
Foundations:

Basic Christian Teachings

Session 5: "Restoration"

Review from Session 4

- Who is Jesus?
- What did He do to provide a solution to the fall?
- How do we receive the benefit of what Jesus has done?

Today's Session

In this session we will talk about:

- The Restoration, the conclusion of the story
- Christ's return in glory
- What happens when we die
- The Resurrection and the New Creation.

Reviewing the Story

- The Beginning: _____
- The Problem: _____
- The Solution: _____
- The Ending: _____

But first: Is this all true?

Before we dig into the end of the story, let's review something very important about the Christian faith.

In our culture today, most people see religion as being about two things:

- Helping me _____ better
- Helping me be a _____ person

So if I am relatively well-adjusted, not in a crisis, and consider myself a good person, then I don't need religion.

The New Testament writers do not present Christianity according to these purposes.

- Instead, they promote faith in Christ because the story is _____
- Christianity is built on _____ about events that happened in history that can be investigated.
- These events provide the _____ to the problem of a broken creation

Everything depends on whether the events happened.

The central event is _____



The Resurrection of Jesus

Of First Importance (1 Corinthians 15:1-8)

- Paul's Timeline
 - 30 AD – Resurrection of Jesus
 - 32-33 AD – Paul's Conversion
 - 35-36 AD – Paul's visit to Jerusalem (Galatians 1:18-20)
 - 51 AD – Paul in Corinth
 - 55AD – Paul writes 1 Corinthians
- What is at stake here? _____
- What is Paul's point? _____

The Minimal Facts Argument (Gary Habermas)

- **Crucifixion**
Jesus died by Roman crucifixion.

(Empty Tomb)
The tomb was empty Easter morning. No body was found in the tomb by followers or skeptics.
- **Appearances**
After his death, the disciples had experiences that they believed were appearances of the risen Jesus.
- **Transformation**
The disciples were transformed from fearful panic to boldly preaching the resurrection, and were willing to die for their beliefs.
- **Early Proclamation**
The proclamation of the resurrection was a central message of the Church starting in Jerusalem very early, not decades later.

- **James' Conversion**

Jesus' unbelieving brother, James, was converted by what he believed was an appearance of the risen Jesus.

- **Paul's Conversion**

Paul, former persecutor of Christian, was converted by what he believed was an appearance of the risen Jesus.

Additional Factors

- **Counterintuitive Story**
- **The Rapid expansion of Christianity**
- **The Reliability of the Scriptures**

The Restoration

What Happens When We Die?

- We will be with _____.

Philippians 1:21-24 ²¹ For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. ²² If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labor for me. Yet what shall I choose? I do not know! ²³ I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far; ²⁴ but it is more necessary for you that I remain in the body.

Luke 22:42-43 ⁴² Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." ⁴³ Jesus answered him, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise."

- This is an _____ state.

- We will be waiting for the _____.

1 Corinthians 15:20-22 ²⁰ 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.

- We Christ returns, we will _____.

1 Thessalonians 4:16 ¹⁶ *For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.*

The Return in Glory

- Jesus will return on a specific day known to _____ alone.

Mark 13:32 *“No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.”*

- The return of Jesus is a source of _____ and _____ for Christians.

Luke 21:28 *“When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”*

- Jesus is returning as _____

Matthew 25:31-33 ³¹ *“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. ³² All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. ³³ He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.*

- Christians face the judgment with all of their sins _____

Romans 8:1 *“Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.”*

John 3:17-18 *“For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe*

stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son."

- Through faith in Christ, Christians are saved from _____

Colossians 1:13-14 ¹³*For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves,* ¹⁴*in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.*

- What about those who haven't believed, haven't heard? They will be _____ according to their _____.

2 Corinthians 5:10 ¹⁰*For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each of us may receive what is due us for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad."*

- A Good God and Bad Hell

The New Creation

- New Creation is about undoing the curse of the fall.
- The New Creation begins with Jesus' _____.

1 Corinthians 15:23 ²³*But each in turn: Christ, the firstfruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him.*

- Resurrection is _____.
 - John 20:11-29
 - John 21:1-14
 - Luke 24:13-36
 - Luke 24:37-49

- What will it be like?

- We shall _____ God and be _____ God.

1 John 3:2 *“Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.”*

- Beyond the worst of our _____.

Romans 8:18 *“I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.”*

- Perfect _____

Revelation 7:16-17 *“Never again will they hunger; never again will they thirst. The sun will not beat upon them, nor any scorching heat. For the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd; he will lead them to springs of living water. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”*

- In the presence of _____

Revelation 21:3-4 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.”*

The Restoration of Creation

- New Creation is about the union of _____ and _____

Isaiah 65:17 *“See, I will create new heavens and a new earth. The former things will not be remembered, nor will they come to mind.”*

Revelation 21:1-2 ¹ *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.

- Because of Jesus, the _____ will be undone.

Romans 8:19 *“¹⁹ 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 Christian Story, the problem is _____

Citizens of the New Creation

- We live as citizens of the New Creation _____

Philippians 3:20-21 *“²⁰ But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹ who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.*

- We live by the _____ of the New Creation, offering our lives as previews and promotions the New Creation.
 - Forgiveness
 - Reconciliation
 - Justice
 - Economics
 - Worship
- We seek to make the world a better place and ourselves better people, not because we think we can create the New Creation now, but rather to point to the New Creation and the Savior who died and rose to bring it about.

FOR FURTHER GROWING

From “Luther’s Small Catechism”

- The Son, pp. 223-230

SHARPENING MY SWORD

Each week you will be given a verse of the Bible to put to memory. The Bible calls God’s Word “the sword of the Spirit” (Ephesians 6:17). We want you to have a big, sharp sword!

This week:

Revelation 21:3 *“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.”*