

# The Gospel – Our Anchor in Crisis

March 20, 2020

Pastor Finu Iype

---

## 1Corinthians 15:19-23

<sup>19</sup> And if our hope in Christ is only for this life, we are more to be pitied than anyone in the world.

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

<sup>21</sup> So you see, just as **death came** into the world through a man, now the **resurrection** from the dead has **begun** through another man. <sup>22</sup> Just as everyone **dies** because we all belong to Adam, everyone who belongs to Christ will be given **new life**.

<sup>23</sup> But there is an order to this resurrection: Christ was raised as the **first** of the harvest; then all who belong to Christ will be raised when he comes back.

## The Foundation of Your Life

- What if the things we build our life on are taken away?
- We don't deny that God wants to bless us and prosper us, but Paul says if we hope in Christ in this life 'only' then we are to be pitied.
- Primary message of the Gospel – we are sinners separated from God
- Because of sin there is sickness, death, tragedy, poverty etc.
- Jesus said, "In this world you will have tribulation"
- Jesus is saying, it won't always go great, things are not always going to work out - you will go through difficult moments in life.
- In those moments what will you build your life on?

## Our Eternal Hope

- Our hope is in Jesus
- Jesus came to transform our lives for eternity
- Paul is saying the reason we hope in Jesus is not only because He was raised from the dead but because He will be the first of many.
- The hope of the Christian is that death is not final, trouble is not final but there is hope even when everything seems hopeless.
- We believe in a Jesus who was crucified and buried, but yet on the third day He rose from the grave.
- His resurrection power resides in those who believe in Him.
- Power for this life but also for eternal life.

## **2Corinthians 4:7-12**

<sup>7</sup> We now have this **light** shining in our hearts, but we ourselves are like **fragile clay jars** containing this great treasure. This makes it clear that our great power is from God, not from ourselves.

<sup>8</sup> We are pressed on every side by troubles, but we are not crushed. We are perplexed, but not driven to despair.

<sup>9</sup> We are hunted down, but never abandoned by God. We get knocked down, but we are not destroyed.

<sup>10</sup> Through suffering, our bodies continue to share in the death of Jesus so that the **life** of Jesus may also be seen in our bodies.

<sup>11</sup> Yes, we live under constant danger of death because we serve Jesus, so that the life of Jesus will be evident in our dying bodies.

<sup>12</sup> So we live in the face of death, but this has resulted in eternal life for you.

### **An Eternal Perspective**

- The Christian's perspective on the fragility of life is not to deny it but to embrace it.
- Even though our lives are fragile, our jobs may not be secure for life, our health may not be secure forever but there is still a light that shines inside of us. The hope in Jesus is not in the human body.
- The hope of Jesus is that in our hopeless circumstance there can be a light that can shine so bright.
- People should say to you, "You are going through so much but why do you have such hope in you?"
- Why do you hope that something better is coming? Why do you speak such words of comfort and encouragement?
- There is a light shining in every Christian - we've got the light.
- When the natural gets darker and darker, the light in me gets brighter and brighter.
- People notice light more in the darkness
- For believers in Jesus this is the time to turn the light on and to allow Jesus shine through us.
- People ought to say, "What is it about you that makes you look at it so different?"
- God knows our future already.
- David said, "Before I was formed in my mother's womb, God already knew me."
- Nothing that happens to us is a surprise to Him.
- Find a way of touching the life of a friend or neighbor right now.

## **2Corinthians 4:16-18**

<sup>16</sup> That is why we never give up. Though our bodies are dying, our spirits are being renewed every day.

<sup>17</sup> For our present troubles are small and won't last very long. Yet they produce for us a **glory that vastly outweighs** them and will last forever!

<sup>18</sup> So we **don't look at the troubles** we can see now; rather, we **fix** our gaze on things that cannot be seen. For the things we see now will soon be gone, but the things we cannot see will **last forever**.

## **The Christian Hope**

- A Christian refuses to give up hope
- If a person doesn't know Jesus, they are missing out.
- The Christian joy comes because Jesus lives in us.
- God can use what's happening in the world today to speak to us.
- What if God can take a bad thing and bring to our understanding that the things we see will not always be around?
- Sometimes we think, "I will always be good", but it's not true
- What if God is allowing the things that we constantly look for comfort, hope and security in, to be removed so we can focus on what is eternal?
- The message of the Gospel is that everything we see around us one day will be gone.
- The things we cannot see will last forever.

## **Hebrews 9:27-28**

<sup>27</sup> And just as each person is destined to die once and after that comes judgment,

<sup>28</sup> so also Christ was offered once for all time as a sacrifice to take away the sins of many people. He will come again, not to deal with our sins, but to bring salvation to all who are eagerly waiting for him.

## **Judgment Day**

- When that day comes what will happen? The Bible says we will die and then we will stand for judgment.

## **John 3:36**

<sup>36</sup> And anyone who believes in God's Son has eternal life. Anyone who doesn't obey the Son will never experience eternal life but remains under God's angry judgment."

## **Why Jesus Came**

- God created the world perfect and holy.
- Because of sin there is a curse on our world.
- This is why Jesus came. The Bible says if you believe in Jesus you will have eternal life.