

❖ The Lord's Supper (Read 1 Cor. 11)

❖ A New Hope

- Star Wars Third Movie in the Original Trilogy
 - Hope after defeating darkness... the dark side...
 - Big Celebration...
- We Don't have just a new Hope... We have a Risen Hope

A Risen Hope

1 Corinthians 15:17-19 ¹⁷ And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. ¹⁸ Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. ¹⁹ If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied.

❖ Martha's Worry and Jesus Response = Our Hope

- We are in quite the predicament...
 - We see people born and die... and we do not see them again
 - This is a sad sad part of being alive
- Martha (a friend of Jesus) had her brother die...
 - This event illustrates very clearly the certainty and sadness associated with losing a loved one
 - Her and her sister are distraught... their brother Lazarus is dead
- Jesus comes a brings hope...
 - Jesus reveals hope in what He is going to do for her
 - When He raises Lazarus from the dead
- Listen to this exchange b/w Jesus and Martha
 - John 11:21-27 Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²² But even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you." ²³ Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." ²⁴ Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." ²⁵ Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, ²⁶ and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?" ²⁷ She said to him, "Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world."
 - This is what Jesus offers...
 - This is what we celebrate today as Christians...
 - Jesus is the resurrection and the life... everyone who believe in Him though he die, he shall live
 - Then Jesus proves it... by raising Lazarus from the dead

❖ We Celebrate the Resurrection together as a church today

- It is not Easter that we celebrate...
 - Easter is bunnies and chocolate and hiding eggs
 - We celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus from the dead
 - I'm not trying to burst anyone's bubble... or be a sour old man
 - ◆ I know people get excited about Easter... Because they get good food

- And they usually get to see family members
- We celebrate the fact that Jesus will do the same for us when we die

❖ **Outline:**

- **1) What if Jesus was Never resurrected 2) Jesus Really Died**
- **3) Jesus Was Buried 4) Jesus was Raised... and here is some proof**
- **5) Why the Resurrection is Wonderful for Believers**
- **6) How Should the Resurrection Affect the Individual**

❖ **1) What if Jesus was Never resurrected**

- **Look at what Paul is saying in 1 Corinthians**
 - **If Christ has not been raised**
 - So, Paul... a former persecutor of Christians...
 - Extremely smart and educated Jewish man
 - Is a believer in the Resurrection
 - **He says... if Christ has not been raised...**
- **1) We are still in our sins**
 - Paul says your faith is futile... meaning it is worthless... nothing
 - The reason we die and are judged is because we are sinful people.
 - The Scriptures teach us that without Righteousness no one enters heaven
 - If there is no resurrection... Our sins are still on us
 - They are still on our account
- **2) We Christians made a lot about nothing and should be pitied**
- **3) This is it... Nothing to look forward to...**
 - Our Hope was in this world only...
 - There is nothing to look forward to
- **4) There is no hope we see each other again**
 - Those who have died believing in Jesus have perished.
 - There is no hope in seeing them again.
- You See: Everything We believe in HINGES on the Resurrection...
 - No resurrection... No God... No Savior... No Being Saved... No need to worship

❖ **2) Jesus Really Died**

- **John 19:33-34** ³³ **But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs.** ³⁴ **But one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once there came out blood and water.**
- **Jesus is Dead....**
 - He has just been crucified
 - He had been captured beaten and hung on a cross....
 - Legally it was because He claimed to be God
 - He claimed to be able to forgive sins
 - He claimed to be God...

❖ 3) Jesus Was Buried

- Nicodemus and Joseph of Arimathea take Jesus to be buried
- Let's look at Matthew and see how the tomb was watched over...
 - These verses are so important...
- Matt 27:57-66 ⁶²The next day, that is, after the day of Preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate ⁶³and said, "Sir, we remember how that impostor said, while he was still alive, 'After three days I will rise.' ⁶⁴Therefore order the tomb to be made secure until the third day, lest his disciples go and steal him away and tell the people, 'He has risen from the dead,' and the last fraud will be worse than the first." ⁶⁵Pilate said to them, "You have a guard of soldiers. Go, make it as secure as you can." ⁶⁶So they went and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone and setting a guard.
- **The Burial and Guarding of the Body of Jesus**
 - Leaders came Asking Pilate to Secure the Tomb...
 - Leaders are given a guard of Soldiers
 - Go Make it as Secure as you can
 - A Great Stone Rolled Over the Entrance of the Tomb
 - And A guard is set

❖ 4) Jesus was Raised: And here is some proof

- Matt 28:1-10 Now after the Sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. ²And behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. ³His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. ⁴And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men. ⁵But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. ⁶He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. ⁷Then go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and behold, he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him. See, I have told you." ⁸So they departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. ⁹And behold, Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came up and took hold of his feet and worshiped him. ¹⁰Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see me."
- There is the account... let me give you some proof to its truthfulness
- *There are so many historical proofs as to its truthfulness, we will not get through all of them*
- **1) Jesus Resurrection was prophesied in Advance**
 - 750 years earlier, the prophet Isaiah Spoke of it (Isaiah 53:8-12)
 - Jesus spoke of being resurrected at least 5 times recorded in Scripture
- **2) Jesus Died on the Cross, Was Buried in an easy to find Tomb, And Was then seen Alive**
 - **He Really died.... If the beating and blood loss didn't get him**
 - The spear through the side and into the heart surely would.
 - The guy responsible for crucifying Him Was really good at what He did...
 - **He is wrapped in Burial clothes**
 - Some claim they weighed over 100 lbs.
 - And that they would suffocate anyone wrapped in them
 - **Given no medical Attention during these days in the tomb**

- **The Tomb is being guarded by probably as many as 4 soldiers...**
 - It has been made as secure as is possible... (remember our verse from Matt)
 - These soldiers are very good at what they do...
 - And a couple fishermen were not going to subdue them
 - Or sneak past them...
 - And they sure were not going to fall asleep as the Pharisees tried to spread a lie
- **Then 100's of people see Him**
 - The women followers first
 - All of his disciples
 - 500 people at one time saw Jesus after His death
 - ◆ **1 Corinthians 15:4-8 For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me.**
- **This man who just went through the most barbaric Torture is up walking around**
 - He is never described as a man in bad physical shape.
 - He appears to them, and cooks for them
 - Walks with them... Looks normal...
 - His followers even mistook Him for a Gardener
- **3) One of His biggest Enemies, Paul, later Confirms it after seeing Jesus**
 - Paul was persecuting the Church, and killing Christians...
 - Jesus appears to him and He is changed
- **4) The Transformation of the Disciples**
 - They scattered when Jesus was arrested
 - They hid in secret rooms
 - Only John went to the cross
 - Most of them did not believe He had risen when the women told them....
 - Then One Day you see them out preaching in public
 - Getting Arrested and beaten...
 - And then rejoicing that they get to go through this...
 - All of them Died for the Belief in Jesus as God, and in His Resurrection from the dead
- **5) Their character makes it hard to believe they fabricated the story**
 - The greatest writings on how to live are in the Bible...
 - The new Testament is filled with instructions on how to live
 - Their only trouble with the law was based on their telling others about Jesus...
- **6) The Resurrection on Sunday changed their day of Worship**
 - Hundreds of very loyal Jewish people changed their day of worship to Sunday
 - The Sabbath was on Saturday
 - And as a good Jewish person, you would respect that
 - But they changed their day of worship to another day

- Something dramatic must have happened
- **7) The Early Church's growth was predicated on the Fact of the Resurrection**
 - The thousands of people that joined the church in a matter of days and weeks
 - Did so believing Jesus had risen from the dead
- **8) The tomb was not enshrined**
 - Most religious leaders have a tomb enshrined, and their followers come to it
 - And Jesus' followers were zealous for Him
 - But they did not set up a memorial for Him
 - Why? He was not in the tomb
- **9) His previously unbelieving brothers and His loving Mother Worshipped Him as God**
 - No longer was Jesus just their brother... They saw Him as God
 - No longer was He just a Son, Mary knew Him to be the Son of God
 - If you remember... His brothers mocked Him a little bit at one point
 - Yet after Resurrection you notice they are followers of Jesus
- **Thomas Arnold (professor of Modern History at Oxford): "No one fact in the history of mankind . . . is proved by better and fuller evidence of every sort" than the fact that "Christ died and rose from the dead."**
- **10) Finally.... Josephus... a Jewish historian during the time wrote this in his Work:**
 - **The Antiquities of the Jews**
 - *Now there was about this time, Jesus, a wise man, if it be lawful to call him a man, for he was a doer of wonderful works, a teacher of such men as received the truth with pleasure. He drew over to him both many of the Jews, and many of the Gentiles. He was the Christ, and when Pilate, at the suggestion of the principle men among us, had condemned him to the cross, those that loved him at the first did not forsake him; for he appeared to them alive again the third day; as the divine prophets had foretold these and ten thousand other wonderful things concerning him. And the tribe of Christians so named from him are not extinct at this day.*

❖ 5) Why the Resurrection is so Great for Us

- **Words cannot describe how fantastic this is...**
 - Inexpressible.... Almost seems to good to be true... Even hard to believe at times.
- **1) It Means that Sinful People (like us) Get to Be with God**
 - Our Sins Can Be Forgiven
 - And the result of our sin (our death) can be reversed
 - No matter what I have done, or said, or thought... it can be taken away
- **2) This life is not all there is**
 - There is so much more waiting for us...
 - 1 Corinthians 2:9⁹ But, as it is written, "What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him"
 - This life is filled with sorrow, and need, and wanting...
 - God has a Rest for us
 - Matthew 11:28²⁸ Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

➤ **3) We can live in hope of being reunited with each other**

- When our loved ones die... It is not the end
- We will see them once again
- The Relationships we have made, will continue on for Eternity...
- God has ordained we have strong friendships and family bonds...
- This will not end

➤ **4) Our Broken Down Bodies are made New, and Better**

- Our frail bodies will be changed...
- **When we die now....**
 - Our bodies go into the earth and it turns to dirt...
 - Our Spirit goes to be with Christ
 - ◆ **2 Corinthians 5:6-8** ⁶Therefore *we are* always confident, knowing that, whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord: ⁷ (For we walk by faith, not by sight:) ⁸ We are confident, / say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.
 - **On the Day of Resurrection we are given a new body Like Jesus' (Find hope in this)**
 - ◆ In the same way Jesus died, was buried, and then His body was made new... Us Too!
 - ◆ **1 Corinthians 15:42-44,49** ⁴² So is it with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable; what is raised is imperishable. ⁴³ It is sown in dishonor; it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness; it is raised in power. ⁴⁴ It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body... ⁴⁹ Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven.

➤ **5) We Will See and Worship God**

- The greatest reason for our hope is this...
 - That we will see our God and be able to Worship Him

➤ **Jesus is the Only Hope of Life After Death**

- **Almost all major religions are based on philosophies**
 - Except 4 that are based on personalities.
- **Of those 4 only one claims to have risen from the dead.**
 - Abraham, father of Judaism dies around 1900 bc
 - ◆ Jesus said before Abraham was, I AM
 - Buddha died
 - Mohammed died June 8th 632 AD, and his tomb is visited annually by his followers.
- **Only Jesus Was Resurrected**
 - Only Jesus has power over death
 - Only Jesus has the authority to give Eternal Life

❖ **6) How Should the Resurrection Affect the Individual?**

➤ **1) A Holy Fear Should Grip You**

- **Mark 16.8** "They went out and fled from the tomb, for trembling and astonishment had gripped them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid."
 - Their response to the resurrection was fear and trembling, astonishment.

- They are dealing with God.
- **2) We should give up our lives for Christ**
 - Nothing Else matters
 - **This was the Response of the Disciples**
 - They all died for Jesus...
 - Paul's Response was to go through suffering....
 - **Most of us will never face physical death for believing the Resurrection...**
 - But we are called to die daily....
 - Called to die to our own desires...
 - And follow the desire of God first....
 - **Sadly.... This is where most people Stop... they give up when they hear this...**
 - The Rich Young Ruler came to Jesus wanting Eternal Life.
 - Jesus told him He had to sell all He had, then come follow Jesus... He went away sad...
- **3) Our Lives Should be Shaped by the Hope of the Resurrection**
 - In All of our choices... and ... In our outlook on life...
 - We make decisions knowing we will be rewarded by how we lived our life
 - Or have no rewards for living unfaithfully
- **4) It Should Free us From Materialism**
 - Wanting to get and get and get... more and more stuff
 - This World Holds nothing of value for us....Our Treasure is somewhere else...

❖ Invitation: The 2 Resurrections

- **1) There is the Resurrection of all Believers unto Eternal Life**
 - Where there will be no more pain, or sorrow, or tears
 - **Rev.20.6 Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power,**
- **2) There is the Resurrection unto death for all those who have rejected Jesus**
 - Who have rejected His offer of free grace....Of free eternal life
 - **I would be amiss if I did not warn you today...**
 - Not everyone benefits from the Resurrection of Jesus at the judgment
 - **Your name must be in the book of those who believe in Jesus**
 - The blood of Jesus has to have been placed onto your account
 - When you repented and believed and followed Jesus
 - **Revelation 20:14,15 ¹⁴ Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. ¹⁵ And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.**
- Or... We could go back to what Jesus told Martha
 - **John 11:25-26 ²⁵ Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, ²⁶ and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?"**