

“The Growing Seed” – Easter (4-5-26)

Introduction: Welcome to Easter Sunday morning!

Main Text: 1 Corinthians chapter 15

1) The Gospel is primarily a declaration of something that has happened

1 Corinthians 15:1-6 (ESV)

[1] Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, [2] and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. [3] For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, [4] that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, [5] and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. [6] Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep.

Note: The significance of Jesus’ resurrection: it is a fact of history, verified by over 500 witnesses, including some prominent known leaders.

2) The central “witness” is of the resurrection which is of utmost importance

1 Corinthians 15:12-19 (ESV)

[12] Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? [13] But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. [14] And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain. [15] 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. [16] For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised. [17] And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. [18] Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. [19] If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied.

Note: If The resurrection isn’t true, then this is a complete waste of time, our preaching, our faith, even our explanation of who God is.

3) Paul declares it is true, and has life-altering implications for everyone

1 Corinthians 15:20-22 (ESV)

[20] But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. [21] For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. [22] For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive.

Note: But he has been raised, and therefore resurrection life is available to all.

4) Living in Resurrection Life

1 Corinthians 15:23-26 (ESV)

[23] But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. [24] Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. [25] For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. [26] The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

Note: Living in the Kingdom - every rule, authority, and power comes under Jesus, the final enemy is death.

This is my life in Christ now, living in His Kingdom is submitting to Jesus and seeing Him take pre-eminence!

This is living in Resurrection Life - dying to myself and the “powers” of this world, and coming alive to the eternal rule of Jesus. Up to and through my death one day . . .

1 Corinthians 15:35-37 (ESV)

[35] But someone will ask, “How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?” [36] You foolish person! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. [37] And what you sow is not the body that is to be, but a bare kernel, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain.

Note: What is coming is beyond what we can imagine. This life and our death is a seed being sown . . .

1 Corinthians 15:42-43 (ESV)

[42] So is it with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable; what is raised is imperishable. [43] It is sown in dishonor; it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness; it is raised in power.

• Perishable / Imperishable (42)

Perishable (G5356) Phthora - corruption, spoiling, decay, ruin, mortality, destruction, perishing, generally a fraying or wasting away

Imperishable (G861) aphtharsia - incorruption, perpetuity, immortality

***Galatians 6:8-9 (ESV)**

[8] For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap **corruption**, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap **eternal life**. [9] And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.

• Dishonor / Glory (43)

Dishonor (G819) atimia - dishonor, infamy, shame, disgrace

root - precious, valuable, worth, honor, respect, esteem (so not precious, of value, worth, or esteem)

***1 Corinthians 12:22-23 (ESV)**

[22] On the contrary, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, [23] and on those parts of the body that we think **less honorable** we bestow the greater honor, and our unrepresentable parts are treated with greater modesty

Glory (G1391) Doxa - Etymologically, the word primarily means thought or opinion, especially favorable human opinion. Thus the “doxa” of man is human opinion and is shifty, uncertain, often based on error. God's opinion marks the true value of things as they appear to the eternal mind, and God's favorable opinion is true glory. Glory, therefore, is the true apprehension of God or things. Giving glory to God is ascribing to Him His full recognition. The true glory of man, on the other hand, is the ideal condition in which God created man. The glory of God is what He is essentially; the glory of created things including man is what they are meant by God to be.

***John 5:44 (ESV)**

How can you believe, when you receive glory from one another and do not seek the glory that comes from the only God?

• **Weakness / Power (43)**

Weakness (G769) astheneia - Of the body generally: want of strength, weakness, feebleness. In health: infirmity, ill, sickness. Of the soul: imperfection and weakness both intellectual and moral. Of suffering: affliction, distress, calamity

Power (G1411) dunamis - strength, ability, might, majesty

***2 Peter 1:3-4 (ESV)**

[3] His divine **power** has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, [4] by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become **partakers of the divine nature**, having escaped from the **corruption** that is in the world because of sinful desire.

***Acts 1:8 (ESV)**

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.

Dandelion Facts

Yellow Flower (Perishable) - attracts pollinators, only open for a few days

Closed (Dishonor) - closes up, withers, and fades, turns green/brown. But the stem starts rising!

Puff Ball (Weakness) - reopens white revealing feathery seeds that travel in the wind.

Dispersal (Imperishable as life goes on, Future Glory, carry the power of Life) - scattered and planted

*Extremely resilient, adaptable, can grow almost anywhere, spring thru fall. The root is the secret . . .

Dandelion Root - Key features of the dandelion root system:

Deep Access to Water and Nutrients: The taproot anchors the plant, allowing it to tap into moisture and nutrients deep in the soil, which ensures survival during dry spells.

Regenerative Ability: The root is highly resilient; if the above-ground plant is cut, or if only a small piece of the root remains in the soil, it can regenerate an entirely new plant.

Soil Modification: The roots physically break up, aerate, and de-compact, tough,, and nutrient-deficient soils, creating a better environment for the plant to thrive where others cannot.

Nutrient Mining: The roots mine minerals like calcium and iron from deep in the soil, pulling them up and making the plant better nourished in poor-quality soil.

Understanding the Supernatural Life in the midst of this natural body and world . . .

1 Corinthians 15:44 (ESV)

[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.

1 Corinthians 15:47-49 (ESV)

[47] The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. [48] 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. [49] Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven.

Note: Many believers are feeling lost, hopeless, and confused, because we haven't taken into account the process of our death!

From Death to Life

We will all come to a season, and more likely many of them, that we call a crisis of faith, or the dark night of the soul.

And we often perceive these seasons as the absence of God - He's distant, quiet, unavailable, seemingly unable or unwilling to help me.

This is actually our union with Christ taking a deeper form, as we are entering with him into death . . .

"My God, My God why have you forsaken me" has its vital place, but just like Jesus we move through that isolation in our dying to cry out "Father, into your hands I commit my **spirit**"

We are dying to the natural man, and coming alive in the spirit.

Friends we aren't being abandoned by God, we are being transformed as we are dying to ourselves and coming alive in Christ!

Conclusion:

1 Corinthians 15:50-55 (ESV)

[50] I tell you this, brothers: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. [51] Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall 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 shall be changed. [53] For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality. [54] 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." [55] "O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?"

1 Corinthians 15:57-58 (ESV)

[57] But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. [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.