

1 Cor 15:20-34 – Resurrection, pt. 3 (Why It Matters Now)
Midweek: Corinthians
4/18/18

Introduction to the series:

- 4 Parts:
 - The Necessity
 - The Evidence
 - Why it Matters Now
 - Why it Matters in the Future
- Just as the death of Jesus was necessary for the covering of our sins, the resurrection was necessary for the defeating of death. Both were required.
- The Resurrection took place:
 - Jesus actually died
 - The Tomb was actually empty
 - Jesus actually appeared to 500+ people
 - The Disciples were actually changed

Introduction:

- The Story of a Prisoner
 - There is a story of a prisoner who had been locked up for over 30+ years, serving a life sentence. Every day the prisoner would wake up, look out the hole in his cell and wonder what life outside these bars was like. Every morning, noon and evening, the guard would come in, bind his hands with shackles, and escort him to the mess hall where he would eat the same meal. Every night he would lay in bed and think of his life in prison, until he would fall asleep to do it all again the next day.
 - One day, the warden came to him, unlocked the jail cell and exclaimed, “I don’t know how you did it, but your sentence has been taken care of. You have a new life of freedom. You are free to go.”
 - The Prisoner was in shock, he ran out of the jail cell, threw open the front doors and lifted his hands up as he experienced his new-found freedom. For the first time in over 30 years, he experienced the warm sun shining on his skin. He let the wind wash over him like a refreshing spring. The smell of the flowers from a nearby field overtook him. He felt refreshed.
 - He then turned around, walked back into the prison, down the hallway to his cell, shut the bars behind him and laid on his bed. What an experience, he thought to himself.

- A few minutes later the warden came back, “Sir, why are you here, don’t you know you’re free to leave?” The prisoner turned to the warden smiling and said, “Yeah, but I like it here.” The warden, confused by his answer, replied, “What? I can’t hold you up any longer. Your cell is unlocked. Your cuffs have been removed. You are free. Don’t you know there is a new life beyond these prison walls?”
- The prisoner laid back in his bed, looked up at the ceiling and answered, “Yeah but I like it here.”
- Why would the prisoner return? It doesn’t make sense.
 - Doesn’t he know the life of freedom?
 - EXAMPLES
 - Relationship with others
 - Living in house
 - Hiking on a trail
 - Sitting on the beach
 - Reading a book
 - Watching a movie
 - Eating a slice of bacon or piece of key lime pie
- In the Gospel – Believing that Jesus is King
 - Yes, forgiveness
 - But also, given a new life!
 - We have been set free from the bondage and slavery of sin, AND WE ARE FREE TO LIVE IN THE FREEDOM OF CHRIST
 - That Prisoner was given a new life, he tasted it, but then ran back into his bondage
 - That doesn’t make sense
 - So why do we do this in our Christian lives?
 - We experience the goodness and freedom in the Gospel, yet we run back into our cell of bondage in sin and we claim, “We like it here.”
 - In our running back to sin, we say, “This sin is better than the freedom in Jesus.”
- The resurrection doesn’t just offer a future hope
 - WE WILL HIT ON THIS NEXT WEEK
- But the resurrection Offers a present hope:
 - We are made alive in Christ
 - Listen to the language in 1 Cor 15:20-28

²⁰ But as it is, Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. ²¹ For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead also comes through a man. ²² For just 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; afterward, at his coming, those who belong to Christ.

*²⁴ Then comes the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father, when he abolishes all rule and all authority and power. ²⁵ For he must reign until he puts all his enemies under his feet. ²⁶ The last enemy to be abolished is death. ²⁷ For **God has put everything under his feet**. Now when it says “everything” is put under him, it is obvious that he who puts everything under him is the exception. ²⁸ When everything is subject to Christ, then the Son himself will also be subject to the one who subjected everything to him, so that God may be all in all.*

- Paul is saying:
 - Adam brought Death
 - Jesus brought life
 - Jesus is reigning now
 - Yes, his resurrection guarantees our future resurrection
 - But, we also have the benefit of a New (Resurrected) Life Now!

- Outside of this passage, Paul speaks on resurrection living:
 - Phil 3
 - Rom 6 (look at this one tonight)

Two Truths:

The Resurrection means the Believer is:

- **Dead to Sin**
- **Alive in Christ**

- What is the power of the resurrection in our life now?
 - Why does it matter now?
 - We are dead to sin
 - We are alive in Christ

We are Dead to Sin

- In Romans 1-5, Paul lays out the Gospel.
 - Naturally, this is what we here:
 - All fall short of God’s glory
 - All are in need of God’s grace through the sacrifice of His Son Jesus
 - You cannot earn salvation: It was bought through Jesus
 - Believe Jesus and you will be saved
 - So then what of the Christian life?
 - Our works don’t save us, grace is constant:
 - I should continue to sin so that God’s grace is amplified in my life!
 - I should continue in sin because Jesus is just going to forgive me anyway!
 - If we preach the Gospel properly, this should be the natural question:

- First, know this Gospel!

Romans 6:1-2

What should we say then? Should we continue in sin so that grace may multiply? ² Absolutely not! How can we who died to sin still live in it?

- Should we keep sinning?
 - NO!
 - Why?
 - Because we have died to sin!
- Think about your baptism for a second:
 - Buried with Christ
 - Raised to walk in the newness of life

Romans 6:4

⁴ Therefore we were buried with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too may walk in newness of life.

- Baptism represents what Jesus has done.
 - This plays out in our present lives

Romans 6:6-7

⁶ For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be rendered powerless so that we may no longer be enslaved to sin, ⁷ since a person who has died is freed from sin.

- Does something that is dead, have life?
 - Think about a goldfish with your child
 - You have a ceremony down the toilet and it's gone
- We get this in Eph 2:1
 - *And you were dead in your trespasses and sins*
 - But God – Made Us Alive!
 - God saved us – We get what dead means there.
- But then we get to this passage:

Romans 6:11

¹¹ So, you too consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

- Dead doesn't mean dead, it means I've got to keep working to bury it.
- This means that in salvation:
 - We are dead to the rule and reign of sin in our lives.

1 Cor 15:24-26

²⁴ Then comes the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father, when he abolishes all rule and all authority and power. ²⁵ For he must reign until he puts all his enemies under his feet. ²⁶ The last enemy to be abolished is death.

- There cannot be the reign of two kings in your life!

- Salvation brings us into the Kingdom of Jesus or we remain in the Kingdom of darkness.
- How can this be? We still sin! We still feel the draw to sin!
 - There is a difference between a person's position in Christ and his experience.
 - Positionally
 - We are under the reign of Christ. Sin has no power over us. We have been set free.
 - Experientially
 - Think back to the story of the prisoner:
 - We are free, but we return to the prison, walk down the hallway and lie in our cells thinking, "This is better."
- Understanding our position as those who are free sets us up to experience that freedom.
- BECAUSE OF THE RESURRECTION, SIN HAS NO POWER IN THE LIFE OF A BELIEVER.
 - The only reason we still sin is because we let it have power.
 - Martin Lloyd Jones says uses this illustration:
 - Think of the sinful way as one road going one direction
 - Think of salvation as bringing you on a different road leading somewhere else.
 - In salvation, the devil cannot touch us any longer!
 - But he can shout at us:
 - *"Get angry at that other driver, he's being an idiot."*
 - *"You'll find peace at the end of that bottle."*
 - *"Don't have patience for stupid people."*
 - *"She deserves those mean words, didn't you hear what she said to you?"*
 - *"Look at that website, no one is watching."*
 - *"Tell everyone that piece of gossip, it's a good story."*
 - *"You've had a long day, it's fine to be selfish and not help around the house."*
 - *"You aren't as good of a parent as _____"*
 - *"No one loves you. You're going to be alone forever."*
 - *"You'll be happy when _____"*
 - *"Eat the fruit, you won't die, you'll be like God."*
- He has no power, but he still has an annoying voice.
 - The problem is that we give that voice power when we act on it.
 - He can't touch you.
 - He can't control you.
 - He can't make you do anything.
 - Yet he will shout until he is thrown into the pit for the pure satisfaction of thwarting your union with Christ.
- But we are ALIVE IN CHRIST.

We are Alive in Christ

Romans 6:8

⁸ *Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him.*

- A believer who understand the present power of the resurrection
 - Is dead to sin
 - Alive in Christ
- A Life Alive in Christ is like the prisoner who lives in his new life of freedom
 - A Life alive in Christ
 - Recognizes the power of sin is in the shout of Satan
 - The power is only a façade

Romans 6:12-14

¹² *Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, so that you obey its desires.* ¹³ *And do not offer any parts of it to sin as weapons for unrighteousness. But as those who are alive from the dead, offer yourselves to God, and all the parts of yourselves to God as weapons for righteousness.* ¹⁴ *For sin will not rule over you, because you are not under the law but under grace.*

- Paul uses the word “offer”
 - Like we give up our resurrected body parts to do the work of unrighteousness.
- Live in light of your position!
 - Experience the freedom from sin.
 - Don’t be like the newly freed man who ran back to his cell and claimed “This is better.”
 - Be like the freed person who experiences his freedom in Christ!
 - Not to keep sinning. But to experience the presence of the Lord in your life. The goodness of the creation resting in the creator.
 - To experience the glorious riches of a life in Christ!

To close, let’s go back to Paul in 1 Cor 15:29-34:

²⁹ *Otherwise what will they do who are being baptized for the dead?^[e] If the dead are not raised at all, then why are people baptized for them?^[l]³⁰ Why are we in danger every hour? ³¹ I face death every day, as surely as I may boast about you, brothers and sisters, in Christ Jesus our Lord. ³² If I fought wild beasts in Ephesus as a mere man, what good did that do me? If the dead are not raised, **Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die.**^[g] ³³ Do not be deceived: “Bad company corrupts good morals.” ³⁴ Come to your senses^[h] and stop sinning; for some people are ignorant about God. I say this to your shame.*

- Paul recognized:
 - If the resurrection didn’t happen – Then Let us eat and drink for tomorrow we die
 - Let us live it up and live it out
- But the resurrection did happen so what then?
 - Come to your senses and stop sinning
 - For you have been set free, live in your freedom (Not the lies of Satan)