

Chesswood Baptist Church

Where Everybody is Somebody

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MINISTRY OF THE WORD

IF IN THIS LIFE ONLY WE HAVE HOPE IN CHRIST, WE ARE OF ALL MEN MOST MISERABLE.

PASTOR HOWARD DANIEL, JR.

SUNDAY EVENING, MARCH 21, 2021

SCRIPTURE READING: **1 CORINTHIANS 15:19-28**

1 Corinthians 15:19, If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable.

1. BACKGROUND

Refer to the Evening message March 14, 2021

2. INTRODUCTION

Refer to the Morning message March 14, 2021

3. EIGHT POINTS TO THE MESSAGE

g. If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable.

1. **1 Corinthians 15:19, If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable.**
2. Christianity is not a religion; it means Christ died for our sins and rose again according to the Scriptures. **1 Corinthians 15:4, And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:**
3. Christianity is not only for this life but also for the life to come. **Titus 2:13, Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;**
4. **I must emphasize that there are many religions. Religion will take you to hell. Except for Christianity, all the founders of the religious entities are dead. Only Christ is alive. Revelation 1:18, I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.**
5. True religion is talked about in **James 1:27, Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world.**
6. We can rejoice because we know that Christ has taken care of the sin problem for us. He has given us a brand-new nature. **2 Corinthians 5:17, Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. 1 John 5:1, Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God: and every one that loveth him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of him. 1 John 5:18, We know that whosoever is born of God sinneth not; but he that is begotten of God keepeth himself, and that wicked one toucheth him not. 1 John 3:9, Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin,**

because he is born of God. 2 Peter 1:4, Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. It is obvious that the aforementioned verses have a direct reference to the **soul** of man and not the flesh.

7. Paul stops the "what if's" and goes to the heart of the matter.
8. The heart of the matter is the truth and is reflected in the next point.

h. But now is Christ risen from the dead.

1. **1 Corinthians 15:20, But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept.**
2. Christ is indeed the firstfruits.
3. He was the first one who came forth with a glorified body.
4. Several Sunday's ago, we learned that this was not a spiritual resurrection but was a physical bodily resurrection.
5. The body was different; it was now glorified.
6. One of these days we likewise will receive our glorified bodies. **1 Corinthians 15:51-52, Behold, I shew 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 trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.**
7. In the Old Testament we find the festival of the firstfruits. The first sheave of grain was brought to the Lord.
8. Since Christ is the firstfruits, He is a fulfillment of that. He came back from the dead.
9. His glorified body was not subject to the laws of nature; He was able to walk through doors that were shut as He appeared to His disciples. **John 20:26, And after eight days again his disciples were within, and Thomas with them: then came Jesus, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, Peace be unto you.**
10. The disciples were eyewitnesses of His appearance. More than five hundred brethren testified to this historical event.
11. One of the signs of being an apostle is that they had to have seen the glorified Christ. **1 Corinthians 9:1, Am I not an apostle? am I not free? have I not seen Jesus Christ our Lord? are not ye my work in the Lord? Acts 9:27, But Barnabas took him, and brought him to the apostles, and declared unto them how he had seen the Lord in the way, and that he had spoken to him, and how he had preached boldly at Damascus in the name of Jesus.**

i. For as in Adam all die,...

1. **1 Corinthians 15:21-22, For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. 22: For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.**
2. After the Festival of the firstfruits came Pentecost came fifty days later.
3. The fulfillment of the New Testament on the day of Pentecost is when the church began.
4. There could be no church without the Holy Spirit.
5. The Holy Spirit did come, but Christ was the ultimate fulfillment. **Matthew 5:17, Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come**

to destroy, but to fulfil. John 15:26, But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me:

6. One of these days we are going to meet Him in the air; that is the real Pentecost.
7. There are so many people looking for Pentecost to come again here on earth; the real Pentecost will take place in the air having received our glorified bodies.
8. ***“For since by man came death”*** – This speaks of Adam’s race. **Romans 5:12, Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:**
9. ***“by man came also the resurrection of the dead.”*** – This speaks to the second Adam, Lord Jesus Christ. **1 Corinthians 15:45, And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit.**
10. ***“For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.”*** – Those who receive the Gospel are born again. **John 3:7, Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.**

j. But every man in his own order:...

1. **1 Corinthians 15:23, But every man in his own order; Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming.**
2. How wonderful it is to know that Christ is raised from the grave and is become the firstfruits of them that slept.
3. To sleep means physical death and speaks of those who have died in Christ.
4. Mankind is truly depraved and born spiritually dead. **Psalms 51:5, Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me.**
5. There is no general resurrection mentioned at all in the Bible.
6. So many of the great truths of the Bible have been botched and mixed up.
7. There are two distinct resurrections.
8. **Revelation 20:6, Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.**
9. If you are not saved and born again there is the second death and that is the resurrection for the unsaved. One thousand years will separate those two resurrections. **Revelation 20:11-12, And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. 12: And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.**
10. There is a lot of false teaching concerning prophesy.
11. One of the things we have found out by studying the Book of Revelation is you need to have a working knowledge of the other sixty-five books of the Bible to truly teach Revelation as God intends for it to be taught.
12. When we have the firstfruits we will also have, ***“afterward they that are Christ's at his coming.”*** – This is the first phase of the second coming of Christ where He calls His church to meet Him in the air. **1 Thessalonians 4:16-17, For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the**

archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: **17: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.** The second phase will bring Him back to the Mount of Olives. **Acts 1:11, Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.**

- k. Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God,...**
- 1. 1 Corinthians 15:24, Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power.**
 - The end speaks of the end of the age.
 - There will be a great tribulation period and a millennial Kingdom here on earth after the tribulation period.
 - During the millennial reign, Satan is bound for a thousand years. **Revelation 20:2, And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years,**
 - After that he will be loosed for a little season and then he will be cast forever into the Lake of Fire. **Revelation 20:7, And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison,**
 - The Lord Jesus Christ will then establish His Kingdom forever; this will be the Eternal Kingdom where there is no end. **Luke 1:33, And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.**
 - Christ will put down all rule and all authority and all power.
- l. The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death.**
- 1. 1 Corinthians 15:26, The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death.**
 - We will be glad when that takes place.
 - Death has past upon all men; we are all born spiritually dead in trespasses and sins. **Ephesians 2:1, And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins;**
 - The Lord Jesus Christ is going to take care of all the problems one of these days. **1 Corinthians 15:55, O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?**
 - The victory is in the Lord Jesus Christ. **1 Corinthians 15:57, But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.**
- m. For he hath put all things under his feet.**
- 1. 1 Corinthians 15:27, For he hath put all things under his feet. But when he saith all things are put under him, it is manifest that he is excepted, which did put all things under him.**
 - Christ oversees it all.
 - He is the executer; however, there is something we must see in the next verse that talks about what shall be delivered unto God. **1 Corinthians 15:24, Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power.**
- n. Then shall the Son also himself be subject unto him...**

1. **1 Corinthians 15:28, And when all things shall be subdued unto him, then shall the Son also himself be subject unto him that put all things under him, that God may be all in all.**
2. This verse is very key, as a matter of fact it says in no uncertain terms that the Son also himself shall be subject unto him, which is God that God may be all in all.
3. We know there is a Trinity. The three persons of the Trinity are: God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.
4. They are all God.
5. At one point God has put all things under the authority of the Lord Jesus Christ.
6. He has committed all judgment unto Him. **John 5:22, For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son:**
7. He is the executor of it all. He not only executed the plan of salvation but also judgment at the Judgment Seat of Christ and at the Great White Throne Judgment. **1 Corinthians 15:27, For he hath put all things under his feet. But when he saith, all things are put under him, it is manifest that he is excepted, which did put all things under him.**
8. He has the responsibility of putting down all rebellion. When this is done and everything is put under His feet, then God will be all in all.
9. The Trinity is all one, all the same and all different. **1 John 5:7, For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one.**
10. With the office being complete, the Lord Jesus Christ occupies King of kings and Lord of lords.
11. Now we know that God is all in all.

4. CONCLUSION

- a. My friend, do you know Jesus Christ as your personal Saviour?
- b. If you do not know Him, you need to come to the foot of the cross.
- c. You need to realize that millions have come but there is still room for one.
- b. **Romans 3:23, For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;**
- c. **Romans 3:10, As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:**
- d. **Romans 10:9-10, That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. 10: For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.**
- e. Would you please stand?

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