

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?
 - Water – Spirit – blood (Luke 12:50 and Mark 10:38)
- ▶ 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 there 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