



RESURRECTION HOPE

LESSON 7 – APRIL 12, 2020
ABUNDANT HARVEST CHURCH
SUNDAY SCHOOL
EVANGELIST MONIQUE FOSTER

RESURRECTION HOPE

BIBLE BASIS: I Corinthians 1:1-8, 12-14, 20-23, 42-45

BIBLE TRUTH: Paul writes to the church at Corinth to affirm the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

MEMORY VERSE: “If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable. But now is Christ risen from the dead and become the first fruits of them that slept.” (I Corinthians 15:19-20, KJV)

RESURRECTION HOPE

LESSON AIM: By the end of the lesson, we will: CONTRAST the first Adam and the last; ENVISION a new resurrected life different from the present one; and PROCLAIM the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ despite ridicule or resistance.

LIFE NEED FOR TODAY'S LESSON: People struggle with the probability and possibility of life after death. How can resurrection from death provide life that is different from what is experienced before death? In 1 Corinthians, only life through the resurrection of Christ engenders hope for authentic justice.

LESSON OVERVIEW

BIBLE LEARNING: The Apostle Paul explains the facts surrounding the Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

BIBLE APPLICATION: Christians are assured that Christ's resurrection means we, too, will be raised from the dead.

STUDENTS RESPONSES: Believers hope in the spiritual body that is not subject to pain or illness or decay.

HISTORY

- Paul – is the author both by the letter and by the early church fathers. In which was written toward the close of Paul's three-year residency in Ephesus. Where he wrote for 1 year.
- He wrote in response to the messages he received concerning the conditions of the existing church that was rather disturbing, information concerning moral irregularities.
 - Immorality had plagued the Corinthian assembly. He had urged believers "not to company with fornicators." He had urge immediate and drastic action.
- It is clear that, although the church was gifted, it was immature and unspiritual. (3:1-4)

MORE HISTORY AND BACKGROUND

- Paul's purposes for writing were:
 - To instruct and restore the church in its areas of weakness, correcting erroneous practices such as divisions (1:10-4:21)
- I Corinthians Theme:
 - This letter revolves around the problems in Christian conduct in the church that has to do with progressive sanctification, the continuing development of holiness of character. Paul was personally concerned with the Corinthians' problems, revealing a true pastor's (shepherd's heart).
- Relevance – The letter is timely for the church today, both to instruct and to inspire. Much of the problems that confronted the church of Corinth are still very much with us: immaturity, instability, divisions, jealousy and envy, lawsuits, marital difficulties, sexual immorality and misuse of spiritual gifts.

KEY TERMS TO RECOGNIZE

- Euagelion (ew-an-GHEL-ee-on) – good news message or Gospel, to describe what he preached and they, in turn, received as a means for salvation.
- Ectroma (Eck-troh-ma) – translated abnormally born, to describe Paul's apostolic calling.

LESSON SCRIPTURE

- 1 CORINTHIANS 15:1-8, 12-14, 20-23, 42-45, KJV

LIGHT ON THE WORD

- The Gospel is literally “Good News.”
- The Greek word, euaggelion, was used in relation to the announcement that Augustus Caesar was proclaimed ruler over the Roman Empire and would bring peace and joy.
- The biblical writers used this word to announce God’s grace and the coming of His Kingdom in the life, death, and resurrection of Christ.
- This is the substance of the message the apostles preached. In the Gospels’ bare essentials, it is the telling of Jesus’s life, death, and resurrection and how we can be forgiven and welcomed into God’s Kingdom.

LIFE NEED FOR TODAY'S LESSON

AIM: Students will defend the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

INTRODUCTION: He Is Risen

- Throughout 1 Corinthians, Paul dealt with issue after issue.
- He addressed the divisions in the church (1:10-4:21), sexual immorality including incest (5:1-13) (sexual sins between parent, child, siblings, and family) and fornication (6:12-20), marriage and divorce (7:1-40), idolatry (8:1-11:1), and different aspect of public worship (11:2-13:13).
- In I Corinthians 14, Paul also explained the spiritual gifts of speaking in tongues and prophecy, instructing the Corinthians to pursue love and the gift of prophecy because it builds up the whole church.
- Paul wrote that proper worship results and unbelievers admits, “God is in you.”
- The chapter ends with Paul describing the proper order of worship and the significance of Christ’s resurrection.

BIBLE LEARNING:

AIM: Students will explain why Christians know with certainty that Christ rose from the dead.

I. RESURRECTION CLARIFIED AND WITNESSED (1 Corinthians 15:1-8)

- I. There were some in the Corinthian church who did not believe in the resurrection of the dead. Paul reminds them that he had already preached the Good News to them and they had, or so it seemed, fully accepted it.
- II. He validates his message by explaining the foundation of the Christian faith:
 - I. Christ died of our sins (Romans 5:8)
 - II. Christ rose on the third day (Luke 24:1-8)
 - III. Paul notes that the Scriptures support what he says.
 - IV. He also states that the witnesses (Peter and the 12 disciples) saw the resurrected Jesus and that they had been chosen to be witnesses.
 - V. More than 500 of His followers saw Jesus, including Jesus' half-brother James and other apostles.

AN APOSTLE'S CRITERION:

- One who was divinely chosen to see the resurrected Christ.
- They were sent out to preach the Gospel because they could personally testify to its truth.

BORN OUT OF DUE TIME:(Apostle Paul)

- Meaning – miscarried or stillborn baby.
- Paul was the last witness. Although he had not lived and journeyed with Jesus, he too, had been chosen when Jesus appeared to him on the road to Damascus.
- Paul was someone who was spiritually dead and therefore unfit to be an apostle because he persecuted believers.
- However God in his grace, still chose Paul to be a witness. In which he mentions in his letter to those who questioned his authority. (Whether the other apostles or Paul preached the Gospel, it is the same message that the Corinthians had already believed.)

PAUL'S FOCUS, ASSERTION AND STATEMENT

- He focuses his argument on Christ resurrection by tradition, Scripture, and apostolic authority. He referenced an early church creed.
- Paul asserts that these things has happened according to scripture.
- Next, he states that Cephas, or Peter, and the Twelve can attest to the validity of his claims.

QUESTIONS 1 & 2

1. Paul is writing to the church at Corinth about the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Why is it necessary for Paul to affirm that Christ is risen?
2. Paul focuses his argument in three things. What are they?

LIGHT ON THE WORD – THE EMPTY GRAVE

- Although Paul covers a wide range of subjects in his letters, not everything he discusses is central to the Gospel. Nor does every instruction carry equal weight.
- Paul highlights the elements of the Gospel message that are critical to the church and its health and vitality.
- The death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus are an objective reality.
- The Resurrection is not merely a spiritual phenomenon.
 - There were witnesses
 - There is a grave
 - And it is empty

II. RESURRECTION GUARANTEED

(1 Corinthians 15:12-14, 20-23)

- Paul refutes the people's belief that there is no resurrection of the dead. By concluding that if there is no resurrection, Christ did not rise and their faith would be useless. They would all still be in their sin, condemned forever.
- Paul reassures his audience that Jesus had indeed risen from the dead.
- He continues to explain, that Jesus did not conquer death only for Himself.
 - He is the first, one who have died.
 - His resurrection ensures that all who believe in Him shall have eternal life.
 - He is compared to Adam – Just as Adam brought death for all, Jesus brings eternal life for those who believe in Him.

CHRIST'S PURPOSE

- Eternal Life
- The Father God sent Him so “that whosoever believeth in him should not perish but have everlasting life.” (John 3:16)
- Jesus Christ was resurrected first so that all who belong to Him will be resurrected, as well.
- To God Be the Glory for the things that He has done for us all who believe.

QUESTION 3 & 4

3. Paul goes through great lengths to prove that Jesus rose from the dead. Why?
4. Why does the resurrection of Jesus provide hope for the believers?

LIGHT ON THE WORD

- Paul addresses the fact that there was a division among Jews about whether or not there is a resurrection from the dead.
- The Pharisees believed that there was a resurrection from the dead, but the Sadducees (which were another other major faction of Jewish leaders) did not believe in a resurrection.
- Paul is asserting that the resurrection for all people will happen because the resurrection of Christ happened; the debate should be ended for everyone who believes in Jesus Christ.
- If this resurrection is not preached, then our faith in Him is in vain. The fundamental doctrine for all Christians, Paul proclaim.
- We have the hope of life after death, and our preaching has power.

III. RESURRECTION PROMISES

- Bible scholars disagree on the exact nature of the Corinthian church's doubts concerning the Resurrection.
 - Some argue that the Corinthians held that there was no such thing as resurrection.
 - Others think that the Corinthians held that Jesus Himself was not resurrected.
 - Still, others believe that the Corinthians were at odds about the status of the believers who had already died and the ability of these believers to be raised from the dead at the return of Christ.
 - Paul emphasizing that the Resurrection is not merely a tenet but the cornerstone of Christian faith.
 - His resurrection explains justification for the people.
 - After death, there is a continuity rather than a conclusion.

POINTERS ON INHERITANCE

Adam - Dust

- If believers were only subject to the inheritance of Adam, it would be subject to the inheritance of Adam, it would be fitting that we return to dust since it through Adam's sin that humankind dies.
 - Corruption
 - Dishonor
 - Weakness

Jesus - Resurrection

- Through faith, believers are joined to Jesus Christ. The bodies of believers, through their faith in Him, now bear "the image of the heavenly. (I Cor. 15:49) It is these glorified, "heavenly bodies" that are subject to be resurrected.
 - Incorruption
 - Glory
 - Power

QUESTION 5 & 6

Question 5 – Paul contrasts death and resurrection with these terms: corruption vs incorruption, dishonor vs. glory, and weakness vs. power. In your own words, summarize this explanation.

Question 6 – Why is Christ's resurrection important to you?

LIGHT ON THE WORD

- The present body is subject to weaknesses of various kinds, such as fatigue, hunger, disease, pain, and death.
- In its present state, this body is limited by time and space. It is not a body designed to endure for eternity or to transcend physical barriers.
- The reality of our present body's weakness confronts us daily in our experience of pain, suffering, and death.
- This physical weakness will be a thing of the past as far as the resurrection body is concerned.
- When God raises the saints at the resurrection of the dead, He is going to bless us with an eternal body that is no longer subject to physical weaknesses and limitations.
- The resurrection body will not know weariness, hunger, disease, or death.

THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS CHRIST

- Is an act of God's Justice.
- Jesus was executed when found guilty of false charges.
- His Resurrection on Easter morning, is God's first fulfillment of true justice for all. Even if we fail in a fight against a system stacked against us, we know that God has the final word.
- We know we have the resurrection power of Christ on our side.
- If He can conquer such an enemy as death, what can He not do?
- Meditate on ways the Resurrection motivates us to work for justice with hope.

STUDENTS RESPONSES

- We love to celebrate life-changing events with others. We celebrate the life of others by renting banquet halls a year in advance. We hire caterers so people can spend a few hours with us on that special day.
- The most significant event to ever happen to us is the Resurrection, and we should find ways to celebrate.
- Today, I challenge you to find a way to celebrate Christ's Resurrection even through this World COVID-19 Pandemic of being quarantine.
- Let's think of creative ways in spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ!