

June 30, 2013

Hope I Cor. 15

INTRODUCTION:

(Summarize last week's message: Faith, Works, and Reconciliation.)

Last week we heard that we are saved by Grace (God's "Gift of Reconciliation At Jesus Expense").

Faith by itself cannot save us.
Good works cannot save us.

If grace saves us---

Why subject ourselves to such a difficult life? Why not continue in sin and say a quick prayer of repentance on our deathbed.

The person with one talent tried it.

Matthew 25:28-30

²⁸ Therefore take away the talent from him, and give it to the one who has the ten talents.'

²⁹ "For to everyone who has, *more* shall be given, and he will have an abundance; but from the one who does not have, even what he does have shall be taken away. ³⁰ Throw out the worthless slave into the outer darkness; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

If any man is "in Christ", he is a new creature.

Romans 6:1-7

6 What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin so that grace may increase? ² May it never be! How shall we who died to sin still live in it? ³ Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? ⁴ Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. ⁵ For if we have become ^[a]united with *Him* in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be ^[b]*in the likeness* of His resurrection, ⁶ knowing this, that our old ^[c]self was crucified with *Him*, in order that our body of sin might be ^[d]done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin; ⁷ for he who has died is ^[e]freed from sin.

But...without faith and works we will not be saved. Our faith and works could possibly save us **IF we never sin. But we know that all have sinned.**

Romans 3:23

²³ for all ^[a]have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

1 John 1:8-10

⁸ If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us. ⁹ If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰ If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar and His word is not in us.

We cannot rid ourselves from our sin. No matter how great our faith or how good our works. Therefore God had to offer Christ on the cross as a sinless perfect sacrifice to reconcile us to himself that we could have forgiveness of sin.

ILLUSTRATION:

What is reconciliation?

If we received a speeding ticket for speeding, but the fine was paid by the judge, that would be a gift that we did not deserve. We did the speeding. We should have to pay the fine.

2 Corinthians 5:14-21

¹⁴ For the love of Christ controls us, having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died; ¹⁵ and He died for all, so that they who live might no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf.

¹⁶ Therefore from now on we recognize no one ^[a]according to the flesh; even though we have known Christ ^[b]according to the flesh, yet now we know *Him in this way* no longer. ¹⁷ Therefore if anyone is in Christ, ^[c]*he is* a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come. ¹⁸ Now all *these* things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation, ¹⁹ namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and ^[d]He has ^[e]committed to us the word of reconciliation.

²⁰ Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹ He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

Read the last part of God's Recall Notice from last week.

RECALL NOTICE (From Last Week's Message)

The Maker of all human beings (GOD) is recalling all units manufactured, regardless of make or year, due to a serious defect in the central component of the heart. This is due to a malfunction induced by Satan when he convinced Adam and Eve to eat fruit from the tree of good and evil. This malfunction has resulted in the reproduction of the same defect in all subsequent units. The defect has been identified as a "Self Indulgence Nodule", more commonly known as **S.I.N.**, or "**SIN**" in short.

Some of the symptoms include:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Loss of direction | 6. Depression or confusion |
| 2. Foul vocal emissions | 7. Fearfulness |
| 3. Amnesia of origin | 8. Idolatry |
| 4. Lack of peace and joy | 9. Rebellion |
| 5. Selfish or violent behavior | |

The Manufacturer, who is neither liable nor at fault for this defect, is providing factory-authorized repair with His G.R.A.C.E procedure (God's Gift of Reconciliation At Christ's Expense). This GRACE procedure, to correct the SIN defect, is free of charge.

The Repair Technician, **Jesus**, has most generously offered to bear the entire burden of the staggering cost of these repairs.

The number to call for repair in all areas is: 1 (800) **P-R-A-Y-E-R-S**. This is a toll-free wireless call. Once connected, please upload your burden of **SIN** through the **REPENTANCE** procedure. Next, download **ATONEMENT** from the Repair Technician, **Jesus**, into the heart component.

No matter how big or small the **SIN** defect is, **Jesus** will replace it with:

- | | |
|-------------|-----------------|
| 1. Love | 6. Goodness |
| 2. Joy | 7. Faithfulness |
| 3. Peace | 8. Gentleness |
| 4. Patience | 9. Self Control |
| 5. Kindness | |

Please see the operating manual, the **B.I.B.L.E.** (BEST Instructions Before Leaving Earth) for further details on the use of these fixes.

WARNING: Continuing to operate the human being unit without correction voids any manufacturer warranties, exposing the unit to dangers and problems too numerous to

list, and will result in the human unit being permanently impounded. For free emergency service, call on Jesus at the toll-free number listed above.

DANGER: The human being units not responding to this recall action will have to be scrapped in the furnace. The SIN defect will not be permitted to enter Heaven so as to prevent contamination of that facility. Thank you for your attention!

- GOD

P.S. Please assist where possible by notifying others of this important recall notice, and you may contact the Father any time by 'Knee mail'!

Because HE Lives!

Working for God on earth doesn't pay much.....but His retirement plan is out of this world!

This morning I would like to discuss Hope that we have of attaining heaven due to the death and resurrection of Christ from I COR.15.

BODY:

I. Hope

1 Corinthians 15

1. The Fact of Christ's Resurrection

--Christ Died for Our Sins 1-4

15 Now I make known to you, brethren, the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received, in which also you stand, ²by which also you are saved, if you hold fast ^[a]the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain. ³For I delivered to you ^[b]as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,

--No Resurrection—Preaching and Faith in vain 12-19

¹²Now if Christ is preached, that He has been raised from the dead, how do some among you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? ¹³But if there is no resurrection of the dead, not even

Christ has been raised; ¹⁴ and if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is vain, your faith also is vain. ¹⁵ Moreover we are even found *to be* false witnesses of God, because we testified ^[f]against God that He raised ^[g]Christ, whom He did not raise, if in fact the dead are not raised. ¹⁶ For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised; ¹⁷ and if Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins. ¹⁸ Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. ¹⁹ If we have hoped in Christ in this life only, we are of all men most to be pitied.

2. The Order of Resurrection

--Christ was the First to Rise 20-22

²⁰ But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who are asleep. ²¹ For since by a man *came* death, by a man also *came* the resurrection of the dead. ²² For as in Adam all die, so also in ^[h]Christ all will be made alive.

--Dead in Christ will rise, then those that are alive and “in Christ” 23

²³ But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, after that those who are Christ’s at His coming,

--Deliver the Kingdom. Last Enemy will be Death 24-26

²⁴ then *comes* the end, when He hands over the kingdom to the God and Father, when He has abolished all rule and all authority and power. ²⁵ For He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet. ²⁶ The last enemy that will be abolished is death.

--Sow Wheat Grain—Becomes Wheat 35-41

³⁵ But someone will say, “How are the dead raised? And with what kind of body do they come?” ³⁶ You fool! That which you sow does not come to life unless it dies; ³⁷ and that which you sow, you do not sow the body which is to be, but a bare grain, perhaps of wheat or of ^[k]something else. ³⁸ But God gives it a body just as He wished, and to each of the seeds a body of its own. ³⁹ All flesh is not the same flesh, but there is one *flesh* of men, and another flesh of beasts, and another flesh of birds, and another of fish. ⁴⁰ There are also heavenly bodies and earthly bodies, but the glory of the heavenly is one, and the *glory* of the earthly is another. ⁴¹ There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for star differs from star in glory.

--Earthly to Heavenly Body 42-49

⁴² So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown ^[l]a perishable *body*, it is raised ^[m]an imperishable *body*; ⁴³ it is sown in dishonor, 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. If there is a natural body,

there is also a spiritual *body*.⁴⁵ So also it is written, “The first MAN, Adam, BECAME A LIVING SOUL.” The last Adam *became* a life-giving spirit.⁴⁶ However, the spiritual is not first, but the natural; then the spiritual.⁴⁷ The first man is from the earth, ^[u]earthy; the second man is from heaven.⁴⁸ As is the earthy, so also are those who are earthy; and as is the heavenly, so also are those who are heavenly.⁴⁹ Just as we have borne the image of the earthy, ^[o]we will also bear the image of the heavenly.

3. The Mystery of Resurrection

--Earthy Flesh and Blood Cannot Inherit Heaven 50-57

⁵⁰ Now I say this, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does ^[p]the perishable inherit ^[q]the imperishable.⁵¹ Behold, I tell you a mystery; we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed,⁵² in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised ^[r]imperishable, and we will be changed.⁵³ For this ^[s]perishable must put on ^[t]the imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality.⁵⁴ But when this ^[u]perishable will have put on ^[v]the imperishable, and this mortal will have put on immortality, then will come about the saying that is written, “DEATH IS SWALLOWED UP in victory.⁵⁵ O DEATH, WHERE IS YOUR VICTORY? O DEATH, WHERE IS YOUR STING?”⁵⁶ The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law;⁵⁷ but thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

--Stay Steadfast 58

⁵⁸ Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not *in vain* in the Lord.

CONCLUSION:

Our Lord has entrusted us with His work and given each of us all the talents we need to do His work. When Jesus returns he will judge us based on our faithfulness in using what God has entrusted with us.

He is Lord, He is Lord.

He has risen from the dead and He is Lord.

Every knee shall bow, every tongue confess,

That Jesus Christ is Lord.