

# Resurrection Sunday 2022

*Is There Hope Beyond this Life?*

(preached 4/17/22)

Please turn to *1 Corinthians 15:1*.

***There needs to be hope beyond this life.***

DAD PASSED AWAY. On April 6<sup>th</sup> of this year, my dad passed away and one of the hardest things was watching him get older. Once upon a time he was young, vibrant, energetic, and was a real go-getter. Dad always had a plan...always. He rarely shot from the hip. Even though he might have several irons in the fire, whatever he built seemed to grow and prosper. He commanded respect in our community, seemed to solve whatever problem he was faced with, and worked long hours to achieve his goals.

***As a kid, he seemed so large and powerful to me.*** Not only could he lift or move objects I could barely budge, but his endurance seemed to go on forever. I always wanted the workday to be done way before he did! I would get tired, grumpy, want to quit...but dad never seemed to stop. He acted like it never bothered him.

COMING TO DRAG TREES. My first inkling that things weren't the same was the year I took the tree farm over in 1997. I'd been away for 10 years and now was heading up the operation. We were cutting and dragging trees in a field of Douglas Fir when dad called my cell and said "I'm coming down to help drag trees." He showed up 30 minutes later, lasted about 15 minutes, then left...he was in his 60's.

FURTHER DECLINE. I was only 27 and remember being stunned seeing him struggling because my last memories were of him doing this for hours and me being the one huffing and puffing. I picked on him a bit later saying "I hired this guy to drag trees and he walked off the job!" As the years passed, I saw him decline ever further. Just a few years ago we were running wire down a hill and dad showed up to help. All he could do was sit on a bucket and hold the upper end from falling down the hill. At one point he dropped it and couldn't even get up to pick it up...I had to go over and get it for him.

CAN'T LEAN ON HIM. That's when it really hit me...that physically Dad wasn't the same man I remembered. That he wasn't going to be here forever. That I wouldn't be able to lean him like I was so used to doing, depend on him to always have a plan, solve the problem, provide the way, bail me out, and grab the object I couldn't budge.

IN FL THE END WAS NEAR. We went to FL to see him just a month and a half ago and now dad was on O2 full time, walking with a walker, losing his appetite, and barely able to move 10 feet without needing to sit down. I knew that the end was near.

**Ben Franklin** was famous for saying “nothing is certain but death and taxes.” And so in this world we know that, no matter who we are, how much money we have, or how famous we might be, we will eventually pass away and those left behind will grieve at our loss.

**SO, WE MUST LOOK TO OUR FATHER—OUR HEAVENLY FATHER—and WE MUST HOPE IN HIS PLAN THAT THERE’S SOMETHING MORE THAN JUST THIS LIFE AND THIS WORLD.**

## **The Good News is YES...there is!**

### **Luke 24:1-12 (ESV)**

<sup>1</sup> But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they went to the tomb, taking the spices they had prepared.

<sup>2</sup> And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb,

<sup>3</sup> but when they went in they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus.

<sup>4</sup> While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men stood by them in dazzling apparel.

<sup>5</sup> And as they were frightened and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, “Why do you seek the living among the dead?

<sup>6</sup> He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee,

<sup>7</sup> that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and on the third day rise.”

<sup>8</sup> And they remembered his words,

<sup>9</sup> and returning from the tomb they told all these things to the eleven and to all the rest.

<sup>10</sup> Now it was Mary Magdalene and Joanna and Mary the mother of James and the other women with them who told these things to the apostles,

<sup>11</sup> but these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them.

<sup>12</sup> But Peter rose and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; and he went home marveling at what had happened.

**TWO ANGELS.** As the group of ladies approached the tomb of Christ, two shining angels suddenly appeared right next to them! They were so afraid that they fell on their faces, and the angels reveal that no part of Jesus is there in the grave.

**OUR SPIRITS ARE US.** The bodies of our loved ones lie within cemeteries or ashes within urns and, as we’ve learned elsewhere in the Bible, our spirits are the real us. Our spirits remain alive after the flesh expires, departing this mortal bodies which then return to the dust from which they were fashioned.

***Yet that's not what happened to Jesus.*** While His Spirit did depart and descend into Hades, it then did something extremely rare—it went back into His body. While the same thing happened to Lazarus in John chapter 11, the raising of Jesus was different as we'll read in just a few moments.

**RAN BACK TO TELL DISCIPLES.** After the ladies have this astonishing experience, they return to the 11 disciples to testify of what they saw and look at their response in verse 11—they don't believe them. Peter and John run to the tomb and, although they find that 1) the Roman guards who were assigned to guard were gone and 2) the massive stone had been rolled back and 3) that the burial linens were empty, all the Gospels record that they **STILL** didn't believe that Jesus had risen from the dead.

**Luke 24:36-43 (ESV)**

<sup>36</sup> As they were talking about these things, Jesus himself stood among them, and said to them, "Peace to you!"

<sup>37</sup> But they were startled and frightened and thought they saw a spirit.

<sup>38</sup> And he said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts arise in your hearts?"

<sup>39</sup> See my hands and my feet, that it is I myself. Touch me, and see. For a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have."

<sup>40</sup> And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet.

<sup>41</sup> And while they still disbelieved for joy and were marveling, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?"

<sup>42</sup> They gave him a piece of broiled fish,

<sup>43</sup> and he took it and ate before them.

***John's Gospel adds*** that the doors to the house they were staying in were closed and locked when Jesus appeared.

**So here is what we know from these accounts:**

- Jesus was in **BODILY** form...He was not a spirit (a ghost).
- In this physical form, the disciples touched Him and Christ was able to eat physical food—neither of which is possible with a spirit.
- In John's Gospel, Thomas comes later and demands physical evidence—that He must see Jesus' wounds from both crucifixion **AND** the spear that pierced His side—which his own eyes or he won't believe.
- Jesus comes back later when Thomas is there, inviting the doubting disciple to touch both His hands where the nails went through and His side where the spear pierced.
- Thomas does so and believes!

NOT THE SAME BODY. If that weren't enough, we also know that the body Jesus returned with was NOT exactly the same one He was buried with—it was transformed into something greater. While Jesus is physical to where He can eat normal food and be touched, did you see where He teleported into a house with doors that were shut and locked? Alakazam! He appeared in the midst of the disciples and they thought He was a ghost because normal humans cannot do this.

What's more is the following astounding revelation:

**Romans 6:9 (ESV)**

<sup>9</sup> We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him.

**Verse 9:** the raising of Jesus was superior to the raising of Lazarus. In the video games I play, you can acquire gear on several levels: common, epic, and legendary. ***While the resurrection of Lazarus was epic, that of Jesus was legendary!***

LAZARUS' RESURRECTION. The reason why is verse 9: Lazarus was raised back into his old body that he was born with—one that will grow older, weaker, have less energy, grow tired quickly, and eventually go back to the dust of the earth from which it was formed.

JESUS'. The body that Jesus walked out of the tomb with was divine in nature and we read in verse 9 of Romans 6:

**Death no longer has dominion over it.**

EVEN BEN F. PAUSES. When Jesus left the grave and revealed Himself to Mary Magdalene 2000 years ago, Ben Franklin's statement had an exception. What you and I have come to understand, growing up in this fallen world and watching those we love grow old and pass away, hits a wall: a wall of hope. A hope of something better, a greater plan and reality.

**A future where things don't merely continue as they are now forever, but rather one in which LIFE sits on the throne and rules instead of DEATH.**

SIN & DEATH SEEM TO REIGN. In this current world and in these bodies, death seems to be the king. We've never known anything different and when we don't understand what Jesus promised, we think our future is only as disembodied spirits that fly off to Heaven.

ON EARTH AS IT IS.... The truth is that Jesus preached eternal life in a physical body here on earth. He's in heaven now, yes, but His biggest promise was to return, conquer all evil, and establish His Kingdom on earth as it is in Heaven.

***Our destiny is the same as that of Jesus!*** Not to be spirits playing harps in heaven, but to inherit new bodies superior to the old ones that will be able to fully interact here just like Jesus did after His Resurrection.

PEOPLE HAD QUESTIONS. When the Apostles left Jerusalem to preach this good news, people had questions about being raised from the dead and Paul did a great job providing a detailed answer:

**1 Corinthians 15:1-11 (ESV)**

- <sup>1</sup> Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand,  
<sup>2</sup> and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.  
<sup>3</sup> For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures,  
<sup>4</sup> that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures,  
<sup>5</sup> and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve.  
<sup>6</sup> Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep.  
<sup>7</sup> Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles.  
<sup>8</sup> Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me.  
<sup>9</sup> For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.  
<sup>10</sup> But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me.  
<sup>11</sup> Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

***We cannot see spirits—they're invisible.*** Over 500 people personally witnessed Jesus after His resurrection and interacted with Him.

**1 Corinthians 15:12-19 (ESV)**

- <sup>12</sup> Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead?  
<sup>13</sup> But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised.  
<sup>14</sup> And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain.  
<sup>15</sup> We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified about God that he raised Christ, whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised.

<sup>16</sup> For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised.

<sup>17</sup> And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins.

<sup>18</sup> Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished.

<sup>19</sup> If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied.

***Sin and Death are like a married couple*** who sit like a king and queen over humanity and this world. How many times have we said “I’m not perfect, I still commit sins”? When we make statements like these, **we affirm that sin rules** than we are and cannot seem to stop ourselves from committing them.

***Affirming Death?*** If we believe in the word of Ben Franklin that death must come for us all sooner or later, no matter what? This “knowledge” once again affirms that death reigns like a king over us, and that we are helpless when we face it.

## **BUT GOD.... BUT JESUS.... BUT THE RESURRECTION!**

DEATH & SIN SWEAT BULLETS. The moment the angel rolled away the stone and Jesus came walking out, king death and queen sin started to sweat bullets!

- Despite all of His claims of eternal life, when He breathed His last on the Cross they thought they’d won.
- When they wrapped Him in a fine white shroud and laid Him in the tomb, they rejoiced at their victory.
- When the stone closed up the mouth of that grave, sealing Jesus away into the earth, they high-5’d each other and marked another accomplishment on their records: 100% success.

100% SUCCESS? Every human being who had ever lived not only committed sins but eventually died...even those like Lazarus who were brought back.

NO SIN FOR JESUS. Sure, they were nervous when Jesus never committed a sin for 33 years...but He gave up the ghost and went into the grave like every other human being on the Cross...battle won!

HE AIN’T DEAD! Yet 3 days after His death, a shining angel rolls away the stone and Jesus walks out. They looked on with great fear as the Lord from Heaven strode toward them. The fell down in worship at His feet when He stood before them because, for the first time, ***both of them lost their power and dominion.*** Before them was One Who had turned the tables and now ruled over them! This was unprecedented!!!

### **1 Corinthians 15:20-28 (ESV)**

<sup>20</sup> But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

- <sup>21</sup> For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead.
- <sup>22</sup> For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive.
- <sup>23</sup> But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ.
- <sup>24</sup> Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power.
- <sup>25</sup> For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet.
- <sup>26</sup> The last enemy to be destroyed is death.
- <sup>27</sup> For “God has put all things in subjection under his feet.” But when it says, “all things are put in subjection,” it is plain that he is excepted who put all things in subjection under him.
- <sup>28</sup> When all things are subjected to him, then the Son himself will also be subjected to him who put all things in subjection under him, that God may be all in all.

FIRSTFRUITS. Look at the word Firstfruits in verse 20. I don't have time to do the full teaching now, but the Jewish Feast of Firstfruits immediately follows Passover and ends the Spring Feasts. Firstfruits is named such because it's the first of the crop harvest for the year and its quality or lack thereof determines the quality for the entire crop which matures LATER. If the Firstfruits harvest was good and lush, the farmers in Israel knew it would be a plentiful year!

## **Jesus is our Firstfruits! We will “mature” later!**

*The body He came with and all its qualities, we will get.* If He had dominion over sin and death, so will we! We see that all these enemies were put under His feet after He rose from the dead, and it will be the same with us!

### **1 Corinthians 15:35-58 (ESV)**

- <sup>35</sup> But someone will ask, “How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?”
- <sup>36</sup> You foolish person! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies.
- <sup>37</sup> And what you sow is not the body that is to be, but a bare kernel, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain.
- <sup>38</sup> But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body.
- <sup>39</sup> For not all flesh is the same, but there is one kind for humans, another for animals, another for birds, and another for fish.
- <sup>40</sup> There are heavenly bodies and earthly bodies, but the glory of the heavenly is of one kind, and the glory of the earthly is of another.
- <sup>41</sup> 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.
- <sup>42</sup> So is it with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable; what is raised is imperishable.
- <sup>43</sup> It is sown in dishonor; it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness; it is raised in power.
- <sup>44</sup> It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body.

<sup>45</sup> Thus it is written, “The first man Adam became a living being”; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit.

<sup>46</sup> But it is not the spiritual that is first but the natural, and then the spiritual.

<sup>47</sup> The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven.

<sup>48</sup> As was the man of dust, so also are those who are of the dust, and as is the man of heaven, so also are those who are of heaven.

<sup>49</sup> Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven.

<sup>50</sup> I tell you this, brothers: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

<sup>51</sup> Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,

<sup>52</sup> 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 shall be changed.

<sup>53</sup> For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality.

<sup>54</sup> When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: “Death is swallowed up in victory.”

<sup>55</sup> “O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?”

<sup>56</sup> The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law.

<sup>57</sup> But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>58</sup> 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.

**Verse 40:** there are two types of matter: that of earth and that of heaven. Another translation of the Bible says terrestrial (earthly) and celestial (heavenly).

**CHILD OF ADAM.** This body is the child of Adam, made from the same stuff as he: the dust/dirt/clay of earth. Death and sin reign over all who are in Adam and everyone born of Adam will die like he did, returning to the earth.

**BODY OF CHRIST.** Christ’s first body was also descended from Adam which is why He died on the Cross. Yet when He walked out of the tomb, death and sin no longer ruled because His new body was made from the stuff of heaven and not earth!

“SPIRITUAL” = “SUPERNATURAL.” The word “spiritual” in verse 44 does not mean ghosts or spirits. If I had been part of the Bible translation team, I would have suggested a different word from the Greek equally valid: supernatural or regenerated. Therefore verses 44-46 could read like this without taking anything away from the inspiration of the Scriptures:

<sup>44</sup> It is sown a natural body; it is raised a **supernatural** body. If there is a natural body, there is also a **supernatural** body.

<sup>45</sup> Thus it is written, “The first man Adam became a living being”; the last Adam became a life-



giving soul.

<sup>46</sup> But it is not the supernatural that is first but the natural, and then the supernatural.”

KEYS OF DEATH AND HELL. Now that risen Jesus was supernatural and regenerated, He then took the keys of death and hell from Satan and rules as King of kings and Lord of lords with His enemies under His feet!

WHEN WE PASS.... When they day of my resurrection and yours finally comes, the same will be true for us. This body will expire and we'll be laid in a grave. Death and sin will chalk up another victory and rejoice over the mourning and sadness our loved ones will feel when we pass.

WE WILL HEAR HIM SHOUT. Yet the day will come when we hear the voice of Jesus shout, and our Lord will raise us up into a body just like His! He will put death and sin under our feet just as God His Father put them under HIS feet. He will prepare a table for us in the presence of our enemies, anoint our heads with oil, and our cup will runneth over!!!

MOURNING DAD. I mourn the loss of my dad but you know what? Just yesterday morning, God gave my wife a dramatic dream—she saw my dad in a resurrected body. She never knew him when he was young and her last memory of him was from a month and a half ago: old, weak, hunched over, unable to breath, tired, and frail.

BECKY'S DREAM. Yet in the dream God gave her he was tall, slender, strong, and most of all she said he was full of life and joy! Death, sickness, aging, and sin no longer has dominion over him because Jesus has given him eternal life!

This is the Plan, ladies and gentlemen. This is what God has stored up for all those who believe in His Son Jesus as their Lord and Savior!