RESURRECTION UNTO LIFE.

I Corinthians 15:45 And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit.

I Corinthians 15:46 Howbeit that was not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterward that which is spiritual.

I Corinthians 15:47 The first man is of the earth, earthy: the second man is the Lord from heaven.

I Corinthians 15:48 As is the earthy, such are they also that are earthy: and as is the heavenly, such are they also that are heavenly.

1. We must be born again by being followers and believers of Jesus Christ.

I Corinthians 15:49 And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly.

2. Our present life is corruptible and susceptible to death and therefore in our present state we cannot inherit the kingdom of God. Only in a resurrected body can we inherit the Kingdom of God. We must hope for the resurrection of the dead and reckon ourselves to be dead to sin in this present life.

I Corinthians 15:50 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption.

I Corinthians 15:51 Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,

I Corinthians 15:52 In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

I Corinthians 15:53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.

I Corinthians 15:54 So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.

I Corinthians 15:55 O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?

I Corinthians 15:56 The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law.

I Corinthians 15:57 But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

IV. HOW WE SHOULD LIVE IN LIGHT OF OUR FAITH IN THE RESURRECTION OF THE DEAD

I Corinthians 15:58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

This is the application of Paul's teaching on the resurrection.

1. WE SHOULD BE STEADFAST IN THE WORK OF THE LORD.

Steadfast means settled, stationary.

When it comes to serving Christ we need to not be wondering in our desires and ambitions.

We should have our feet firmly planted in that work.

2. WE SHOULD UNMOVABLE IN THE WORK OF THE LORD.

THE CONCEPT OF BEING UNMOVABLE MEANS TO REMAIN IN THE SAME PLACE. DON'T QUIT, DON'T MOVE OFF TO SOME OTHER VENTURE, ETC.

3. WE SHOULD ABOUND IN THE WORK OF THE LORD.

To abound is to excel. To give it your all.

If your hope is in the resurrection, then we should invest in that hope. We should busy ourselves in the work of God.

How sad it is that we who know these things to be true are not abounding in the work of the Lord.

WILL YOU ABOUND IN HIS WORK?

THIS IS THE LOGICAL CONCLUSION TO OUR FAITH IN THE RESURRECTION

WHAT WORK ARE YOU DOING FOR THE LORD?
ARE YOU BEING STEADFAST, UNMOVABLE?
ARE YOU ABOUNDING IN THAT WORK?

Application:

I Corinthians 15:58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

We who have the Spirit of God know that our labor is not in vain in the Lord.
You know your labor is not in vain in the Lord!

How many who walk in the flesh think serving the Lord is vanity?
Why attend God's house and worship Him? This is vanity.
Why pray? Why waste your time doing things for the Lord?

I have as much as heard people say to me that serving God is vain.
Some do not say it, but their actions show it.

People do not share the faith because they think it vain.
People do not pass out tracts because they think it vain.
People do not attend services because they have better things to do.
Why give, why sacrifice for the Lord? These are vain.

Paul says it is not vain. We will reap the benefits in the resurrection!!!

Look, we do things that we think will benefit us, we do things and invest our lives in things either that we enjoy or we find some benefit in.

When we have no time for the Lord or the things of the Lord we are making a statement. We are, in our actions, saying we do not believe in the resurrection of the dead. We do not believe that serving the Lord will determine our status for eternity. It is not worth investing in eternity because in our hearts we do not believe there is a better life, a better inheritance.

4-17-22 Easter Sunday
HOW BELIEVING IN THE RESURRECTION WILL AFFECT YOUR LIFE

Hebrews 2:10 For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.

Hebrews 2:11 For both he that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified are all of one: for which cause he is not ashamed to call them brethren,

Hebrews 2:12 Saying, I will declare thy name unto my brethren, in the midst of the church will I sing praise unto thee.

Hebrews 2:13 And again, I will put my trust in him. And again, Behold I and the children which God hath given me.

Hebrews 2:14 Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil;

Hebrews 2:15 And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.

I Corinthians 15:20 But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept.

I Corinthians 15:21 For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead.

I Corinthians 15:22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

I Corinthians 15:23 But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming.

I Corinthians 15:24 Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power.

I Corinthians 15:25 For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet.

I Corinthians 15:26 The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death.

I Corinthians 15:55 O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?

I Corinthians 15:56 The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law.

I Corinthians 15:57 But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

I Corinthians 15:58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

Intro: Probably this Sunday marks the most important event in the history of mankind and the church. Today is resurrection Sunday. Today marks the day when our Lord arose from the grave. Think about this. If there is no resurrection from the dead we have no hope.

Today we celebrate the resurrection. The resurrection is the single most important event that defines the New Testament church.

The Resurrection is the reason we meet on Sunday and not Saturday.
The Resurrection is called the blessed hope of the Christian.

The greatest fear man faces in this life is death. For most people death marks defeat. In war the goal is to kill off as many of the enemy before they are able to kill you. Patton said, you don't win a war for dying for your country, you win a war by making the enemy die for his country.

Yet, when it comes to God defeating Satan, he did just the opposite of what worldly wisdom would dictate.

Hebrews 2:14 ..through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil;

I Corinthians 15:54 So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.

I Corinthians 15:55 O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?

I Corinthians 15:56 The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law.

I Corinthians 15:57 But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Through death Jesus brought the victory.

Jesus defeated Satan through His death. This method of winning the spiritual battle was unknown, and unheard of, and in fact the world could not fathom this. In the world, when you die you lose. So the princes of this world sought to kill Jesus thinking that would be the end of Him. Instead of being defeated by death, Jesus defeated death. The Bible says that Satan and the principalities of this world had no idea that this would happen.

I Corinthians 2:8 Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

Now this is what made the early church so powerful. Those early Christians believed this message. They believed in the resurrection, they believed that to die in Christ was gain. They believed there was no greater thing that a believer could do than to sacrificially give his life for Christ.

The Resurrection is the defining truth that empowers true Christians.

The devil once said,

Job 2:4 Skin for skin, yea, all that a man hath will he give for his life.

So the world has figured this all out. This is why the most prosperous businesses in the world today are the pharmaceutical businesses..

My wife recently told me that Mike Berol figured out that some medicines are more expensive than silver. In fact, some are more valuable than gold. I read an article about this:

...For reference, the current rate for gold is \$39 per gram. Pre-Nixon era, it was a buck and a quarter! To give a perspective of a gram.. 1/2 teaspoon of salt weights about 1 gram..

(1) A whole slew of pharmaceuticals, the so-called "wonder-drugs" use "active ingredients" that are sold for many times more than the price of gold per gram. (The writer goes on to say) I happen to be familiar with at least five of them that are sold for more than \$3,500 per gram.

Did you ever notice that there are more commercials concerning medicines than any other commodity? These commercials are expensive.

According to global statistics, pharmaceuticals are the second most profitable industries in the world, just slightly second to Mining, and crude oil production.

1	Mining, Crude-Oil Production	19.8
2	Pharmaceuticals	19.1

Now if you add up besides pharmaceuticals, medical insurance, hospital income, medical doctor income, health care products and services, the number one money making industry in the world that people pay money for is to keep themselves alive, and probably to no avail.

We are living in a day where I don't know how it is that men like

Abraham lived to age 175 without big pharmacies, health insurance, etc.

Isaac 180

Jacob 147

Moses 120

David 70 Now by time David was 70 the nation Israel started to have professional doctors. They called for the doctors because David was cold and suffering from low blood pressure and poor circulation. He called the doctors and when he got no heat they prescribed Abishag for Medicine.

This tells me that what the devil says is true, SKIN FOR SKIN ALL THAT A MAN HAS HE WILL GIVE FOR HIS LIFE. More and more people are afraid of dying. So much so that they are willing to spend a fortune to try and stay alive.

Voltaire, on his death bed cried out,

"I am abandoned by God and man! I will give you half of what I am worth if you will give me six months' life. Then I shall go to hell, and you will go with me."

Voltaire was a noted French atheist and one of the most fertile and talented writers of his time, he used his pen to try and demolish Christianity. Of Christ, Voltaire said: "Curse the wretch!" He once boasted, "In twenty years Christianity will be no more. My single hand shall destroy the edifice it took twelve apostles to rear." Shortly after his death the very house in which he printed his foul literature became the depot of the Geneva Bible Society. The nurse who attended Voltaire said: "For all the wealth in Europe I would not see another infidel die."

Let me say that there is one thing worth giving your life for, and that is our Lord Jesus Christ. The greatest honor that ever you can have is the honor of sacrificing your life in the service of our Lord. He promises all who do that a special crown.

We honor men who sacrificed their lives trying to rescue people from the twin towers on 9/11. People laud them, and set up memorials for these brave men. How much more do you think God will remember those who sacrificed for His service and ministry. Yet how few are willing to make any sacrifices for the Lord.

But the devil put it this way, Skin for Skin all that a man hath he will give for his life. So the devil has our number, so to speak. He has us all worried about our health to the point many are abandoning obedience to God. Did not God try Job in that area? Did not the devil say I can get him to compromise serving you, just touch him in the area of his health. He will curse you to your face.

The question I would like to ask you this morning is this:

DO YOU BELIEVE IN THE RESURRECTION OF THE DEAD? DO YOU BELIEVE THERE IS SOMETHING GREATER THAN THIS PHYSICAL LIFE, WHICH IS THE RESURRECTION AND ETERNAL LIFE.

- I. IF YOU BELIEVE IN THE RESURRECTION OF THE DEAD YOU SHOULD NOT HAVE THE SAME FEAR OF DEATH THAT THE WORLD HAS.***
- 1. PAUL USED THE TRUTH OF THE RESURRECTION TO HELP BELIEVERS WITH THIS PHOBIA.***

I Thessalonians 4:13 But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope.

I Thessalonians 4:14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.

I Thessalonians 4:15 For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep.

I Thessalonians 4:16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

I Thessalonians 4:17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

Paul said, that we should not sorrow about death like those who have no hope.

Titus 2:13 Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;

The return of Christ and the resurrection are called our blessed hope.

Do we have this hope?

If we have this blessed hope, that means we will live differently than the world.

If we have this hope, we will not sorrow like the world when a loved one dies in Christ.

We will not look at death the same way the world looks at death.

Now if you are saved, you have this hope. But those who do not know Christ, have not this hope and their life is wrapped up only in this world only. This can cause them to do some pretty bizarre things in their lives..

Look, for example, at Howard Hughes and his obsession with staying away from germs. He even wrote a manual for his cooks on how to properly open a can of peaches. He wore tissue boxes on his feet to prevent him from getting germs. He believed germs only came from the outside so he would isolate himself in hotel rooms in the dark to avoid people.

I could only wonder what Howard Hughes would do in reaction to Covid.

The greatest fear that man can face is the fear of death.

Christ's Resurrection is our emblem of victory over death.

Jesus said to Martha:

John 11:25 Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live:

John 11:26 And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?

The fact is that Martha acknowledged faith in a future resurrection.

John 11:23 Jesus saith unto her, Thy brother shall rise again.

John 11:24 Martha saith unto him, I know that he shall rise again in the resurrection at the last day.

The idea of the resurrection is not just some theological truth for the distant future, it is a reality that should affect us in the present.

Martha never thought to ask Jesus to resurrect Lazarus then and there.

A believer never dies, and to prove it Jesus raised up Lazarus.

The truth of the resurrection should affect our life in the present.

2. THE RESURRECTION FROM THE DEAD SHOULD HELP A CHRISTIAN TO NOT FEAR TO SERVE THE LORD IN THE PRESENT WORLD OF DANGER.

Think about this, the same God who promises to resurrect us, has the power to protect us if He commanded us to serve Him.

Luke 10:19 Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.

Mark 16:15 And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.

Mark 16:16 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

Mark 16:17 And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues;

Mark 16:18 They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.

Jesus told His Apostles not to be afraid as they were obeying Him to preach the gospel. Do you think Jesus would have told his disciples to stop going out and preaching just because of a pandemic like covid? I don't think He would. Yet all over our country we see churches that still have not opened because of the fear of Covid.

Jesus promised to protect his disciples from scorpions and poison as they went and obeyed Him. Now we need to say as Meshach Shadrach and Abednego, Our God is able to protect us, but if He doesn't still we will obey Him and do what He told us to do.

Look at what is going on in Ukraine. Why is it that we are not hearing anything about people dying of Covid in Lorain. Did Covid go away in Ukraine? What I have noticed is that if I have a problem maybe some arthritis in my fingers, but then I break a toe or foot or arm, suddenly I don't notice that the arthritis is a problem at all. The bigger problem take precedence.

The disciples could have had all kind of reasons not to go into all the world and preach like Jesus told them to. Jesus just said to them, whatever obstacles you face I will protect you as long as you are obeying me. Serpents, poison, whatever fear you might have, don't fear, there is something more important. This message needs to get out. Don't fear.

II. IF YOU BELIEVE IN THE RESURRECTION OF THE DEAD YOU WILL WANT TO STORE UP REWARDS FOR THE DAY OF THE RESURRECTION.

After all this is where we will dwell with Him for eternity.
This life is but a temporal home.

Paul lived this way and at the end of his life he said,

II Timothy 4:6 For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand.

II Timothy 4:7 I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith:

II Timothy 4:8 Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.

Many people store up for retirement. They have their many ways to store up for retirement. They have their 401K's, their IRA's the company retirement pension plans. Many are all excited about finally being able to do the things they want to do when they retire.

A few years back I was looking for a truck to help us in our business. We were looking for a Chevy Silverado 1500 4x4 pick up truck. I saw one on Craig's list and called about it. It was only 1 year old with low mileage.

A lady told us this sad story. Her husband had a dream to get a new pick up truck and camper when he retired and make trips to Florida every winter. As soon as he retired he got his dream truck and camper. He and his wife made one trip to Florida and back home. When he got home he complained about a pain in his leg. As it turned out, from sitting in the truck for hour upon hour his leg cramped up and he developed a blood clot in his leg. When he got home that blood clot traveled from his leg to his heart and he had a massive heart attack and died. The wife said, every time she looked at that brand new Chevy Silverado it reminded her of her husband and his dream for retirement.

How many times I have heard similar stories about people who had these dreams for retirement.

I do not know many people that have dreams of the resurrection! Paul the Apostle did and he said.

II Timothy 4:6 For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand.

II Timothy 4:7 I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith:

II Timothy 4:8 Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.

He was looking forward to the rewards of retiring in glory with the Lord. He said, I am ready. In fact in one place he said this:

Philippians 1:23 For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better:

Philippians 1:24 Nevertheless to abide in the flesh is more needful for you.

III. IF YOU BELIEVE IN THE RESURRECTION OF THE DEAD OUR AFFECTIONS SHOULD BE WITH OUR RESURRECTED SAVIOR AND NOT HERE ON EARTH.

Your affections, your desires, will determine how you live and what you do in this life.

In Christ we are seated in the heavens.

Matthew 6:20 But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:

Matthew 6:21 For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

Colossians 3:1 If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.

Colossians 3:2 Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.

Colossians 3:3 For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.

Colossians 3:4 When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.

Colossians 3:5 Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry:

Colossians 3:6 For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience:

Colossians 3:7 In the which ye also walked some time, when ye lived in them.

Colossians 3:8 But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth.

Colossians 3:9 Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds;

Colossians 3:10 And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him:

- 1. *Make this spiritual position of being seated in the heavenlies a reality in your life.***
- 2. *The more your affections are towards Christ the more your desires and other things will be for Christ.***

Baptism, is a picture of us being crucified with Christ.

We are dead to sin and self.

Coming up out of the water is a picture of resurrection, we are now raised with Him in newness of life.

You cannot be raised in newness of life if you are not crucified with Christ.

Are you dead to self?

Are you dead to sin?

CAN WE SAY, AS PAUL SAID,

Philippians 1:21 For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.

Invitation:

Believing in the resurrection of the dead should be more than some theological truth that we have tucked away in our arsenal of beliefs. It should be something that effects our lives today. It should affect the way we live, our goals, our actions, our lives. I hope this is the case with each of us, this Easter Sunday Morning!