

-Recap:

Hijacked Emphasis:

--emPHASis on the wrong syLLABle

-Last week we established that the American Church has put the emphASIS on the wrong syLABle of the message of Jesus.

-If you ask 100 American Christians what the central teaching of Christianity is, most would say "Jesus died for you sins".

-that is a crucial point

-But for the earliest Jesus followers The Resurrection was the Emphasis.

-1 Corinthians 15:3-6 For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, 5 and that he appeared to Cephas, and then to the Twelve. 6 After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep

-notice where the climax of paul's story is,,, and what he offers proof of.....

-verses 20-22 But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. 21 For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man.

22 **For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive.**

-this resurrection has implications for ALL who are in Christ

-verses 51-52 Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will **all be changed**— 52 in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.

-while we will be flesh and blood in the Resurrection,,, we will be MORE than we are now

-eternal (undying) -incorruptible. -immortal (not having the same limitations...)

-The promise of Easter is more than just going to heaven some day. We will be raised to Eternal, Physical, Incorruptible life.

-The Apostle John received a vision of this promised event from God and wrote about it.....

-Revelation 21:1-5 Then I saw "a new heaven and a new earth," for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. 2 I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. 3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. 4 'He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death' or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."

5 He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!"

-The fact that Jesus raised from the dead means that He will Resurrect everything else also..... He will make everything BRAND NEW

-what does that mean,,, what are the implications or us here and now???

-that is what this whole message series is about

-Here is where we are going to focus today:

‘He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death’ or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.”

5 He who was seated on the throne said, “I am making everything new!”

The Resurrection will bring an end to Lamenting and Frustration.

-Life right now is full of Frustration and Lamenting.

-there is a spectrum that starts with minor frustrations going all the way through major injustice and heartbreaking realities.

-Anything from Frustration all the way up to heart break is caused by the same thing.

-we expect want or need one thing from life, but it produces another

-There are many things we Expect, hope for, or need but do not get:

-we expect people to be able to drive properly.....

-we expect other people to do their jobs with care....

-we expect our kids to do their chores and keep up with school...

-we expect people to treat us based on merit, not our skin color, or nationality, or political leanings

-we expect that when we work hard it should be rewarded

-we expect people not to take advantage of others

-we expect people to honest and to do the right thing

-we expect a certain level of behavior from ourselves.....

-we expect predictability in and productivity in nature and weather patterns..

-but sometimes nature seems to go haywire.....

-The sad reality is that there is often great distance between what should be and what is.

-The Level of our Frustration or Lamenting depends on how large the distance is between what we expect and what comes to pass.

-But it was not always that way.

-originally God created a world that functioned as it should

-but humanity rebelled against God and sinned ,, inviting destruction and curse into our world

-In Genesis 3:17-19 the curse of sin impacts the working of everything in the world.

-God tells Adam that *“now by the sweat of our brow we will produce from the earth,, but in response to our work and cultivation **the land will produce thorns and thistles”***

-As a result of people’s sin the work of Peoples hands is now Frustrated.

-nothing that we put effort into works as it should

-This problem effects the work of people’s hands in any field or endeavor.

-sometimes you do everything right and they still cheat on you, or leave you

-sometimes you give it your very best but you are still not good enough

-sometimes you eat right and care for yourself and still get sick

-sometimes you are the best worker but they still give the promotion to an inferior kiss up

-sometimes regardless of effort or intention societies or systems are unjust and hurt people

-The fallen state of the world means that good intention and effort don’t always equal favorable results.

-you work and sweat but sometimes your situations grow thorns instead of crops

On our own we have no workable solutions to this.

-There are plenty of self help books that would try to convince you that you just need to try harder.

-I am not saying that you don’t need to try, but the truth is that often you try and it won’t work

-input will not always equal output

-now don’t stop trying,, because no input will always produce no output.....

-here me on this,, our Effort IS A Factor,, just not the only one...

-If we allow ourselves to be convinced that our effort is the Only factor we will wear ourselves out.

-We will also experience high levels of frustration when despite our great efforts things don’t go our way.

-Or the opposite solution is to stop caring.

- we can do this in a Rebellious way where we stop trying to do good or right....
- "if I try and things still go wrong then I am not going to Try"*
- I am just going to do whatever I feel like doing.... (who has ever done that??)*
- as we already mentioned then things get worse.....

-Or we can do it more like EASTERN RELIGIONS

- where we still try to be good but we try to stop caring about outcomes
- we try to do away with longing, hoping, or attachment
- In Eastern Religions the HIGHEST FORM OF ENLIGHTENMENT IS COMPLETE DETACHMENT from REALITY

-IF YOU DONT WANT ANYTHING OR EXPECT ANYTHING MORE, YOU WILL NOT BE DISAPPOINTED

-First of all: who wants to live that way.

-But also: it is simply not possible.

-Illustration : Men in Black Picture

- in this movie they don't want to explain aliens to the general populace
- whenever someone sees anything they flash this Neurolizer and it erases their memory
- then they give them fake memories to explain what just happened

-That is what Eastern thought is trying to do.

-erase the Memory in the Human Psyche of a Creation that was Very Good.

-but it simply cannot

-The fact that you feel frustration for the state of the world is evidence that it has not always been this way.

-if this is all there ever was we would not expect anything different

-but something within us cries out for a better world and a better Us.

-You feel frustration because your heart knows there should be more.

-No amount of life in this fallen world can Erase the longing for the world that should be.

-We don't have to fix it ourselves, we don't have to give up, nor do we have to detach from reality and become numb.

-Romans 8:19-20 For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed. 20 For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope 21 that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God.

-In the Resurrection God will Un-Frustrate all of Creation.

-In the Resurrection there will no longer be any gap between what should be and what is.

- no gap between what people should do and what they “do do”
- no gap between how our bodies should work and how they actually work
- no gap between all the Good things God desires and what actually comes to pass**

-Remember what Jesus asked for in the “Lord’s Prayer”: “your Kingdom come and you will be done on earth as it is in heaven”

- God’s kingdom rule was initiated through Jesus
- so now there are times and places when God’s will is done now
- but it is not yet universal

-But when God’s kingdom fully comes in the Resurrection; then God’s Will, will be done perfectly on earth the way it is in heaven.

-In the Resurrection what is sown will always result in what is harvested.

- this means so much more than just the Agricultural Application.

-We already read Rev. 21 where Jesus says *“the old order has passed away and behold I am making everything new”*

- the order that is passing away is the order that resulted from fall into sin,,, the order of Frustrated Creation
- in the new order, what should happen will always happen

-An Old Testament Jewish prophet named Amos prophesied about this day.

-Amos 9:13-15 The days are coming,” declares the Lord, “when the reaper will be overtaken by the plowman and the planter by the one treading grapes. New wine will drip from the mountains and flow from all the hills, 14 and I will bring my people Israel back from exile. “They will rebuild the ruined cities and live in them. They will plant vineyards and drink their wine; they will make gardens and eat their fruit. 15 I will plant Israel in their own land never again to be uprooted from the land I have given them,”

- Again you see the Agricultural metaphors: it will take so long to harvest all that has grown that the people will be plowing and planting before the harvest is fully collected
- wine was symbolic of Blessing and Joy: rather than judgment from God and mourning from us ,,,, it will be like the very landscape is flowing with rivers of God’s blessing and our joy
- permanent end from Exile:** -more than Israel’s exile from the Land,,, Humanity’s exile from God’s presence (banished from Eden)

-At a low time in Israel’s history Amos the prophet tells us that Israel’s story is Humanity’s story.

- we have been in exile
- all of our efforts have been frustrated and fruitless
- but God has a plan to Forever End Exile and Forever change how the world works because **his perfecting presence will return.**

In the Resurrection there will no longer be any Gap between what should be and what is.

-No personal Gap.

-in the resurrection you will be all you should be, you will never be able to hope for anything more than what you are at that point

-No Gap in other people. *(2 men arrested for shooting each other with a bullet proof vest on.....)*

-In the Resurrection you will **never be able to Hope for anything better** than what the people around you do or are.

-not because you have lowered your expectations but because people have all been brought up to the standard of wholeness and perfection through Christ

-No gap for the physical world.

-everything will work the way it should

-agriculture -weather -societies

-the created world will be Unlocked from it's Bondage to Decay.

-In the Resurrection Reality, what could be and should be will always be.

-That reality will be free from:

-frustration. -disappointment. -aggravation. -injustice -tragedy

-Question: Besides building anticipation for the future,,,, How does this help us now?

Answer: Peace comes Here and Now when we stop expecting this world to be what only The Resurrection will make it.

-Until we meet Jesus face to face, the circumstances we deal with will always be less than they should be.

-Your spouse might be great, but they are not all that Jesus will make them yet

-Your boss, job, and workplace may be good, but they will not be completely just, or completely efficient, or trouble free until the Resurrection

-Your kids,,, ,Your car,,,, your health,,, your government,,,, those things may be good,,, and at times may be sources of blessing,,,, **but for all the possible good they are still part of a FRUSTRATED CREATION.**

-they are not all they can be or should be,,, they will let you down.

-If we expect more than a frustrated world can produce:

- we will be frustrated with people
- disillusioned with every government, organization, company, or entity
- we will be depressed by life and circumstances

-We should not give up and expect nothing.

-Jesus taught us to pray “may your kingdom come and may your will be done on earth as it is in heaven”

-we should pray for God’s will in the here and now

-we should work for God’s will in the here and now

-we should be thankful and rejoice when we see it played out

-For all the areas and situations that don’t line up with God’s will, we can look at them with a smile, knowing that while they are not what they should be,,, NOW,,, a day is coming soon when what Should be Will ALWAYS BE.

-the gap will be gone

-the plougher and planter will overtake the Harvester.....

-blessing of God and the Joy of people will be like Rivers Running across the physical landscape

-our exile and all of its negative effects will forever be over!