**Resurrected Joy**

**(1 Corinthians 15:1-58)**

**Yearly Theme: *“Joy is…”***

**Series Title: *For the Joy…***

**May 3rd, 2020**

***Something to think about:***

What is the definition of “resurrection?”

**resurrection[[1]](#footnote-1)**

*Noun,* (rez-*uh*-**rek**-sh*uh* n)**.**

A rising again; chiefly, the revival of the dead of the human race, or their return from the grave, particularly at the general judgement.

Today, we close out our series entitled, “For the Joy,” having focused on Jesus’ journey to the cross. And, it was because of the joy that was set before Him that He endured the cross, despising its shame, and now He is seated at the right hand of the Father interceding on our behalf.

Now, we who follow in His footsteps will also follow in His resurrection. We who believe in Jesus, and have committed our lives to Him by denying ourselves, taking up our crosses, and following Him will also be raised to new life not only spiritually, but also physically when Jesus returns at the end of time.

It’s in Paul’s letter to the Corinthians that we turn today in order to wrap our minds around the resurrection in order to have a full and complete picture of what that means for us today (as well as our loved ones who have passed on from this life).

**Key Point*: “Joy truly exists for the one who knows there is hope beyond the grave.”***

The first thing we see in Paul’s conclusion to his first letter to the Corinthians is this:

1. **Jesus was completely and fully resurrected from the dead.**

*1 Corinthians 15:3-9 (NLT), 3  I passed on to you what was most important and what had also been passed on to me. Christ died for our sins, just as the Scriptures said. 4  He was buried, and he was raised from the dead on the third day, just as the Scriptures said. 5  He was seen by Peter and then by the Twelve. 6  After that, he was seen by more than 500 of his followers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. 7  Then he was seen by James and later by all the apostles. 8  Last of all, as though I had been born at the wrong time, I also saw him. 9  For I am the least of all the apostles. In fact, I’m not even worthy to be called an apostle after the way I persecuted God’s church.*

The second thing we see in this passage is:

1. **We will be completely and fully resurrected from the dead at Christ’s return.**

*1 Corinthians 15:12-14, 20 (NLT), 12  But tell me this—since we preach that Christ rose from the dead, why are some of you saying there will be no resurrection of the dead? 13  For if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised either. 14  And if Christ has not been raised, then all our preaching is useless, and your faith is useless…*

*20  …But in fact, Christ has been raised from the dead. He is the first of a great harvest of all who have died.*

Finally, the last thing we see in this passage is:

1. **Our bodies, carrying all of the characteristics that made us human, will be transformed into an imperishable, immortal body just like Jesus’ resurrected body.**

*1 Corinthians 15:51-53 (NLT), 51 But let me reveal to you a wonderful secret. We will not all die, but we will all be transformed! 52  It will happen in a moment, in the blink of an eye, when the last trumpet is blown. For when the trumpet sounds, those who have died will be raised to live forever. And we who are living will also be transformed. 53  For our dying bodies must be transformed into bodies that will never die; our mortal bodies must be transformed into immortal bodies.*

***Something to take home:***

The main reason that believers in Christ throughout the centuries have grown in number and have not wavered in their faith under great persecution, is because of the veracity and sheer impact of the resurrection of Jesus on their lives. Their faith has endured, and even strengthened under pressure. They remember the words of Jesus who said, “In this world you will have troubles of many kinds, but take heart, I have overcome the world.”

Jesus’ resurrection reassures those of us who believe in Him of our own resurrection, and the fact that the grave does not have a hold on us either. We can sing for joy at the funerals of those who have died in Christ knowing that death is not the final answer, and that there is victory over death for the follower of Christ.

**Key Point*: “Joy truly exists for the one who knows there is hope beyond the grave.”***

1. *American Dictionary of the English Language*, <http://webstersdictionary1828.com/Dictionary/resurrection> (accessed: April 20, 2020). [↑](#footnote-ref-1)