Paul’s Letters to the Church at Corinth

The Hope of Resurrection
1 Corinthians 15
Lesson 10

Trinity Bible Church Sunday School
March 10, 2013
The Hope of Resurrection

• A major, but much neglected doctrine
• The Gospel – Romans 10:9
• The Christian Life – 1 Thessalonians 1:9-10
• Corinthian church – 1 Corinthians 1:7
• A need for steadfastness – 1 Corinthians 15:58
• A complete study of the resurrection – 1 Corinthians 15
Outline of 1 Corinthians 15

Frederic Louis Godet

- The necessity of the resurrection (15:1-34)
- The nature of the resurrection (15:35-58)
The Gospel (15:1-11)

► The Gospel – the instrument of salvation

► The Gospel defined
  • Christ died for our sins
  • Christ was buried and raised the 3rd day
  • He appeared . . . to apostles + more than 500 brethren

► The Gospel received – Paul’s testimony
  • Unworthy, but transformed by grace
  • Engaged the work of God

► The Gospel corrupted – received in vain
Denial of resurrection (15:12)

- A pillar of the Gospel – resurrection
- Annihilation – death ends all existence
- Eternal spiritual, but not physical existence
  - Greek thought – matter is evil
  - Matthew 22:29-32 – “. . . like the angels in heaven.”
If no resurrection . . .

- Christ not raised (v. 13)
- Preaching in vain and your faith in vain
- Paul is a liar for misrepresenting the Gospel
- No salvation – summary argument (vv. 16-19)
  - Dead not raised
  - Christ not raised
  - Faith futile and you are still in your sins
  - Dead in Christ have perished
  - Only hope in this lifetime – most to be pitied
Why is this true?

- Is spiritual existence in heaven so bad?
- There is no salvation without bodily resurrection!
Christ has been raised from the dead (15:20)

- “But in fact” (ESV)
- He is the firstfruits of the dead
Doctrine of Resurrection (15:21-28)

▶ By a man came death; by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead
▶ In Adam all die
▶ In Christ all shall be made alive (Daniel 12:2)
▶ Each in his order
  • Christ, the firstfruits – Easter
  • Those who belong to Christ – at His coming
  • His enemies – put into the Lake of Fire (Rev. 20:5-6, 15)
Then comes the end

- He will rule until all rule and authority and power are destroyed
- The concluding point of His reign – the end of death
- Son will deliver the pure/redeemed creation to God
- God magnified as “all in all”
  - Dwelling place of God in the New Heaven and Earth
  - Jesus Christ will be the Visible King on the throne
- The end of salvation requires resurrection
What does it matter? (15:29-34)

- Why be baptised for the dead?
- Why in danger every hour?
- If no resurrection, then there is no salvation
- Do not jeopardize your peace on earth
- Do not be deceived
  - Such teaching corrupts morality
  - Wake up and know God
- Resurrection leads to moral conduct – 1 Peter 1:13-15
Two Questions (15:35)

- How are the dead raised?
- With what kind of body do they come?

- Two alternatives:
  - Is it the same as our present body?
  - Is their no connection with our present body?
3 Lessons from Creation (15:36-41)

- A seed
  - Death is the means of new life
  - Kernel is sown; dies; emerges in a different form/body

- Life
  - Humans, animals, birds, fish

- Glory
  - Earthly & heavenly bodies: Sun, moon, stars, various stars

- Creation points to possibility of a new body
The Resurrection Body (15:42-49)

- Two bodies:
  - perishable (corruption of human flesh) – imperishable
  - dishonor (trials of life) – glory
  - weakness (human inability) – power
  - natural (mere flesh) – spiritual
The Resurrection Body (15:42-49)

- Two men: natural and spiritual
  - First man Adam
    - living soul – natural life only – no native spiritual ability
    - from the earth – a man of dust
    - Natural body is formed for the soul
  - Last Adam (Christ)
    - life-giving spirit
    - from heaven
    - Spiritual body is formed for the spirit
The Resurrection Body (15:42-49)

- A new image
  - Man of dust – Man of heaven
  - We shall bear (future) the image of the heavenly Man
  - A different flesh/body; a new glory
  - Current condition is union with Christ with the Holy Spirit
  - Fix your hope completely on this grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ (1 Peter 1:13)
The Last Trumpet (15:50-57)

- Flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God
  - Must be raised with new bodies – resurrection required
  - Must be transformed (if living at the time)
  - Both will occur at the last trumpet in the twinkling of an eye
    - Dead raised imperishable
    - We (alive) shall be changed to be imperishable

- This is the final victory
  - Death – no more victory – condemnation (the Law)
  - Death – no more sting – sin

- The final victory by God, through our Lord Jesus Christ
The Hope of Resurrection

- Essential for salvation – the final solution
- The motive for the work of the Lord (15:58)
  - Be steadfast
  - Be immovable
  - Be always abounding
- The basis for holiness (1 John 3:2-3)
  - The solution for Corinthian problems
  - The solution to fainting
  - The sustaining grace