

Text — 1 Corinthians 15

The Resurrection of Christ

[1] Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, [2] and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.

[3] For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, [4] that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, [5] and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. [6] Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep.

...

[19] If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied.

[20] But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. [21] For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. [22] For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. [23] But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. [24] Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. [25] For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. [26] The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

...

Mystery and Victory

[50] I tell you this, brothers: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. [51] Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, [52] in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. [53] For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality. [54] When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written:

“Death is swallowed up in victory.”

[55] “O death, where is your victory?

O death, where is your sting?”

[56] The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. [57] But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

[58] Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

Intro:

Oh what a difference a year makes. And when we look around this service this morning, or we look down the pew a little later, or around the family table after that there are people missing. Loved ones who have “fallen asleep”. And if we’re honest we will gather again next year in this very spot and others will have gone to be with the Lord. But the Gospel says that’s not the end. Jesus, the eternal object of our faith has overcome the grave by defeating sin on the cross of calvary. So on the resurrection Sunday don’t mourn like those who are uninformed and have no hope. Hope is alive. the tomb is empty, and the resurrected King sits in his place of authority bidding you to come. Let’s look at the apostle Paul’s treatise on the resurrection to a church filled with people a lot like you and I who are working their salvation out in fear and trembling.

Outline: Sunrise Service

- v1-6 The Gospel
 - Of 1st importance... If you don't hear anything else or leave here remembering anything else
 - Salvation through the perfect person and finished work of Jesus... Repent & Believe
- v19-26 Eternal Hope and the Ultimate Defeat of Death
 - Hope for today is great, but hope for tomorrow which includes that great and terrible day of the coming again of the Lord Jesus should be our focus.
 - We can preach the Gospel with confidence, the object of our hope is the same yesterday today and forever.
 - But IN FACT Christ has been raised from the dead
 - indicative- statement of truth, corroborated by eyewitnesses
 - he is actually the firstfruits— the first of many, and the example
 - Adam & Jesus (Romans 5)
 - Death & Resurrection
 - All Die & All will be made alive (all that believe)
 - In order Adam brought death and died in history, Jesus conquered death and rose again in history (firstfruits), and those who believe will rise at his return

Conclusion: The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

- [24] Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. [25] For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. [26] The last enemy to be destroyed is death.
 - Then comes the end...
 - the resurrection of the dead (some to life some to destruction) is part of the eschatological fireworks show with no grave no depth no grip of death able to hold us any longer
 - to deliver over the "fruit" of the redeemed and to take into custody those who have rejected Christ and his free gift of salvation
 - This is what every knee bowing and every tongue confessing looks like.
 - So, for now, HE MUST REIGN (and he is reigning at the right hand of the Father) until...
 - ALL he has put all his enemies under his feet
 - this will happen ultimately but is also happening progressively
 - our community gathering this morning in Jesus name, little league teams praying before playing, fathers reading the Bible to their children, the sound of church bells on Sunday morning are glimpses of the Body of Christ stewarding the enemy under the feet of Jesus
 - But with all our faith, hope, and love only Jesus can finally destroy death and bring us to a place where there are no more tears, sickness, and pain
 - The LAST enemy to be destroyed death.
 - Indicative- it has been defeated and it WILL be destroyed. There is victory in Jesus
- READ v50-58