

46-15-05-Resurrection Hope

memorial, Advent, Incarnation, death, resurrection, Communion

1 Cor 15:45-49

Resurrection is God's decree that humanity has an eternal destiny.

INTRODUCTION:

–Read **text: 1 Cor 15:45-49 (NLT)**, The Scriptures tell us, “The first man, Adam, became a living person.” But the last Adam—that is, Christ—is a life-giving Spirit. What came first was the natural body, then the spiritual body comes later. Adam, the first man, was made from the dust of the earth, while Christ, the second man, came from heaven. Every human being has an earthly body just like Adam's, but our heavenly bodies will be just like Christ's. Just as we are now like Adam, the man of the earth, so we will someday be like Christ, the man from heaven.

–*Christian hope has many dimensions, as many dimensions as there are troubles and disappointments* in life. **BUT** in the face of **death**, our **Christian hope** is clearly a *resurrection hope* (**title**). **HOM.idea.**

–God, by putting His image in physical bodies, created something unique in all the universe. He called it not just “good,” but “very good.” The human body wasn't just a *temporary idea* but an *eternal plan!* Deep in our heart, we long for this to be so, but this text promises that it is so, and it explains why. *The biblical record* tells us that...

I. Adam Ate from a Tree That Brought Death

- A. God had warned him in **Gen 2:17**, “you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die.”
- B. That's very “*good news!*” (and I'll tell you *why*). This warning means that this “death-and-decay” experience that we've inherited in the *human condition*, is **not God's original design!**

TRANS: Human death is not a divine plan. In fact, God wants to free us from it. And that's where “*the man from heaven*” comes in....

II. Christ Provided a Tree That Brings Life

- A. God, personally entered this deadly human condition– **John 1:1.14a**. In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. / The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. (His Advent [coming] brought the *Incarnation*: “God with us” *in human flesh!*)
- B. Jesus gave us another tree to feed from– **John 6:51**, “I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live

forever. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.”

1. On that tree, the Cross, Christ's fleshly body received our death-curse– **Gal 3:13**, Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: “Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree.”
2. By His Resurrection in a *glorified body*, **He is now** “*a life-giving Spirit*,” offering us *His life*, as we receive Him into *our own lives*.

TRANS: Holy Communion is a *memorial* where believers gather at the Table of Christ's death, to feed upon His life. Similarly, God gathers us when our dear ones die, to feed our minds on their lives. In that sense...

III. A Christian's Memorial Is Also a Tree to Feed Upon

- A. God's picture for believers is a *life of growth*– **Psa 1:3**, “He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers.” (Death seems to end growth and fruitfulness, but Christ makes them our eternal destiny!)
- B. Death again has gathered us to contemplate... to feed our minds on a marvelous, fruitful life. (BUT it was a *life lived out under the constraints and limitations* of “*an earthly body just like Adam's.*”)
- C. Resurrection hope anticipates enjoying an afterlife lived out in “*our heavenly bodies*” which “*will be just like Christ's*” body, glorified... free from disease and decay... built to last forever!)

CONCLUSION:

–This was the *resurrection hope* of _____.

She/He has left behind the body she/he inherited as a *child of the old humanity*. Once, as a *born-again child of the new humanity*, **she/he** held these Scripture promises *by faith*. Now **she/he** enjoys them *by direct experience* in the presence of Jesus. **Her/His** *faith* has become *sight*.

–If _____ could communicate with us, I believe **she/he** would want *all of us* here at this memorial to know *what she/he knows right now*. **She/he** would be inviting everyone to join **her/him** in *this faith* —a faith that connects them forever to the One whose *sacrificial death on the Cross* purchased this *hope*, and whose *resurrected life* now in heaven guarantees humanity's eternal destiny.