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Sermon Notes

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Where O Death is Your Victory?!

1 Corinthians 15:50-58

Today, we celebrate the death of death in the resurrection of Jesus Christ!

Today we celebrate not only Christ's victory over the grave, but the fact that, through faith in Christ, we ourselves will someday look with triumph on the grave; we will be radiant in resurrection bodies; we will shine like the sun in the Kingdom of our Father.

Not only so, but today we celebrate the eternal consequence of our labor in the Lord... the eternal value of everything we do in service to Jesus Christ.

Death has stood over us, mocking us, taunting us, and proclaiming that everything we are, everything we do, everyone we love, everything we cherish will someday be dust in the wind... death has told us that everything VANITY... emptiness... worthlessness

To some degree, the Book of Ecclesiastes seemed to agree with this hopeless perspective on the value of life:

Ecclesiastes 1:2-4 "Vanity of vanities," says the Preacher, "Vanity of vanities! All is vanity." ³ What advantage does man have in all his work Which he does under the sun? ⁴ A generation goes and a generation comes

Death stood over the wise man in Ecclesiastes and mocked everything he did... it mocked his pleasures and his projects... he enjoyed life for a while, but found that he soon realized death exposed as utter futility the temporary pleasures of eating and drinking and laughter and music; so the wise man turned to vast projects—he build flourishing gardens and architectural projects, he studied plant life and animal life and the science of the world around him; he worked and worked, but the whole time he was busy with elaborate projects, one thought dominated his mind: "Someday, I'm going to die and when I do, I will hand all this over to someone else... and he may be a fool and squander all the good things I have left him. AND WHAT GOOD IS THAT?"

Death taunted him and mocked him and said, "In the end, you're NO BETTER THAN A BEAST!"

Ecclesiastes 3:19-20 For the fate of the sons of men and the fate of beasts is the same. As one dies so dies the other; indeed, they all have the same breath and there is no advantage for man over beast, for all is vanity. ²⁰ All go to the same place. All came from the dust and all return to the dust.

So, the wise man in Ecclesiastes came to this sorrowful conclusion:

"I HATED LIFE!"

Why? Because death made everything VANITY, vanity, vanity... emptiness, worthlessness, dust in the wind

Such a gloomy outlook is actually very common in this world... but one is surprised to find it in the Bible...

But there's a key phrase Solomon, the author of Ecclesiastes uses: "under the sun"... he uses it 27 times in Ecclesiastes

Ecclesiastes 1:3 What does man gain by all the toil at which he toils under the sun?

Ecclesiastes 1:14 I have seen everything that is done under the sun, and behold, all is vanity and a striving after wind.

Ecclesiastes 2:11 Yet when I surveyed all that my hands had done and what I had toiled to achieve, everything was meaningless, a chasing after the wind; nothing was gained under the sun.

"Under the sun" = life on earth IF THERE IS NO RESURRECTION FROM THE DEAD!!

The remedy to this dreary depressing refrain, "VAINTY of VANITIES... all is vanity" is found in the final verse of 1 Corinthians 15:

1 Corinthians 15:58 ¶ Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.

Because of Christ's resurrection from the dead, our lives are not vanity, our loves are not vanity, our works are not vanity!!

Christ's resurrection changes everything!! Death the former mocker is now mocked! The grave which has stood undefeated, with no solution, has been defeated:

1 Corinthians 15:54-55 "Death has been swallowed up in victory." ⁵⁵ "Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?"

I. The Fact of Christ's Resurrection

A. Some Corinthians Were Questioning the Resurrection

1. Greek philosophy delighted in the spiritual, rejected the physical
2. To some, the idea of resurrection was absurd; they mocked at Paul for preaching the resurrection in Athens
3. Some of those ideas were polluting the Corinthian church as well

1 Corinthians 15:12 ¶ But if it is preached that Christ has been raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead?

B. Foundational to the Gospel of Our Salvation:

1 Corinthians 15:1-6 Now, brothers, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. ² By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain. ³ ¶ For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴ that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, ⁵ and that he appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve. ⁶ After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers at the same time

C. Clearly Reported in the Gospels

John 20:19-20 On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

Luke 24:36-43 Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." ³⁷ They were startled and frightened, thinking they saw a ghost. ³⁸ He said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds? ³⁹ Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have." ⁴⁰ When he had said this, he showed them his hands and feet. ⁴¹ And while they still did not believe it because of joy and amazement, he asked them, "Do you have anything here to eat?" ⁴² They gave him a piece of broiled fish, ⁴³ and he took it and ate it in their presence.

D. Established in this Chapter as Well

1 Corinthians 15:20 But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead

E. Must be Accepted BY FAITH

John 20:26-29 *A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!"* ²⁷ *Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe."* ²⁸ *Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!"* ²⁹ *Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."*

On what basis? The Scripture's testimony to it!

John 20:6-9 *He saw the strips of linen lying there,* ⁷ *as well as the burial cloth that had been around Jesus' head. The cloth was folded up by itself, separate from the linen.* ⁸ *Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed.* ⁹ *(They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.)*

F. Faith in Resurrection Foundational to Our Salvation from Sin

Romans 10:9-10 *That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.* ¹⁰ *For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.*

II. The Link to Our Resurrection

A. What Good Would it be TO US is Christ Rose from the Dead, But We Won't?

1. God is already exalted, high and lifted up... eternally happy
2. If all that Christ's resurrection meant is that He gets more praise for doing yet another amazing thing, but we still end up in hell, what good would it be for us?

B. The Joy of the Resurrection is THIS:

John 14:19 *Because I live, you also will live.*

C. And This:

John 11:25-26 *"I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies;* ²⁶ *and whoever lives and believes in me will never die.*

D. And in our Chapter today, THIS:

1 Corinthians 15:20 *But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.*

1 Corinthians 15:23 Christ, the firstfruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him.

We celebrate on Easter Sunday because we believe that Christ's resurrection has guaranteed our own! We believe that Christ has destroyed death FOR US! His victory over the grave is OUR victory over the grave!

III. The Nature of Our Resurrection

A. Paul Addresses Questions We All Have About this Doctrine

1 Corinthians 15:35 But someone may ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body will they come?"

B. Deep Practical Questions

1. The particulars of the resurrection... the PHYSICAL DETAILS
2. Paul begins by rebuking their curiosity at one level

1 Corinthians 15:36 How foolish!

3. It is foolish to assume that the body cannot and will not be in some sense transformed and fit for eternity... perhaps he also means it is foolish to think "If I can't reason out the physical details, then I can't believe it"
 - a. Like some that say, "How can a body that is totally incinerated in a jet plane crash so that there is literally nothing left be bodily 'raised' from the dead?"
 - b. Such a person may say, "If I can't reason out the resurrection of the body, then I can't believe in it."
 - c. Some of the resurrection body's attributes will remain a mystery to us
 - d. But God has chosen to reveal these aspects to us here in this chapter
4. So Paul gives us a glorious series of statements that gives us the sense of the future resurrection bodies we will have

C. The Nature of the Resurrection Body

1. First: continuity

1 Corinthians 15:36-38 What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. ³⁷ When you sow, you do not plant the body that will be, but just a seed, perhaps of wheat or of something else. ³⁸ But God gives it a body as he has determined, and to each kind of seed he gives its own body.

Paul compares the resurrection body to a seed planted in the ground and its relationship to what springs up from it... there is a LINK

So it is with us: GOD WILL RAISE US UP from the dead... there is a direct connection between our present bodies and our resurrection bodies

2. Second: contrast

1 Corinthians 15:42-44 So will it be with the resurrection of the dead. The body that is sown is perishable, it is raised imperishable; 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.

- a. A series of magnificent contrasts with the present physical body:
 - i) Perishable vs. imperishable
 - ii) Dishonor vs. glory
 - iii) Weakness vs. power
 - iv) Natural vs. spiritual
- b. The present body is SOWN like a seed... in death... in the grave... we were taken from dust, and in Adam, to dust we must return as a curse for our sin as the human race
 - i) It is sown as a perishable seed... it immediately begins to DECAY, and there is, as Martha said “A bad stench” associated with a dead body;
 - ii) It is sown in dishonor... there is a sense of shame connected with the decaying of the corpse and the sowing of it into the ground
 - iii) It is the very picture of weakness... the physical body is WEAK in that it is subject to fatigue, illness, and ultimately death
 - iv) The present physical body is a natural body... it is subject to the laws of nature as God restrained it
- c. By contrast, the resurrection body will be IMPERISHABLE, GLORIOUS, POWERFUL, and SPIRITUAL
 - i) IMPERISHABLE... no decay at all, no wearing out or loss of attributes over time, no aging, etc.
 - ii) GLORIOUS:

Matthew 13:43 Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father.

- iii) POWERFUL: able to do anything God wills for the body to do... characterized by POWER... no weakness, no fatigue, no illness, astonishing energy and ability under God
- iv) SPIRITUAL: a deep mystery... a “spiritual body” having all the attributes of a physical body, but essentially SPIRITUAL... like Jesus’ resurrection body... having attributes of a physical body...

Luke 24:39 Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have.

But very different as well:

John 20:26 Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!"

Luke 24:31 Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight.

IV. The Necessity of Our Resurrection

A. Paul’s final point: the bodily resurrection **MUST** take place... we **MUST** be transformed if we are to be fit for heaven

1 Corinthians 15:50 I declare to you, brothers, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

B. It is of the essential nature of both HUMANITY and GOD that this transformation must take place

1. Human beings were created by God to be BOTH physical and spiritual
2. For us through sin to lose our physical side and be disembodied spirits forever means God failed in His attempt to redeem humanity fully
3. So for us to be truly human in heaven, we **MUST** have bodies... but those bodies **CANNOT** be our present corrupted bodies... we **MUST** be transformed

Corruption, decay, and death is woven into the very fabric of our bodily lives here on earth

We begin dying the moment we’re born; every moment of our lives, our cells are dying and being replaced, but imperfectly;

If we spent eternity in these corruptible bodies, it would be excruciating torture

4. Paul says our present bodies are PERISHABLE... CORRUPTIBLE; they are NOT FIT for ETERNITY!!
5. And God Himself cannot dwell in the presence of our corruption... He MUST have us pure, or He cannot look upon us or live with us
6. Our bodily resurrection is an ABSOLUTE NECESSITY for us to live ETERNALLY and FULLY HUMAN with a holy God in heaven as He intended

V. The Timing of Our Resurrection

1 Corinthians 15:51-53 Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed--⁵² in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.⁵³ For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality.

A. The Mystery: Not Everyone will Die

1. There will be a final generation, alive and walking the earth, when Jesus Christ returns and end human history in this present age
2. Paul says “we will not all sleep” = we will not all die physically
3. The circumstances of the Second Coming of Christ

Matthew 24:38-41 For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark;³⁹ and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man.⁴⁰ Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other left.⁴¹ Two women will be grinding with a hand mill; one will be taken and the other left.

4. So, normal life will be going on right up until the moment Christ appears in the skies to end the world

B. BUT We will ALL BE CHANGED

1. “We” = all Christians... all those being fitted for eternity in heaven
2. We will be changed, transformed, made new... as we’ve been saying

C. “In a Flash, in a Twinkling of an Eye”

1. The change will be instantaneous...

2. Good translation of “flash” = “split second”... literally: a period of time so brief it can't be cut in two
3. “In the blink of an eye”...
4. This is no process, no training regimen, no exercises needed, no diet change required, no pills to take, no weights to lift, no pain involved at all
5. This is GLORIFICATION... the final stage of salvation... instantaneously made physically perfect, conformed to the perfection of Christ
6. The internal (soul) glorification will take place for those Christians alive when Jesus returns as well... their souls made perfect (perfect thoughts, perfect love, perfectly free from evil)

D. “At the Last Trumpet”

1. Paul is speaking of the Second Coming of Christ here... this is the timing of this resurrection from the dead

1 Corinthians 15:52 For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.

2. Just as he said earlier in the chapter

1 Corinthians 15:22-24 For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. ²³ But each in his own turn: Christ, the firstfruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him. ²⁴ Then the end will come

3. And elsewhere

Matthew 24:30-31 "At that time the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and all the nations of the earth will mourn. They will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky, with power and great glory. ³¹ And he will send his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other.

1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever.

VI. The Triumph of Our Resurrection

1 Corinthians 15:54-55 When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true:

"Death has been swallowed up in victory." ⁵⁵ "Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?"

A. These Words Are FILLED With Triumph!!

1. For all of human history, death has seemingly reigned undefeated and undefeatable by medical science or black arts or meditation or meticulous care
2. Death is "the final enemy"... and a bitter enemy is has been

Death was born an enemy, death plunders like an enemy, death is a universal enemy, death is a mocking enemy, death is a sudden enemy... this great, powerful foe is more than we can handle, and unless we have a savior, we shall like trampled under death's boot forever!

- a. The agony it has caused is incalculable
- b. How many grief-stricken parents have buried their own children?
- c. How many wailing wives have looked on the corpses of their husbands slain in battle?
- d. How many shocked children have never forgotten discovering the body of one of their parents?
- e. How many times have rescue workers pulled lifeless bodies from heaps of rubble after an earthquake?
- f. How many people have slipped into eternity from ICUs when state of the art medicine could do nothing more for them?
- g. Death has visited king's palaces and mud hovels; it has stricken Olympic athletes in the prime of life, and weak and sickly people; death has robbed infants from the cradle and extremely old people who could barely move
- h. In all of this, DEATH STOOD LIKE A TYRANT, a victor seemingly unbeatable... mocking everything we did, everything we loved, everything we hoped for in life

B. In Christ, the TABLES ARE TURNED!

1. Death is addressed directly and boldly
2. As at the end of a battle, the vanquished foe is taunted, derided, mocked
3. **"Where now is all your vaunted power, O death? What has become of all your weapons?"**

C. Death is SWALLOWED UP in Victory!

1. Christ didn't just eke out a victory over death... He demolished it! Christ's resurrection SWALLOWED UP death totally! Consumed it! Overwhelmed it!
2. How so? Because death cannot do anything to him ever again! He won an ETERNAL victory over death!
3. And Christ has rescued a multitude greater than anyone can count from every nation on earth... and death will have no power over them either!!
4. So death is taunted here... Paul quotes Isaiah 25 and Hosea 13, but changes them slightly from the Old Testament to focus on the victory aspect... to rejoice over death and celebrate it totally

D. Where Death Got Existence and Power

1 Corinthians 15:56 The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law.

1. We should not imagine that death is merely a BIOLOGICAL issue; like death is part of life; etc.
2. Death entered the world through Adam's sin as a penalty for sin

Romans 5:12 sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned

3. The law came to draw sin out... not to conquer it

Romans 5:20 The law was added so that the trespass might increase.

Romans 7:9-10 Once I was alive apart from law; but when the commandment came, sin sprang to life and I died. ¹⁰ I found that the very commandment that was intended to bring life actually brought death.

4. The law actually PRODUCES SIN, and then JUDGES IT
5. Christ's death on the cross has paid the penalty for our sins and removed the stinger from death entirely

1 Corinthians 15:57 But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

6. Exactly like what Paul says at the end of Romans 7

Romans 7:24-25 What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? ²⁵ Thanks be to God-- through Jesus Christ our Lord!

VII. The Application of Our Resurrection

1 Corinthians 15:58 Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.

A. What's at Stake: The "Work of the Lord"

1. Paul is zealous for their WORK and their LABOR

ESV 1 Corinthians 15:58 Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

2. He uses two words that together refer to everything they were doing for Jesus Christ... it is the "work OF THE LORD" and the "labor IN THE LORD"
3. Any work done for Jesus Christ by the power of the Spirit... but especially the use of their spiritual gifts to build up the Body of Christ to full maturity, and ESPECIALLY the courageous proclamation of the gospel that he reviews at the beginning of this chapter:

1 Corinthians 15:3-4 Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴ that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures

4. Paul wants this tempted, tried, assaulted church to continue doing those same works for the Lord... to not give up through discouragement those very labors that God will use to build the church in Corinth and around the world

B. "Be Steadfast, Immovable, Always Abounding"

1. Defensively: "Let nothing move you..."
 - a. Become... (ginomai... a sense in which this is something they must BECOME, not that they already are... let God work astounding stability in you)
 - b. Steadfast and immovable: two words in the Greek that give a sense of unshakable determination in the face of overwhelming forces that would sweep them from their labors in the Lord
 - c. The focus here, clearly, is on the hearts of the Corinthian Christians... their MORALE in the face of all that Satan is doing to stop them from their labors for Christ... demons assault them with temptations... they become discouraged and stop reaching out with the gospel... their resolve swept away before the Satanic flood...

d. Imagine a flood of the Mississippi River, overflowing its banks and coming within the next 12 hours to your small town; you go out with all the other men of the town and set up a barrier against the flood; but the barrier is woefully inadequate, and it is instantly swept away by the flood waters; NO... don't let that happen... when you set out to serve Christ, BECOME STEADFAST and IMMOVABLE in your determination... don't be easily swept away

2. Offensively: "Always abounding in the work of the Lord"

a. Let's turn the image of the flood around... when Satan comes at you like a flood, tempting you to give up, DON'T... be STEADFAST and IMMOVABLE, then rush at his evil Kingdom like a flood yourself

b. Be ALWAYS ABOUNDING

i) The word "abounding" = to be rich in something, to have it in a super abundance... let not your works and labors for Christ be few... let every single day be lived FULLY to the glory of Christ; do ALL the good works God ordains for you every single day

ii) "always" = Paul adds this word... don't let some of your days be rich in good works for Christ and other days be poor; let your life be always abounding in the work of the Lord

C. "Knowing that your labor in the Lord is not in vain"

1. HOW do we KNOW this? What is the source of this knowledge?

2. It is none other than BY FAITH... we trust that the sovereign power of Jesus Christ will establish the works of our hands

3. BUT it goes infinitely deeper than that

4. It is the whole point of this chapter

a. The application of 57 verses on the resurrection of the body is this:

b. WORK HARD FOR JESUS YOUR WHOLE LIVES!!!

5. Why? Because of the absolute certainty of the bodily resurrection from the dead, we KNOW that our labor in the Lord is not in vain

6. What does "IN VAIN" mean?

a. Greek word = "kenos"... nothing, empty, a wasteland

b. Like Solomon in writing Ecclesiastes: "Vanity of vanities... everything is vanity"... the feeling someone gets when they build an entire building,

pouring countless hours into the construction project, and then the thing is totally destroyed by a fire the day before it is dedicated

- c. BUT this word is NEGATED in verse 58... it is NOT IN VAIN... it produced a valuable outcome, a bountiful harvest, something worthwhile
 - d. The clear idea here: at the end of all things, when the resurrection of the body occurs, you will look back at your labors for the Lord and you will be deeply, richly satisfied with all of them... not a single thing you did for Jesus will be wasted... not one of those good works will have been IN VAIN
7. Paul says “YOU KNOW this...”
- a. You KNOW that your labor in the Lord is not in vain
 - b. How do we come to this conclusion? Only by faith in the promises and the power of God
 - c. Parallel text: Hebrews 10:34

Hebrews 10:34 You sympathized with those in prison and joyfully accepted the confiscation of your property, because you knew that you yourselves had better and lasting possessions.

- d. Something we KNOW about our future life in HEAVEN enables us to live a certain way NOW
- e. In Hebrews 10:34, because we KNOW that we have a better and lasting possession in heaven, we can joyfully accept the seizure of our earthly possessions in the service to Christ
- f. In 1 Corinthians 15:58, because we KNOW that our labor in the Lord is not in vain, we can be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord
- g. BY FAITH ALONE is this knowledge possible... and by faith alone will be live this kind of a God-honoring, Christ-exalting life!!

D. SO WHAT IS THE LINK???

- 1. Vs. 58 begins with a Greek word “hoste” which is translated “therefore”
- 2. Paul thinks that a right understanding of the doctrine of the bodily resurrection from the dead logically results in a life of abundant, confident labors for the Lord

3. Understanding and trusting that link is the main purpose of my message to you today
 4. Paul felt that the 57 verses of 1 Corinthians 15 leading up to this exhortation logically resulted in that exhortation... in other words, he believed that a thorough, careful treatment of the doctrine of the resurrection of the body would PRODUCE the kind of life of self-denying, Christ-exalting, immovable determination to ABOUND in the works of the gospel
 5. Two responses on our part
 - a. To understand WHY there is a link between the doctrine and the life
 - b. To trust it and drink from that fountain
- E. To Non-Christians: BELIEVE IN THE LORD JESUS CHRIST!!!
1. The resurrection of Christ is only good news if you BELIEVE IT!
 2. God is spreading a banquet feast here and inviting you to sit and eat!
 3. He is offering in Christ to forgive all your sins, to free you forever from fear of death
 4. He is offering to give you eternal health, power, vigor in a glorious resurrection body
 5. TRUST IN HIM AND LIVE!
- F. To Christians:
1. Rejoice in your future resurrection!
 2. Ponder the details of your resurrection body
 - a. Not perishable but IMPERISHABLE
 - b. Not weakness but POWER
 - c. Not dishonor but GLORY
 - d. Not natural but SPIRITUAL
 3. Do not fear dying or death!!
 4. Be steadfast and immovable in temptation!
 5. Be always abounding in the work of the Lord

- a. Use your spiritual gifts to build up the Body of Christ
 - b. Offer hospitality
 - c. Pray regularly
 - d. Do mercy ministry
 - e. BE RICH in good works with an eye to the resurrection!
6. Know that your labor in the Lord is not IN VAIN!!
 - a. Resurrection makes it guaranteed to be successful and rewarding!!

John 6:39-40 And this is the will of him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all that he has given me, but raise them up at the last day. ⁴⁰ For my Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day.

7. So... be active in EVANGELISM and MISSIONS!!! Nothing can stop this resurrection victory!!