

Our Final Hope

Text : **I Corinthians 15: 35-53**

S#1.
S#2.

A. We have been considering the most important events in all of human history.

1. The sacrifice of the Son of God on the cross changed the future of mankind.
2. Jesus was not murdered, but rather He voluntarily gave Himself for our sins.
 - a. **John 1: 29** – The next day he saw Jesus coming to him and said, **S#3.**
"Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"
 - b. **Mark 10: 45** – For even the Son of Man did not come to be served,
but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."
3. Jesus was nailed to the cross by wicked men, but He allowed it to happen.
John 10: 17-18 – For this reason the Father loves Me, because I lay down **S#4.**
My life so that I may take it again. **18** " No one has taken it away from Me,
but I lay it down on My own initiative. I have authority to lay it down, and
I have authority to take it up again.
4. Because Jesus was sacrificed, the penalty for our sins was paid by His blood.
Eph. 1: 7 – In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness **S#5.**
of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace **S#6.**

B. The sacrifice of Jesus was a milestone in human history, but there is one greater.

1. The most important event of all time is the resurrection of Jesus from the grave.
2. Our last lesson observed the resurrection of Jesus produced some amazing results.
 - a. The resurrection proved that Jesus was, is and always will be God.
Rom. 1: 4 – Who was declared the Son of God with power by the resurrection **S#7.**
from the dead, according to the Spirit of holiness, Jesus Christ our Lord,
 - b. The resurrection established Jesus as the sovereign ruler of Heaven and earth.
Matt. 28: 18 – And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, " All authority
has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. **19** Go therefore
and make disciples of all the nations,
 - c. The resurrection proved that Jesus will judge the world in righteousness.
Acts 17: 30-31 – Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is **S#8.**
now declaring to men that all people everywhere should repent, **31**
because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in
righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed, having
furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead.
 - d. The resurrection proved that we really will receive the salvation He promised.
John 14: 1-3 – Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in **S#9.**
Me. **2** In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so,
I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. **3** If I go and
prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself,
that where I am, there you may be also.

TRANSITION :

A. Because Jesus raised Himself from the grave, He can raise us also.

B. This lesson will observe some aspects of our resurrection.

S#10.

1. The resurrection of all people is a certainty.
2. The same body that goes into the grave will be resurrected.
3. Our resurrection body will be changed.
4. Why should we anticipate our resurrection?

I. The resurrection of all people is a certainty.

S#11.

A. Many today do not believe in the resurrection.

S#12.

1. A recent survey in England, only 57% of regular attenders believed. (5% no)
2. An American survey taken by Scripps Howard News service in April 2006 :
 - a. 36 % Believed in their resurrection
 - b. 54% Did not believe in a resurrection
 - c. 10% Had no opinion

B. From the time of the patriarchs people have believed in the resurrection.

S#13.

1. No one knows the date, but the story of Job is the oldest writing in the bible.
2. Job clearly believed that he would live again.
Job 19: 25-27 – As for me, I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last He will take His stand on the earth. **26** Even after my skin is destroyed, Yet from my flesh I shall see God; **27** Whom I myself shall behold, And whom my eyes will see and not another.
3. In the 1st century the Sadducees did not believe in the resurrection, spirits or angel.

C. Jesus taught that He would raise ALL of the dead from the graves.

1. **John 5: 25-29** – Truly, truly, I say to you, an hour is coming and now is, when **S#14.**
 the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. **26** For just as the Father has life in Himself, even so He gave to the Son also to have life in Himself; **27** and He gave Him authority to execute judgment, because He is the Son of Man. **28** "Do not marvel at this; for an hour is coming, in which all who are in the tombs will hear His voice, **29** and will come forth; those who did the good deeds to a resurrection of life, those who committed the evil deeds to a resurrection of judgment.
2. **John 11: 43** ... Jesus called Lazarus by name and came forth from the grave,

D. The Apostles taught the resurrection of ALL the dead.**S#15.**

1. **Acts 24: 15** – Having a hope in God, which these men cherish themselves, that there shall certainly be a resurrection of both the righteous and the wicked. **16** In view of this, I also do my best to maintain always a blameless conscience both before God and before men.
2. The resurrection is motivation for Godly living.

II. The body that goes into the grave is the body that will be resurrected.**S#16.****A. The word “resurrection” { anástasis } is defined as “a standing up again.”****S#17.**

1. This means to return to a former state.
2. Thus, nothing can stand “again” unless it was standing in the past.

B. Jesus specified that His physical body would be raised from the grave.

John 2: 19-20 – Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." **20** The Jews then said, "It took forty-six years to build this temple, and will You raise it up in three days?"
21 But He was speaking of the temple of His body.

S#18.**C. The body of Jesus that was buried, came forth leaving the tomb empty.**

1. **Luke 24: 1-3** – But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb bringing the spices which they had prepared. **2** And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb, **3** but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus.
2. **John 20: 3-8** ... Peter and John also saw the empty tomb.

S#19.**D. Jesus demonstrated that He was in the same body that had been crucified.****S#20.**

1. The women were able to cling to the feet of Jesus. (*tangible mass*)
Matt. 28: 9 – And behold, Jesus met them and greeted them. And they came up and took hold of His feet and worshiped Him.
2. The disciples put their hands in the holes in Jesus body.
John 20: 27-28 – stood in their midst and said, " Peace be with you." **27** Then He said to Thomas, " Reach here with your finger, and see My hands; and reach here your hand and put it into My side; and do not be unbelieving, but believing." **28** Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!" (*reaction proved verity*)
3. Jesus demonstrated His humanity by eating with the disciples in His resurrected body
Luke 24: 41 – While they still could not believe it because of their joy and amazement, He said to them, " Have you anything here to eat?"
42 They gave Him a piece of a broiled fish; **43** and He took it and ate it before them.

S#21.**S#22.**

E. Even the bodies of those buried (lost) at sea will be raised.

1. **Rev. 20: 12-13** – And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before **S#23.** the throne, and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is the book of life; and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds. **13** And the sea gave up the dead which were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead which were in them; and they were judged, every one of them according to their deeds.
2. The power of God to raise the dead is not limited by the condition of the body.
 - a. Many of the Christian martyrs were fed to the wild beasts.
 - b. Some were used as torches, burned at the stake, fed to the fish, scattered in pieces

S#24.**III. We do not know what our resurrected body will be like, but it will be changed.****A. Some early Christians were starting to panic because Jesus had not returned.**

1. Paul explains that the resurrection is fundamental to our belief system.
I Cor. 15: 12-14 – Now if Christ is preached, that He has been raised from the **S#25.** dead, how do some among you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? **13** But if there is no resurrection of the dead, not even Christ has been raised; **14** and if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is vain, your faith also is vain.
2. When Christ returns the living have no advantage over the dead.
I Thes. 4: 13 – But we do not want you to be uninformed, brethren, about those **S#26.** who are asleep, so that you will not grieve as do the rest who have no hope.
14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus. **15** For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. **16** For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. **17** Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord.

B. We are not told exactly what our new body will be, but it must change.

1. **I Cor. 15: 50-51** – Now I say this, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit **S#27.** the kingdom of God; nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.
51 Behold, I tell you a mystery; we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed, **52** in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. **53** For this perishable must put on the imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality.
2. **I Pet. 1: 3-5** ... The Apostle Peter admonishes us to stay steadfast during our trials because God has great things for us “ready to be revealed in the last time.”

3. Our new body will be prepared for our new dwelling place.

I Cor. 15: 47 – The first man is from the earth, earthy; the second man is from **S#28.** Heaven. **48** As is the earthy, so also are those who are earthy; and as is the heavenly, so also are those who are heavenly. **49** Just as we have borne the image of the earthy, we will also bear the image of the heavenly.

C. Death and decay are part of the resurrection process.

1. **I Cor. 15: 36** – You fool! That which you sow does not come to life unless it **S#29.** dies; **37** and that which you sow, you do not sow the body which is to be, but a bare grain, perhaps of wheat or of something else. **38** But God gives it a body just as He wished, and to each of the seeds a body of its own.
2. Those who are asleep in Jesus will not be at a disadvantage.

I Thes. 4: 14 – For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will **#30.** bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus. **15** For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep.

IV. Why should the Christian live in anticipation of our resurrection ?

S#31.

A. Rev. 21-22 ... Our Resurrection results in eternal JOY.

1. There will be abundance of everything.
2. The throne of God will be there.
3. There will be NO evil people there.
4. There will be no tears.
5. There will be no pain and no death.
6. There will be total security.
7. God will interact directly with us.

B. Our resurrected body will be glorified like that of Jesus.

S#32.

1. **I John 3: 2** – Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be **like Him,** because we will see Him just as He is. **3** And everyone who has this hope fixed on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.
2. **Phil. 3: 20** – For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait **S#33.** for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ; **21** who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself.

C. When we are resurrected, we will be with the Lord we love eternally.

S#34.

I Thes 4: 17 – Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord.

CONCLUSION :**A. What should our response be ?****S#35.**

1. **I John 3: 2** – Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is. **3** And everyone who has this hope fixed on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure. **S#36.**
2. **I Cor. 15: 58** – Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord. **S#37.**

B. Are you able to live in anticipation of eternity with Jesus to Christ ?**S#38.**

1. Those who are outside of Christ have no anticipation of acceptance by God. **S#39.**
Eph. 2: 12 – remember that you were at that time separate from Christ, excluded from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.
2. Those who are believers, but have not surrendered to Him will be lost.
Matt. 7: 21 – Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter. **22** Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?' **23** And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness.' **S#40.**
3. **I Thes. 4: 16** – For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. **17** Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord. **S#41.**

INVITATION :**S#42.** ... Communion slide

Lesson Text :**I Corinthians 15: 35-53**

35 But someone will say, "How are the dead raised? And with what kind of body do they come?" **36** You fool! That which you sow does not come to life unless it dies; **37** and that which you sow, you do not sow the body which is to be, but a bare grain, perhaps of wheat or of something else. **38** But God gives it a body just as He wished, and to each of the seeds a body of its own. **39** All flesh is not the same flesh, but there is one flesh of men, and another flesh of beasts, and another flesh of birds, and another of fish. **40** There are also heavenly bodies and earthly bodies, but the glory of the heavenly is one, and the glory of the earthly is another. **41** There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for star differs from star in glory.

42 So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown a perishable body, it is raised an imperishable body; **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. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body. **45** So also it is written, "*The first man, Adam, became a living soul.*" The last Adam became a life-giving spirit. **46** However, the spiritual is not first, but the natural; then the spiritual. **47** The first man is from the earth, earthy; the second man is from heaven. **48** As is the earthy, so also are those who are earthy; and as is the heavenly, so also are those who are heavenly. **49** Just as we have borne the image of the earthy, we will also bear the image of the heavenly.

50 Now I say this, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. **51** Behold, I tell you a mystery; we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed, **52** in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. **53** For this perishable must put on the imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality.

John 5: 25-29

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