

“I Hope So”

1 Corinthians 15:20-58

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Jesus' resurrection gives hope to every Christian believer.

I. OUR HOPE **GIVES US CERTAINTY.**

But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.²¹ For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man.²² For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive.²³ But each in turn: Christ, the firstfruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him.²⁴ Then the end will come, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father after he has destroyed all dominion, authority and power. 1 Corinthians 15:20-24 (New International Version)

For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet.²⁶ The last enemy to be destroyed is death.²⁷ For he “has put everything under his feet.” Now when it says that “everything” has been put under him, it is clear that this does not include God himself, who put everything under Christ.²⁸ When he has done this, then the Son himself will be made subject to him who put everything under him, so that God may be all in all.

1 Corinthians 15:25-28 (NIV)

A. A certainty that those in Christ **will be made alive.**

But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy,⁵ made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. Ephesians 2:4-5 (NIV)

B. A certainty that **death has been defeated.**

“I will deliver this people from the power of the grave; I will redeem them from death. Where, O death, are your plagues? Where, O grave, is your destruction? . . .

Hosea 13:14a (NIV)

C. A certainty that **God's kingdom will come.**

II. OUR HOPE **HAS MEANING.**

Now if there is no resurrection, what will those do who are baptized for the dead? If the dead are not raised at all, why are people baptized for them?³⁰ And as for us, why do we endanger ourselves every hour?³¹ I face death every day—yes, just as surely as I boast about you in Christ Jesus our Lord.³² If I fought wild beasts in Ephesus with no more than human hopes, what have I gained? If the dead are not raised. “Let us eat and drink, for

tomorrow we die.”³³ Do not be misled: “Bad company corrupts good character.”³⁴ Come back to your senses as you ought, and stop sinning; for there are some who are ignorant of God—I say this to your shame. 1 Corinthians 15:29-34 (NIV)

- A. Our hope gives meaning to evangelism.
- B. Our hope gives meaning to suffering.
- C. Our hope gives meaning to moral behavior.

III. OUR HOPE PROMISES CHANGE.

But someone will ask, “How are the dead raised? With what kind of body will they come?”³⁵ How foolish! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies.³⁶ When you sow, you do not plant the body that will be, but just a seed, perhaps of wheat or of something else.³⁷ But God gives it a body as he has determined, and to each kind of seed he gives its own body.³⁸ Not all flesh is the same: People have one kind of flesh, animals have another, birds another and fish another.³⁹ There are also heavenly bodies and there are earthly bodies; but the splendor of the heavenly bodies is one kind, and the splendor of the earthly bodies is another.⁴⁰ The sun has one kind of splendor, the moon another and the stars another; and star differs from star in splendor.⁴¹ So will it be with the resurrection of the dead. The body that is sown is perishable, it is raised imperishable;⁴² it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power;⁴³ 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 15:35-44 (NIV)

So it is written: “The first man Adam became a living being”; the last Adam, a life-giving spirit.⁴⁴ The spiritual did not come first, but the natural, and after that the spiritual.⁴⁵ The first man was of the dust of the earth; the second man is of heaven.⁴⁶ As was the earthly man, so are those who are of the earth; and as is the heavenly man, so also are those who are of heaven.⁴⁷ And just as we have borne the image of the earthly man, so shall we bear the image of the heavenly man. 1 Corinthians 15:45-49 (NIV)

I declare to you, brothers and sisters, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.⁵⁰ Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed—⁵¹ 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.⁵² For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality. 1 Corinthians 15:50-53 (NIV)

Look at Jesus as an example:

- His was a body with flesh and bones (Luke 24:39)
- He was able to walk through doors (John 20:19, 26)
- He was able to hold food and eat fish (John 21:9-13)
- He was able to appear and disappear (Luke 24:31)
- His new body traveled long distances and had access to heaven (Acts 1:9)
- He was recognizable as a distinct person, but was not immediately recognized (Luke 24:15)

IV. OUR HOPE GIVES US VICTORY!

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?" ⁵⁶The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. ⁵⁷But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁵⁸Therefore, 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. 1 Corinthians 15:54-58 (NIV)

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die." John 11:25 (NIV)

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. 1 Peter 1:3 (NIV)