



Sunday, April 24, 2011: A New Starting Point

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 15:1-24

Speaker: Joe Boot

Sermon Notes:

1. The resurrection of Christ is the fulcrum of the Christian faith; everything else is established in the resurrection.
2. Death is the final cessation of vital functions. Everything living is dying.
3. Death is associated with uncertainty and fear; we don't want to face our own mortality.
4. Skeptical people are anxious to believe there is no life after death; it's not a warm thought to imagine meeting the God you denied all your life.
5. You can't outrun the problem of death by healthy living and exercise.
6. In Christ's resurrection is the supreme fact of history, which defines all others.
7. If Christ didn't rise, we're to be most pitied. We're the ones who are duped.
8. To know the meaning of life you need to know the end of the story:
 - (1) It's appointed for mortals to die once and afterward to face judgment (Hebrews 9:27).
 - (2) When you die, you leave it all here; you can't take it with you (Luke 12:13-21).
 - (3) If the dead are not raised, let us eat and drink and be merry for tomorrow we die (1 Cor. 15:32-34).
9. Jesus called the rich man a fool because he was selfish toward God and he presumed upon life.
10. The fact for each of us is that we're going to leave everything, and someone else will spend it.
11. Life without God is ultimately meaningless (Ecclesiastes 1:8-11).
12. Whatever is most valuable to you is the thing for which you'll invest your life; Christ is King, and He's to be our greatest treasure.
13. As universal King, Christ :
 - (1) rules until all things submit to Him (1 Corinthians 15:25);
 - (2) requires faithful, hard work from His servants (Luke 19:12-27);
 - (3) delivers the kingdom to the Father (1 Corinthians 15:24-27).
14. The first meaning of the resurrection is that Christ is King, and He's ruling over everything in the universe; every knee will bow and worship Him.
15. The second meaning is that His servants are given the truth of the gospel to share. Christ calls His faithful servants to be His friends, and to "enter into the joy of your master" (Matthew 25:34).
16. Christ is life in all its fullness: As in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive (Romans 5).

Application Questions

1. What is the meaning of the resurrection for us, for you, for me? (cf. John 11:25)
2. Contrast the biblical teaching on life, death and resurrection with the popular views of today.
3. Am I engaged in life attitudes and activities which are comparable to the foolish barn building of Luke 12?
4. Is the resurrection ho-hum to me? Do I practically ignore it? Am I afraid to embrace its implications for my life?
5. How does Jesus' instruction in Luke 12:22-31 apply to my life?
6. How can the day of resurrection be a day of irrepressible joy for all of us? (cf. Matt 25:31-46)