

Jesus is the Resurrection and the Life

Scripture: John 11:25-26 "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies, 26 and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die. Do you believe this?"

Introduction: Who Will Take The Son?

A wealthy man and his son loved to collect rare works of art. They had everything in their collection, from Picasso to Raphael. They would often sit together and admire the great works of art. When the Viet Nam conflict broke out, the son went to war. He was very courageous and died in battle while rescuing another soldier. The father was notified and grieved deeply for his only son.

About a month later, just before Christmas, there was a knock at the door. A young man stood at the door with a large package in his hands. He said, "Sir, you don't know me, but I am the soldier for whom your son gave his life. He saved many lives that day, and he was carrying me to safety when a bullet struck him in the heart and he died instantly. He often talked about you, and your love for art.

The young man held out his package. "I know this isn't much. I'm not really a great artist, but I think your son would have wanted you to have this." The father opened the package. It was a portrait of his son, painted by the young man. He stared in awe at the way the soldier had captured the personality of his son in the painting. The father was so drawn to the eyes that his own eyes welled up with tears. He thanked the young man and offered to pay him for the picture. "Oh, no sir, I could never repay what your son did for me. It's a gift."

The father hung the portrait over his mantle. Every time visitors came to his home he took them to see the portrait of his son before he showed them any of the other great works he had collected. The man died a few months later.

There was to be a great auction of his paintings. Many influential people gathered, excited over seeing the great paintings and having an opportunity to purchase one for their collection. On the platform sat the painting of the son. The auctioneer pounded his gavel. "We will start the bidding with this picture of the son. Who will bid for this picture?"

There was silence. Then a voice in the back of the room shouted. "We want to see the famous paintings. Skip this one." But the auctioneer persisted. "Will someone bid for this painting? Who will start the bidding? \$100, \$200?" Another voice shouted angrily. "We didn't come to see this painting.. We came to see the Van Gogh's, the Rembrandts. Get on with the real bids!" But still the auctioneer continued. "The son! The son! Who'll take the son?"

Finally, a voice came from the very back of the room. It was the longtime gardener of the man and his son. "I'll give \$10 for the painting." Being a poor man, it was all he could afford. "We have \$10, who will bid \$20?"

"Give it to him for \$10. Let's see the masters." "\$10 is the bid, won't someone bid \$20?" The crowd was becoming angry. They didn't want the picture of the son. They wanted the more worthy investments for their collections. The auctioneer pounded the gavel. "Going once, twice, SOLD for \$10!"

A man sitting on the second row shouted. "Now let's get on with the collection!" The auctioneer laid down his gavel. "I'm sorry, the auction is over." "What about the paintings?" "I am sorry. When I was called to conduct this auction, I was told of a secret stipulation in the will. I was not allowed to reveal that stipulation until this time. Only the painting of the son would be auctioned. Whoever bought that painting would inherit the entire estate, including the paintings. The man who took the son gets every thing!"

Transitional Statement: It is my hope today that everyone here has taken the son, or that you choose to before the day is done. Today I want to remind us that we serve a risen savior. And that there through Him we too may have a resurrection unto life.

Lesson:

I. The Saving Gospel includes a Resurrected Lord

1 Corinthians 15:1-11

“Now I make known to you, brethren, the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received, in which also you stand, 2 by which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which 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 according to the Scriptures, 4 and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,

- A. In the most wonderful sacrifice ever given, Jesus offered Himself upon the cross of Calvary for our sins and when he had cried out His final words *“into thy hands I commit my spirit”* He breathed his last and died there for all to see. Then along came Joseph of Arimathea and took Jesus and buried Him his own tomb. But, if the story stopped there what a tragedy it would have been. But when coupled with the fact that death could not keep its hold on Him, and the Father raised Him from the dead, it became good news. And in so much as we enter into that death burial and resurrection through baptism we are saved from our sins and offered eternal life with God in heaven (Romans 6)

- B. There was a great number of Witnesses that Jesus was raised from the dead.

5 and that He appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. 6 After that He appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time, most of whom remain until now, but some have fallen asleep; 7 then He appeared to James, then to all the apostles;

8 and last of all, as to one untimely born, He appeared to me also. 9 For I am the least of the apostles, and not fit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. 10 But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me did not prove vain; but I labored even more than all of them, yet not I, but the grace of God with me. 11 Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

II. How can some say there is no resurrection?

1 Corinthians 15:12-19

“Now if Christ is preached, that He has been raised from the dead, how do some among you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? 13 But if there is no resurrection of the dead, not even Christ has been raised; 14 and if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is vain, your faith also is vain. 15 Moreover we are even found to be false witnesses of God, because we testified against God that He raised Christ, whom He did not raise, if in fact the dead are not raised. 16 For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised; 17 and if Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins. 18 Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished.”

[If there is No resurrection:](#)

A. Christ is still dead....death defeated and conquered Him

-He is not all powerful

B. Our preaching is empty....

-The whole message of redemption is useless....a waste of time

C. Your trust and belief in God is empty also

-That somehow God will leave you to rot in the ground forever

D. Not only that, We Apostles are false witnesses

-We are liars purposefully deceiving God's people

-And we would be testifying against God Himself who proclaim Jesus to be His son through the resurrection Romans 1:4

E. Then, we would all still be in our sins, connected to sin....

-LOST

F. And, those who have already died have simply perished

* Verse 19 *"If we have hoped in Christ in this life only, we are of all men most to be pitied."*

* What kind of good news is it to hear that when you die your stuck in the grave forever.

III. Through the resurrection of Christ, God is made all in all

1 Corinthians 15:20-28

"But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who are asleep. 21 For since by a man came death, by a man also came the resurrection of the dead. 22 For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be made alive. 23 But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, after that those who are Christ's at His coming, 24 then comes the end, when He hands over the kingdom to the God and Father, when He has abolished all rule and all authority and power. 25 For He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet. 26 The last enemy that will be abolished is death. 27 For HE HAS PUT ALL THINGS IN SUBJECTION UNDER HIS FEET. But when He says, " All things are put in subjection," it is evident that He is excepted who put all things in subjection to Him. 28 When all things are subjected to Him, then the Son Himself also will be subjected to the One who subjected all things to Him, so that God may be all in all."

A. Jesus is the First fruit of the dead

-He is the first to be resurrected and stay resurrected

-And He paved the way for the rest of us toward the path of eternal life with the Father.

B. Death came by Adam but life comes by Christ

-You see Adam, the first man, and his choice to sin ushered sin into the world.

-But, Jesus, the last man, through His resurrection from the dead brought eternal life with the Father into the world.

-Adam was a consequence of the flesh.....but Jesus is the intention of God.

*Jesus is not some continuation of a usual order.

C. And those who belong to Christ at His coming will be raised to eternal life with the father also.

D. Then comes the end when Jesus will hand over the kingdom to the Father

-Having Abolished all rule, authority, power

-It's interesting that He lumps rule, authority and power into this enemy list....for there is only one rule, authority and power and that is God's.

*And finally abolishing the last enemy itselfdeath

-Yes, at His second coming death will be thrown into the lake of fire (Rev. 20:14).

-Eternal life is not prejudiced for only good folks.

-We will find ourselves eternal with God or in the second death of Rev. 20:14, without Him.

*And at that time, all things will be put in subjection to Him

-Every knee will bow and every tongue will confess (Phil 2:10).

-And God is made all in all.

IV. If the dead are not raised let us eat drink and be merry for tomorrow we die

1 Corinthians 15:29-34

"Otherwise, what will those do who are baptized for the dead? If the dead are not raised at all, why then are they baptized for them? 30 Why are we also in danger every hour? 31 I affirm, brethren, by the boasting in you which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die daily. 32 If from human motives I fought with wild beasts at Ephesus, what does it profit me? If the dead are not raised, LET US EAT AND DRINK, FOR TOMORROW WE DIE. 33 Do not be deceived: "Bad company corrupts good morals." 34 Become sober-minded as you ought, and stop sinning; for some have no knowledge of God. I speak this to your shame."

A. Our baptism is useless

-Immersed into some dead guy

B. Paul's fighting wild beast was useless

C. Eat drink and be merry for tomorrow we die

-What we see is what we get.....might as well have the greatest time imaginable, filling all our pleasures.

-Israel was found thinking this very thing Isa 22:13

D. To all of this He says there is a resurrection from the dead

-Stop sinning

-Stop living like nothing really matter.....you need to make every decision and every day count.....because God is taking notes.

V. Some will say how are the dead raised and what body will they have

1 Corinthians 15:35-49

"But someone will say, "How are the dead raised? And with what kind of body do they come?" 36 You fool! That which you sow does not come to life unless it dies; 37 and that which you sow, you do not sow the body which is to be, but a bare grain, perhaps of wheat or of something else. 38 But God gives it a body just as He wished, and to each of the seeds a body of its own. 39 All flesh is not the same flesh, but there is one flesh of men, and another flesh of beasts, and another flesh of birds, and another of fish. 40 There are also heavenly bodies and earthly bodies, but the glory of the heavenly is one, and the glory of the earthly is 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 also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown a perishable body, it is raised an imperishable body; 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 So also it is written, "The first MAN, Adam, BECAME A LIVING SOUL." The last Adam became a life-giving spirit. 46 However, the spiritual is not first, but the natural; then the spiritual. 47 The first man is from the earth, earthy; the second man is from heaven. 48 As is the earthy, so also are those who are earthy; and as is the heavenly, so also are those who are heavenly. 49 Just as we have borne the image of the earthy, we will also bear the image of the heavenly."

A. The question

-One of sincerity?

-More like a statement saying you can't put life back into what is dead and if the soul is still alive how can you reconnect that to a dead corpse?

*To which Paul says No You Fool !

B. The explanation comes in an allegory

-You plant a seed and a great big seed is not what comes up out of the ground.

-The seed has to die and germinate to become the intended plant

-The outside (external) has to die so the inside can spring forth.

***i.e. what is planted has to be changed.**

-There is a heavenly body and a earthly body

C. So is the resurrection of the saints

SOWN:

RAISED:

Perishable.....Imperishable

Dishonor.....Glory

Weakness.....Power

Natural body.....Spiritual body

-And using the “Adam / Christ Analogy”

-If we get hung up being a seed that is planted, all we have to look forward to is returning to the dust from which we were created.

*But, if we look toward God’s intention we strive for what we are suppose to become through Jesus God’s son.

*We seek the imperishable, the Glory, the Power, and the Spiritual body through which we will receive our everlasting reward.

VI. Victory in Jesus is not found in the flesh

1 Corinthians 15:50-58

“Now I say this, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. 51 Behold, I tell you a mystery; we will not all sleep, but we will 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 will be changed. 53 For this perishable must put on the imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality. 54 But when this perishable will have put on the imperishable, and this mortal will have put on immortality, then will come about 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 brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord.”

A. There will be no flesh in heaven

-Heaven is going to be a completely different order than physical life on this earth.

-When Christ comes again we will all be changed from the physical to the spiritual

B. When that change happens Death will be forever swallowed up or devoured in victory

C. But some will continue for eternity marked by the sting or the poison of death which is sin.....

-i.e. they may have a bodily resurrection but spiritually they remain dead.

-Falling short and missing God's mark.

Conclusion:

John 5:28-29

“Do not marvel at this; for an hour is coming, in which all who are in the tombs will hear His voice, 29 and will come forth; those who did the good deeds to a resurrection of life, those who committed the evil deeds to a resurrection of judgment.”

If the trumpet sounded this very second your fate would be sealed, you would either be destined for a resurrection of life eternal with the Heavenly Father, or you would be eternally poisoned by your own sins. You wouldn't be troubled with another invitation, or the encouragement of a brother or sister in Christ, you would simply have a resurrection of judgment.

So have you taken the Son?