



Lesson 7 April 11th, 2020

Resurrection Hope

LESSON FOR JUNIORS

Study Scripture – 1 Corinthians 15:1-8, 12-14, 20-23, 42-45

Background Scripture – 1 Corinthians 15:1-45

Key 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 firstfruits of them that slept."

1 Corinthians 15:19-20

INTRODUCTION

We are now looking at several extremely teachings from the Word of God. These teachings are extremely important today. These teachings were very important in the days the apostle Paul lived in the first century when the Apostle Paul was writing. He was writing to a church that he had established in a city called Corinth in Greece.

The people there had the wrong idea that divided things into two parts, such as good and evil, or matter and things that were not matter. The problem with that was that they thought that human beings had a soul or spirit that was not matter, and that part of them was good, but they also had a body which consisted of physical matter, and that part was bad and should be thrown away if one could do that. When someone died that "bad" part of them was gone and the good part of them "the spirit" would survive.

That of course was completely wrong. The Apostle Paul had to teach the people the correct situation for all human beings, namely, that all their physical bodies, as well as their souls or spirits are loved by God love. God loves all of man not just one part.

Because of this great love God would eventually transform or change the spirits of men and women so that it would become very, very good and He would change their bodies so that their bodies would be changed to be very, very good and be much superior to the bodies that they had before.

The body that we do have now which because of sin committed in the Garden of Eden and which because of that sin sometimes suffer pain, sickness, and give us much trouble would one day be totally changed and made spectacular and glorious. Our bodies and our spirits would shine more than a brilliant star and we would be able to do a lot of things that we cannot even dream of doing now.

This is what the Apostle Paul had to teach the people in Corinth. He teaches us the same thing today. That is, that the resurrection body that God would give to everyone that believe in the Lord Jesus Christ is real and powerful and will be given to all believers.

Now let us see what the Scriptures teach us. The teachings of the Apostle Paul are extremely important here for he goes through some of what he used to do before Jesus spoke to him and changed him. Remember therefore Jesus can change you so that you will do things that will be pleasing to Him and stop doing wrong things.

Have you ever done things that were not pleasant for other people? You might have even thought that what you were doing was right but in fact God said that these things were wrong and shouldn't be done. Paul was in that position. He was mad at God even though he did not know it at the time. As a result of this he persecuted the Church of Jesus Christ saying that this church that Jesus had established was teaching the wrong things. So he persecuted them and mistreated them and did some very bad things to them.

But when he met Jesus he was very sorry at what he had done. He repented and accepted God's love and received forgiveness from God. We call this grace. God offers His grace to people who don't deserve it.

Just remember sometimes that we might have a toy or some furniture that is not so useful anymore. We do not always want to throw it away so we fix it up, maybe paint it, do some repairs, and it becomes as good as new. We call that recycling.

Recycling is a very good thing for us to do. When we can recycle things we will not be wasting it but we will give it to people that actually badly need it and would love to receive it.

So God recycles people by His great, gracious, loving, and powerful forgiveness. God changed all who come to Him. He will change all those that come to Him for help. He had done that though they do not really deserve it. God will turn any person no matter how bad they have been into a person of great usefulness.

Paul was so changed that he became willing and very able to share God's love with others. He did a very great job. He wrote many of the books in the New Testament and he started many churches. He taught the people very well. His writings are of tremendous benefit to us today. So he did a great job after God recycles him and changed him.

Remember God can do the same for you. No matter what you are doing God still loves you and will recycle and change you so that you will become very loving and useful to everybody.

Remember that when you wake up in the mornings and walk around and look at the many different types of things that God created such as flowers, insects, bees, cows and other animals, fruits like strawberries, apples, and when you look at a sea creatures like whales and dolphins, you should remember that God has made an exciting world. There are many unusual



and amazing forms of life in the world. They are very many amazing and beautiful plants and animals and fruits and other food that God has made available for us.

So God has given us life. He has and is still giving life to all these things in His creation life. God loves everything that He has created and He loves human beings specially with a special love.

God loves human beings so much that those who accept God's love are given a special life even after they have died. So the Apostle Paul says something that gives a great amount of joy. He says:

“so also in Christ all will be made alive”. We read that in 1 Corinthians 15:22.

Do you like fruit? We all like the many, many sweet tasting fruits that we pick when the fruit is ripe on the tree. We get a chance to choose to buy this fruit sometimes all through the year. We have all kinds of sweet tasting fruit in the stores because people store them all year and all through the winter months, the times of year when they are not on the tree. Sometimes fruit becomes scarce and people therefore are glad to get them when they can.

But in the Bible God tells Paul that he should compare us to “beautiful fruit”. The people in Israel called the fruit that they picked in the springtime “first fruits”. When they picked the first apples from the trees and grapes from the vineyards they offered it to God as a special offering. They did this to show God that they loved Him. Their offering would show that they put God first in their lives.

This was a good kind of action.

But we must remember that God loved human beings first before they even loved Him. When the first man and woman named Adam and Eve did what they were not supposed to do, disobeyed God's instructions and sinned, God made an arrangement to help men and women and He sent His son to be born as a baby, a human being, in Bethlehem.

He was fully human but at the same time fully God. He lived on earth with the full help of His loving Father in Heaven and Jesus lived in full obedience to the Father. He did all kinds of miracles to help people and taught great things. He showed what God was really like. Then He finally died on the Cross to take the punishment for the sins of every human being. He did this because human beings were not strong enough to take the punishment for their sins. So Jesus took the punishment for all of us. He was ultra-strong.

But after Jesus died on the Cross after three days and three nights as the Scriptures had predicted He was resurrected by the Father in Heaven who loves Him and would give Him special rewards for showing His great love and sacrifice for human beings on earth.

God the Father therefore told us that everyone who believes that Jesus Christ was their Saviour would also be resurrected when they died. Jesus was the “first fruits” because He was



resurrected first with a special glorious resurrection body. All of the people that believe in Him would also be resurrected and given their own special glorious, powerful, beautiful, and amazing resurrection bodies.

So therefore when you pick or eat that first Apple or strawberry or mango that was given to you remember that just as you love the first fruits, you are going to be part of that beautiful “first fruit” body of Christ. They will be made alive to live forever all through eternity with others who love God. All your enemies, those people that do not like you, and hurt you a lot will be removed away from you and your life with God will always be beautiful.

Your new body will be absolutely amazing. It will sparkle and shine like the sun. No pain or suffering will affect it. This should be the perfection that God has promised. This is our resurrection hope.

