

3. Hope of Resurrection

Start off with feedback from Sunday's message. What did those that were there - or those that have caught up online - take away from it? What encouraged them, what informed them and what challenged them?

Read 1 Corinthians 15 (yes, the whole chapter – it will take a while!)

42 *So will it be with the resurrection of the dead. The body that is sown is perishable, it is raised imperishable; 43 it is sown in dishonour, 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.*

- Why is the physical bodily resurrection of Jesus from the dead of 'first importance'? Can't Christianity work just as well without it?
- v32. *'Eat and drink for tomorrow we die.'* Are we ever guilty of living as if the resurrection hasn't happened? Do we get sucked into the Materialist Bucket List way of thinking? And, if so, what does that look like?
- v35-49. What does the emphasis on bodies in this passage tell you about God's plans for us and our world? What was Jesus' resurrection body like? How was it similar and how was it superior? Is this exciting or freaky?
- Did you find the analogies of seed and embryo helpful? (If you missed it, get someone to give a quick explanation). What encourages you and helps you about each of those pictures?
- v50-57. To what extent do you live with a focus on God's coming victory and our resurrection/transformation? What things might change if you had a stronger vision of this future?
- v58. *'Therefore...'* The point of all this teaching is not to make us just informed but inspired and active. How can you give yourself fully 'to the work of the Lord'? What would it look like for us to do that together as a group?

Big Idea: 'Our resurrection experience will be definitely connected but completely different; very similar but vastly superior. So we live not with a materialist Bucket List, but an unmovable Kingdom Focus.'

Pray for each other. Pray for a greater awareness of our future, and a greater conviction of the resurrection of Jesus and all that means for us. Pray for the ability to be unmoved, no matter what the present trials and challenges. Pray for inspiration to give ourselves fully to the work of the Lord, rather than living with a Bucket List mentality.

Finally, pray for those you know and love who don't yet know Jesus. Pray that God will give you opportunities to reach out to them, so that they can inherit this glorious future too.