

Our Hope- 1Cor 15:35-58

Brynmawr Family Church Sermon
Stuart Wheatman, Sunday 26th July 2009

Intro

- Pat- still in faith for healing, but also ready to be with the Lord if not healed. We don't always know reasons why people not healed- we are still learning- even Paul didn't see all healed ('Trophimus I left in Miletus sick'-2Tim 4:20; 1Tim 5:23-'drink wine for your frequent infirmities'; thorn in the side ?eyesight- Gal 4:13-15, 6:11, 2Cor 12:7-10). None of us like to face up to our own mortality. Me realising as a child. However, things are so different for the Christian- took away my fear of death. As an encouragement to us, we will look this morning at Paul's words regarding our resurrected bodies.

Read 1Cor 15:35-58

1. Although you 'reap what you sow' what is sown is vastly different to the end product

- Seeds different to the crop. Must die. Jesus said same in John 12:24- when seed dies it produces much grain. Our deaths will be the most fruitful time in our lives. My dream of death.
- Our resurrection bodies vastly different to our bodies now
- New creation- this body a shell. We can be cremated or buried- we will not be there, but with the Lord. 'Today in paradise'-Lk 23:43- spirit with God- Rev 6:9-under altar souls of those slain for word of Lord- 'first resurrection'-Rev 20:5- spiritual to reign with Christ. 1Thess 4:14- God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus- they are raised first and then those left on earth changed and caught up (rapture).

2. Different bodies on earth and heaven

- Different bodies on earth- variation in creation- man & animals. Variation of looks between different people now.
- So in glory variance according to how we live here. Stars differ in brightness- Dan said some shall shine like stars-Dan 12:3. Glory shining-that which Adam lost regained -clothed in glory (naked and unashamed)- Jesus shone (transfig) as did Moses
- There are rewards to be had in heaven- Jesus encouraged us to work for treasures in heaven

3. Contrast between now & then

- Beauty creams big business. Corruption, incorruption- 2nd law of thermodynamics- rusting, disorderly with time=the fall- corruption, ageing process halted!
- Jesus raised dead only to die again. Sick healed only to die one day. New body cannot die or get sick.

4. Bearing the image

- Family likeness=amazing- like both parents! Reuben tucking in the hands etc.
- We are a lot like Adam (& Eve) now- mortal. But we will be like Christ
- Our hope isn't just a resurrected old body, but a resurrected new body like Christ's- physical, but spiritual.
- Jesus firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep (1Cor 15:20-23)- means more harvest to come-us! Firstborn from among the dead (Col 1:18) means more to

come-us! Rom 8:11 if Spirit who raised Christ lives in us then we too shall be raised!

- 1Pet 1:3- living hope through resurrection of Jesus- Christianity unique religion- because only religion where founder raised self from dead- good publicity and means we can have sure hope (not wishful thinking).

Read 1Thess 4:13-18

Conclusion

- Although the thought of death may not be pleasant to us, and is sad due to our sense of loss, for the Christian there is reason to have hope and even joy as it means coming into our inheritance kept for us in glory.
- We have a sure and certain hope due to Christ's resurrection- let's hold fast to it in all circumstances.
- Gospel to those who are unsure of this hope.

Song: *There is a day*