

"The Hope of Glory"

Easter 2021

Outline

Now, brothers and sisters, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. ² By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain.

³ For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴ that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, ⁵ and that he appeared to Cephas, and then to the Twelve. ⁶ After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. ⁷ Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, ⁸ and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born.

⁵⁰ I declare to you, brothers and sisters, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. ⁵¹ Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed— ⁵² in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. ⁵³ For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality. ⁵⁴ When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: "Death has been swallowed up in victory."

⁵⁵ "Where, O death, is your victory?

Where, O death, is your sting?"

⁵⁶ The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. ⁵⁷ But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁵⁸ Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain. I Corinthians 15:1-8, 50-58

Hope

Three Reasons Christianity Blew through the Roman Empire:

1. While the people fled from the cities, the Christians....

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2. When Christians were treated unjustly by others, they did respond with terrorism, violence, rioting and looting. Instead they...
3. When urban centers became diverse which resulted in tension between the races the Church...

Why were Christians like this?

I. The Certainty of the Future.

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The Argument against Belief in the Resurrection of Jesus

Two Worldviews:

1. The Greco-Roman Worldview
2. The Jewish Worldview

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Why People Believed in the Resurrection of Jesus

"most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep." (vs. 6)

"And these people died happily confessing their faith in Jesus and in the resurrection from the dead. Many gave up their lives rather than give up their faith in Jesus and the hope of resurrection!" ~Rodney Stark

How People Came and Come to Believe in the Resurrection of Jesus

II. The Shape of the Future

A Stingless Death *"Where, O death, is your sting?" (vs. 55)*

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"I could end it all but the dread of something after death, the undiscovered country from whose bourn no traveler returns puzzles the will and makes us bear the wills we have than fly to others we know not of. Thus conscience makes cowards of us all." ~Hamlet

How to Get Rid of the Poison

Where Certainty Comes from

Swallowed Suffering *"Death has been swallowed up in victory."*(vs 54)

Material Newness

"When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality,"(vs.54)

Review