

9. Does the resurrection of Jesus give you hope? Why or why not?
10. What do people who don't know Jesus or believe in His resurrection hope in?
11. How does this hope in Jesus change how you look at life?
12. In Romans 8:18, Paul writes, "I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us." How does this belief give us hope for this life?
13. In what area of your life do you need to rely on Jesus for hope right now?



## **"The Best is Yet to Come"**

**Sermon Notes and Takehome**

**April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2011**

"Indeed, if we consider the unblushing promises of reward and the staggering nature of the rewards promised in the Gospels, it would seem that Our Lord finds our desires not too strong, but too weak. We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased." –C.S. Lewis

"The resurrection is not a static and an isolated event fixed in the past, but the unleashing of a power and force that takes the form of a death defying love. Resurrection is ever present, constantly accosting us, challenging us, stretching us, cracking us open and seeking to have its way with us in order that we might come to maturity in Christ." –Frank Griswold

"You can have either the Resurrection or you can have Liberace. But you can't have both." –Liberace

**Scripture: 1 Corinthians 15:12-20, Romans 8:18-25**

Jesus' resurrection is the most important \_\_\_\_\_.

Jesus' teachings only make sense if we believe there is a \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ to come.

## Romans 8

Paul understands that our lives are characterized by \_\_\_\_\_.

- We can have \_\_\_\_\_ in the middle of suffering...
- ...but we *do* hope our circumstances will \_\_\_\_\_.

Paul encourages us with the belief that our suffering cannot compare to the \_\_\_\_\_ that's to come. (vs 18)

## 1 Corinthians 15:14, 17

Our hope is that someday, everything will be made \_\_\_\_\_.

- It doesn't make us feel better to \_\_\_\_\_.

Paul calls Jesus' Resurrection the "\_\_\_\_\_."

They say two things:

1. "I haven't \_\_\_\_\_ you."
2. "There's \_\_\_\_\_ to come."

Jesus' resurrection shows us that our hope isn't just a \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_.

Even Jesus' resurrected body had the \_\_\_\_\_.

- They \_\_\_\_\_ Him.

When we're found in Him, the best is yet to come!

## Questions for Reflection and Application:

1. Describe some ways you've experienced pain in your life?
2. Do you have continual pain and suffering in life or is it something that eventually ends?
3. Are there times when you look forward to a new body or a new life? What makes you feel that way?

Read 1 Corinthians 15:12-20.

4. In verse 14, Paul writes, "If Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith," but some say it doesn't matter if Christ was actually raised, what matters is that we are inspired by the story. What difference does it make whether Christ was actually raised?
5. If it was proved that Jesus was not raised, how would your life be different?
6. Read verse 19. Why do you think Paul says "if only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are to be most pitied?" Do you agree?
7. What does it mean that Jesus resurrection is the "firstfruits" of those who have fallen asleep?
8. What can we learn about our own resurrection bodies from this? In what ways do you think we'll be like Jesus? In what way do you think we'll be different than Jesus?