

The importance of Resurrection

1 Corinthians 15:12-34

John 11:17-27

The message of Jesus gives us hope. If we know and meet with Jesus, we are given hope. In the bible, there was a man named Lazarus. He was about to die and his sister came to see Jesus, but Jesus was so busy and he could not come on time. When Jesus came to see Lazarus, Lazarus was already dead and was in the tomb for four days. Jesus said, "Lazarus, come out." Our Lord still is talking to you to "come out." If you are struggling, if you are frustrated, if you have failed, come to God. He says to you, "Come out." Jesus said in John 11:25, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies." 26 says, "whoever lives and believes in me will never die." It was impossible with man, but nothing is impossible with God.

There was a man, who was sick in bed for 38 years old. Can you imagine it? For 38 years, the man was not very well. How did he feel? He must have had no hope and future. He must have been disappointed with his life and he must have tried to give up. But this man did not give up. He came to see Jesus. This is very important. The same principle is applied to you. Don't be discouraged. Don't be afraid. Come to see Jesus. After he met with Jesus, he was completely healed. He was given new life.

There was a woman who was bleeding for 12 years. Life was so tough to her. The bible said that she had done her own best to get cured. She met with many medical doctors, but she was never cured. Have you had any experiences? Before you met with Jesus, you tried many times, but you couldn't. The woman finally met with Jesus and said she wanted to be cured. She was totally healed.

2 Corinthians 5:17, "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come (NIV)." If you want a better life...if you want a success in your life...you need to meet with Jesus. He is the right person. He will help you and teach you what to do. Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth and the life, no one comes to the Father except through me (John 14:6)."

Last week, we learned about the heart of the gospel. What was the gospel? It is the good news. In the time of Jesus, Jesus mentioned it was the kingdom of God. And thus he met with many people and healed their sicknesses and diseases. He

later preached the kingdom of God. However, after the death and resurrection of Jesus, the disciples of Jesus were delivering the death and resurrection of Jesus. That was the message of the gospel. The message has saved people from their sins. And the message gave them a new life. The history has testified that many who met with Jesus and heard about the gospel were changed and given new life. The bible said that the message was sent to disciples of Jesus and sent to 500 people. And the message has been proclaimed to many people in the world. Have you ever read my article in the messenger? How many people in the world? 7.29 billion people. How many have never heard about the gospel? 3.08 billion people. 42.2 percentage of people are unreached. For this reason, disciples of Jesus have spent much time on preaching the gospel. Today, I am going to talk about the importance of the resurrection.

Can you say what Christianity is? The core of Christianity is 'Resurrection'. The essence of Christianity is 'Resurrection.' Why? Because there is no resurrection in other religions; Islam, Buddhism, Judaism, and so on. My parents were Buddhist. And they told me that they would go to temples on special occasions. Later they believed in God and accepted Jesus as their Lord and Saviour. Buddhists believe that they can be saved by their own works but they are still not quite sure of what they will be after death. In a word, they do not know about the future. They have no confidence about what they will be doing after death.

About twenty years ago, one of the great monks in Korea died. Before he died, he said, "We cannot be saved, because there is no one who died for our sins. I am sorry for my daughter. Now, I am going to hell." His name is "Sung Chul." He is still known as one of the famous monks in the country.

Buddhists still believe that they could be saved by their own works. They do not know about the future. They do not believe resurrection. They have no confidence in their lives.

However, we Christians believe that we are saved by our Lord Jesus. And we believe that we will not die, but have eternal life. John 3:16 says, "For God so loved the world, who gave his one and only Son, whoever believes in him shall not die, but have eternal life." This is the belief of resurrection. It gives us hope. It gives us a bright future.

Also, we believe that our Lord Jesus died for our sins, and he was resurrected to save us. However, in the time of Apostle Paul, many did not believe the resurrection of Jesus. Verse 12 says, "how can some of you say that there is no resurrection (NIV)."

Many people in those days did not believe the resurrection of Jesus. Acts 17:16 says, "While Paul was waiting in Athens, he was greatly upset when he noticed how full of idols the city was (GNB)." The cities of Corinth and Athens were full of idols. Corinthians believed in many gods. They were so corrupt and secular. At godly temples, there were many male and female prostitutes. After they worshipped their gods, sexual relations were allowed. It was the part of the service. Along with this, many were proud of their powers and intelligence. For this reason, they did not believe the resurrection of the Christ. Paul was having difficulties in preaching the gospel to them.

Today, one of the hardest places for preaching the gospel is in Europe. Some years ago, the president of France said that his country was secular. It was not a religious country. There are less than 1 percent of Christians living in France. It is quite common to see people being naked, selling drugs, and having relationships with prostitutes at many public places. It is easy to see pornography at most European countries. In Netherlands, gay marriages were accepted long time ago and people are allowed to get married to animals.

In the bible. Paul was trying to preach the gospel, the death and the resurrection in the city of Corinth. Paul and other believers were so disappointed, because the Corinthians did not care. And Paul and his disciples could not find hope in the city. But Paul said, in verse 19, "Our hope in Christ is good."

Where can we find hope in this world? Can you find any hope in our country? There is still evil in this country. This country allows gambling and prostitution at some public places. Homo- sexuality is legal. Selling and possession of drugs is illegal, but happens.

It is hard to see hope in this world and our country. Where can we have hope? As the bible says, we can have hope in the Christ. Look at those, who met with Jesus. They were totally changed. After I met with Jesus, I was totally changed. Our Lord gave me hope. It is the hope of the future. Oftentimes, I try to think what I have to do? When I was discouraged and afraid, I would come to God and pray to him. Please let me come to near you. Help me to meet with you.

The hope comes from our Lord. Verse 20 says, "But the truth is that Christ has been raised from death." The resurrection of our Lord Jesus gives us hope. And it gives us a confidence of why we are living.

Unlike other religions, we were destined to die because of our sins, but we have been given new life. This is eternal life. Look at verses 22, “as all people die because of their union with Adam...all will be raised to life because of their union with Christ.” The first man Adam sinned against God. And the death came into the world through Adam. There was no hope and no future. It was impossible for man to come to God.

However, there is a way for people to come to God. It is possible through our Lord Jesus. Jesus was sent to save us and to give us new life. It also gives us hope. It is the hope of the future. It gives us hope in our daily lives. Verse 23 says, “each one will be raised in his proper order: Christ, first of all; then, at the time of his coming, those who belong to him.”

We cannot escape death. Verse 26 says, “the last enemy to be defeated will be death(GNB).” It is our destiny. There is only one who has escaped death. He is Jesus, our Lord and Saviour. Verse 27 says, “he(Jesus) has put everything under his feet.”

One of the differences between Christians and non-Christians is that we believe that we have the hope of heaven. It gives us eternal life. No death. No sorrows. No distress. But non-Christians have no hope of heaven. That is why they are afraid about the future. They have no confidence about what happens after they die. The city of Corinth was full of idols and Corinthians had no confidence in God and the future. For those, Paul delivered the message of hope. It is the message of death and the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Those who came to accept Jesus were given hope. They were saved by Jesus and were given new life. But those who did not accept Jesus were not given hope. They were not saved and not given new life.

We are living in this world. This world still allows the good and the evil. Which way will you follow? If you want to follow the good, then we will meet with Jesus. We will have to ask Jesus what we have to do. Also, we have to share this wonderful message with those who never heard about the Christ. Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, thank you for being with us today. Thank you for your presence in this world. Allow us to have your wisdom and knowledge, so that we can live and work for you. In the time of Jesus and disciples of the Christ, many did not believe in you. They were struggling and frustrated, because they did not know what to do. There was no hope and future. There was no way for them to have

hope. For those, there were given the message of hope. It was the message of the cross. It was the death and the resurrection of Jesus Christ. The message changed many people. The message has transformed many people's lives. Still today, the message has saved many people and it has given them a new life. Thank you for your message. Thank you for sending your son Jesus. Thank you Father, we pray in your name Jesus, Amen.