

# 1 Corinthians 15:35-58

5-23-12

## The Death of Death!

### I. Slide#1 Announce Summer Camps:

1. 4th–6th Grade June 18-21 at Idyllwild Pines cost \$180
2. Father/Son Adventure June 21-24 at Mammoth Lakes cost \$130
3. Jr/Sr High June 25-29 at San Onofre, Camp Pendleton cost \$180
4. Family Camp July 5-9 Twin Peaks \$215 adult, \$125 to \$155 (depending on age)

B. Prayer: *There are better things ahead than any we leave behind.*

### II. Slide#2 Intro:

A. How *hopeless* the Greeks were when they thought about death.

1. Inscriptions on tombs in ancient Greece & Rome indicate that **death** was their **greatest enemy**, that they saw **no hope** beyond the grave!
  - a) In Christ we have **life & hope!**

B. In **ch.15** Paul has gone to great lengths to prove the resurrection of the body of the **Corinthian believers**, by **proving 1st** the Resurrection of **Jesus** from the dead.

1. The resurrection of Jesus from the tomb was only the beginning of **a great harvest!**

### III. Slide#3 TWO QUESTIONS! (35-44)

A. **2 QUESTIONS!** (35-44)

B. We still have many questions regarding our new bodies. Will babies have infant bodies or mature bodies? – What about bodies that have died violently deaths, how will they be resurrected. – **or**, What about those who have been cremated, & their ashes spread, how will God raise them up? (dust or ashes, He will!)

C. 2 questions are asked in vs.35. (a **How** & a **Why** question)

1. The 1st is answered in vs.36 & the 2nd is answered in vs.37-49.

D. **Slide#4 HOW?** (36)

E. You can't have a **plant** unless you have a **seed**, & seeds have to **die first**.

1. Every time a seed sprouts life, nature testifies to the fact that life can come from death.<sup>1</sup>

F. **Slide#5 WHAT?** (37-41) [4 Illustrations]

1. **Our Res is Definite** [a seed] (37,38) – The seed represents the life it will grow (i.e. plant corn get corn).
  - a) So, our heavenly body will be a “continuation” of our earthly body.

<sup>1</sup> Chuck Swindoll, pg.69.

- b) **Resurrection is not Reconstruction!** [God doesn't *reassemble* the original body that has turned to dust. The body is planted & blooms forth a beautiful flower!]
- c) *My gravestone(epitaph): Plant me in the earth, but tis only for a spell, for soon to bloom forth, is the new **Brian Bell!** :)*
- 2. **Slide#6 Our Res is Distinct** [flesh=sarx/σαρξ] (39) – In creation God marked each species w/a unique distinction.
  - a) We too will continue be able to be **identified**, just as the disciples were able to recognize Jesus in His res body.
  - b) We will be able to **recognize & identify** our loved ones.
- 3. **Slide#7 Our Res is in Degree** [solar system] (40,41) – As no 2 stars shine w/the same brightness, so each of us will have a **glory** all our own.
- 4. **Slide#8 Our Res is Different** [note 4 contrasts] (42-44)
  - a) **Corruption/incorruption**(perishable & imperishable); **dishonor & glory**; **weakness/power**; **natural body/spirit body**.

#### IV. Slide#9,10 **TWO ADAMS! (45-49)**

- A. **FIRST & LAST ADAM!** (45-49)
- B. **Adam** gave **natural** life to the *entire human race* - **Jesus** gave **spiritual** life to *all who believe*.
- C. Bearing **Adam's image** we're all destined to die - Bearing **Jesus' image** we're destined to live forever!
  - 1. Rom.5:17 **For if by the one man's offense death** reigned through the one, much more those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in **life** through the One, Jesus Christ.
  - 2. **Have you changed your image from the natural to the spiritual?**
  - 3. **Does your life today more reflect Adam's image or Christ's?**

#### V. Slide#11 **THE DEATH OF DEATH! (50-58)**

- A. **Slide#12 NOT FIT TO ENTER!** (50)
- B. **Flesh & blood** – our present mortal nature.
- C. **Cannot inherit** – Like caterpillars who can't fly *until* they've been transformed, **so we will never see heaven unless** our bodies are **changed!**<sup>2</sup>
- D. **Slide#13 CHANGED!** (51)
- E. **Sleep** – What a great phrase when a believer dies, we **sleep** in Jesus!
  - 1. **See 15:18 asleep in Christ.**

<sup>2</sup> Chuck Swindoll, pg.69.

2. Jn.11:11-14 Our friend Lazarus **sleeps**, but I go that I may wake him up. Then His disciples said, “Lord, if he sleeps he will get well.” However, Jesus spoke of his death, but they thought that He was speaking about taking rest in sleep. Then Jesus said to them plainly, “Lazarus is dead.”
3. Just like the child that falls asleep on the way home from grandma’s, they fall asleep in 1 location & wake up in another.

F. **Changed** – or altered. (LKGNT)

1. Like our sign in our nursery, “We shall all be changed.”

G. **Changed? How?**

H. **Slide#14 A GENERATION THAT WON’T DIE!** (52)

I. **In a moment** – indivisible, because of smallness. (LKGNT)

J. **In the twinkling of an eye** – like “quickly”. (**surely I am coming quickly**)

1. Speaks of **swiftness**, speed when it happens, **not** length of time.

K. **We** – Paul believed in the imminent return of Jesus Christ.

1. **So was Paul *wrong*? - Did he make a **mistake**? - Was he in **error**?**

a) No, he held fast to what Jesus plainly taught, **But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Take heed, **watch and pray; for you do not know when the time is**. It is like a man going to a far country, who left his house and gave authority to his servants, and to each his work, and commanded the doorkeeper to watch. Watch therefore, for you do not know when the master of the house is coming; in the evening, at midnight, at the crowing of the rooster, or in the morning; lest, coming suddenly, he find you sleeping. And what I say to you, I say to all: **Watch!****

2. “The absence of the of the information as to the date serves as a stimulus to expectancy.”<sup>3</sup>
3. **No generation** should consider it *improbable* in **their generation!**

L. There will be a generation that **does not die**.

1. **They will not** go into the **shadow** of the valley of death. **They will not** taste the **darkness of death**. **But they shall** be **changed!**
2. “No dates are given, but it will be at the exact moment which is in the purpose of God!”<sup>4</sup>
3. It could happen *before* this day is through!

<sup>3</sup> Herbert Lockyer, pg.281.

<sup>4</sup> Alan Redpath, pg.216.

M. **Slide#15** Remember *Dennis Tito*, the California tycoon, paid **\$20 million** to be “*shot up*” into space. Who now holds the title as “*The 1st Space Tourist*”! [went up w/the Russians in 2001]

1. For **Free**, I’m not going to be “**shot up**” but be “**Caught up**”. Not propelled by any earthly effort, **but** by the heavenly magnetism of my Lord...**in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet!**
2. And, I’m not going to be called a **tourist** up there, but a **Local!**

N. **Slide#16 CLOTHED WITH INCORRUPTION!** (53)

O. Not only “*will*” but “**must**”!

P. A redeemed **spirit**, without a **body**, will be awaiting that day of resurrection.

1. 2 Cor.5:4 **For we who are in this tent groan, being burdened, not because we want to be unclothed, but further clothed, that mortality may be swallowed up by life.**
2. **Death** cannot touch the **soul** or the **spirit** of the Christian. It only touches the **body**...*but only for a bit!*

Q. **Slide#17 THE DEATH OF DEATH!** (54,55)

R. Here is an assurance that comforts us...***Death is de-clawed!***

S. **Swallowed up** - to drink down. (down the hatch!)

T. (55) **Here is where Paul dares to laugh at death & the grave!**

1. He confronts an enemy which has held in its grip every human being throughout all history...except 2.
  - a) **Enoch** who went for a walk with God & **never came back**, & **Elijah** who was taken up to heaven in a chariot of fire!

U. Death which swallowed up, will now be swallowed up!

1. Rev.21:4 **the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from their eyes.** [also in Rev.7:17]
  - a) **No more Death** but Life forevermore! - **No more Sorrow** but Joy!  
**No more Crying** but Laughter! - **No more Pain** but Pleasure!

V. Deaths stinger is removed!

W. **Sting** - represents death as a **venomous creature**, a **scorpion**, **or** a **hornet** rendered harmless.

1. Death for the believer is like a **de-clawed cat, de-fanged rattlesnake, or a scorpion w/o its stinger!**
2. It is like a **bee** which has already stung, & **now is left harmless** to ever sting again!

X. **Slide#18 VICTORY!** (56,57)

Y. **Sin** is cancelled & the strength of the **Law** to condemn us is removed...because it has been fulfilled in Jesus Christ.

- Z. **Death** is no longer our enemy then Christian; **but** an instrument of **freedom** from the reign of sin in our body.
1. There will always be **the human fear** of entering the valley of death...unless Jesus comes 1st!
  2. **Death then becomes** like **a friend** who leads me to **a curtain**, which is drawn aside, which has been hiding the full Glory of the Savior from my eyes!
  3. **Death is like the doors** at the back of our sanctuary during one of our weddings.
    - a) They are the only thing that stands between the **bride & her groom!**
    - b) Once they are **flung open** they both **behold each other** in all their **splendor!**

## VI. Slide#19 MEANWHILE...PERSEVERE! (58)

- A. So, now that we know about this mystery regarding the *Rapture*, **what do we do now?**
1. **Set dates? Quit our jobs? Sell everything? Sit up on our roofs & wait? Nope!** See next vs!
- B. **We end with a call that challenges us!**
- C. Alan Redpath said, “To preach or teach the bible without applying it to life is sin! The bible is not a text book, nor a book of theory & doctrine. It is to be a **compass**, the chart, the guide for my whole life.”
- D. **What is our application to what Paul just taught us? - Prepare for Victory!...How?**
1. **Slide#20a Be steadfast** – firm.
  2. **Slide#20b Immovable** –not moved.
    - a) Are you easily moved by circumstances?
    - b) Set your sail & stay on course!
  3. **Slide#20c Always abound in the work of the Lord** –
    - a) A honeybee lives only about six weeks. It works all that time. In a lifetime, a honeybee will make one-twelfth of a teaspoon of honey!
  4. **Slide#20d Know that your labor is not in vain** – (when it’s *in the Lord!*)
    - a) Here we are assured of the promise of **reward!**
    - b) **For God is not unjust to forget your work and labor of love.** Heb.6:10
- E. **Slide#21 Live today as if was your last on earth?** Would you do anything different?
1. **If you knew it was your last day would you plan anything different?**
  2. **If the trumpet sounds today at 9pm would you be “caught up” or “left behind?”**
- F. **This Victory ahead is for Christians!** - Death is no friend to the unbeliever...it is an enemy!
1. Death becomes, not a **curtain** separating a bride & a groom, but instead it is like a **prison door**, that opens for the prisoner,...only to be escorted to His execution.
  2. **It need not be so!** – Look unto Jesus, as the author & finisher of your faith!