**SERMON OUTLINE**

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| **SERMON TITLE:** | The Day Death Died |
| **SERMON REFERENCE:** | 1 Corinthians 15:45-58 |
| **LWF SERMON NUMBER:** | #1989 |
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1. INTRODUCTION
   1. In today’s message, we will learn about the victory that the Lord Jesus Christ has won over death.
   2. Death is a monster to be dealt with.
      1. All around, people are dying; yet we do not want to think about death.
      2. We do not want to face death.
   3. Death is a fact.
      1. People die suddenly, instantaneously, and in strange ways.
   4. Someone once said, “Life is a losing proposition; you’ll never get out of it alive.”
      1. Today’s message will prove that this saying is absolutely wrong.
   5. There are three things that we will look at in our Scripture today:
      1. The sovereign majesty of our Redeemer.
      2. The sacred mystery of our rapture.
      3. The steadfast ministry of the redeemed.
   6. 1 Corinthians 15:45-58
2. the sovereign majesty of our redeemer (1 corinthians 15:20-47)
   1. Jesus Christ is King and Lord.
      1. He has risen from the dead, and He is Lord.
      2. Jesus came out of that grave and became the death of death.
      3. When Jesus walked out of the grave, He did more than survive death.
         1. He decimated death.
         2. He destroyed death.
   2. He is called “*the firstfruits*” and “*the last Adam*.”
      1. 1 Corinthians 15:20
      2. 1 Corinthians 15:45
   3. 1 Corinthians 15:47
      1. Jesus is called “*the second man*.”
   4. 1 Corinthians 15:22
      1. The first Adam was the Adam that married Eve.
      2. The last Adam is the Lord Jesus Christ.
      3. In the first man, we all fell.
      4. In the second man, we are all redeemed.
   5. Jesus is called “*The firstfruits of them that slept*.”
      1. 1 Corinthians 15:20
      2. In the Old Testament when there had been a harvest, the priest would go out into the field and find a sheaf of first-ripened grain.
         1. They would take it into the temple and have a ceremony called the Feast of the Firstfruits.
         2. They would take that sheaf of grain, wave it before the Lord, and then put it on the altar.
            1. This was thanksgiving to God and an act of faith that typified the harvest that God would give to them.
      3. Jesus is the firstfruits of the resurrection.
         1. He has appeared in Heaven for us.
         2. Like His resurrection, so will be our resurrection.
      4. When He comes again, we are going to have the harvest of which the Lord Jesus Christ is the firstfruits.
   6. Jesus Christ is sovereign over the grave.
      1. Paul, who wrote First Corinthians, saw Jesus on the road to Damascus.
         1. Acts 9:3-6
      2. Paul talks about all of those who were eye witnesses of the resurrected Christ.
         1. 1 Corinthians 15:5-8
      3. What possible motivation could the apostles and witnesses have had for telling a lie if Jesus Christ were still in the grave?
         1. 1 Corinthians 15:14-15
            1. It all would have been a waste of time.
            2. They would have been false witnesses.
            3. They would have perjured themselves.
         2. When we read the way these men lived and what they said, then we know that they were not deceivers or mistaken.
         3. They earned martyrdom.
            1. Martyrs and hypocrites are not made of the same stuff.

Men may live for a lie, some men may mistakenly die for a lie, but no man will willingly, knowingly die for a lie when they know the lie they are dying for is indeed a lie.

* + - * 1. One would think that these early apostles, some of whom lived for forty years after the fact, would have told the truth in order to save themselves.
        2. These men smiled at death because they knew that Jesus Christ had walked out of that grave.
  1. When Jesus died, He became the death of death.
  2. When He rose again from the grave, He sealed that deed.

1. the sacred mystery of the rapture (1 corinthians 15:51-53)
   1. What does Jesus’ resurrection have to do with our resurrection?
      1. We are the harvest, and He is the firstfruits.
   2. 1 Corinthians 15:51-53
      1. “*We shall not all sleep*” in verse 51 means not everyone is going to die.
      2. Verse 51 begins with the word “*Behold*.”
         1. It means “to pay attention.”
      3. Paul calls it a mystery because it is a sacred secret.
         1. A mystery, in the Bible, is something that we could not figure out ourselves.
            1. Human wit, wisdom, ingenuity, and scientific investigation would never show it to us.
         2. It is a truth revealed by divine revelation.
         3. It is a sacred secret that had been a secret for many years.
            1. It was not revealed to the angels or to Old Testament prophets.
         4. The secret is that millions upon this Earth will one day go to Heaven without dying; and those who know the Lord Jesus Christ, who sleep in the grave, will be raised up.
            1. We call this the sacred mystery of the rapture.
   3. The word “rapture” is not found in the Bible.
      1. It is a Latin word which means “to transport something from one place to another.”
      2. But the word “catching up” is used in the Bible, and Latin is just the way to describe that.
      3. In Hebrews 11, the rapture is called “the translation.”
      4. In 1 Corinthians 4, it is called “being caught up.”
      5. This sacred secret means that one day, perhaps today, millions of people are going to be transported from this Earth into Heaven.
   4. The living saints will be changed in a moment, and the dead saints will be raised from the grave.
      1. There is going to be a resurrection.
   5. God is not finished with us.
      1. When we die, we go in the spirit immediately to Heaven, but the body goes to the grave to await the resurrection.
      2. When Adam sinned against God, he died immediately in his spirit, progressively in his soul, and ultimately in his body.
         1. When our Lord redeems us, He puts that in reverse.
            1. We are justified immediately in the spirit, sanctified progressively in the soul, and glorified ultimately in the body.
   6. God is not going to leave these bodies of ours in the grave.
      1. One may believe that this is a little supernatural.
         1. The whole creation is supernatural.
            1. God made everything out of nothing; so He can raise us out of something.
      2. Acts 26:8
      3. 1 Corinthians 15:35-38
         1. When a seed is put in the ground, that seed has to die before it comes back to life.
         2. Every time a seed is put in the ground, it is a picture of the resurrection.
            1. A seed goes into the ground.
            2. It dies, is buried, and it rots.
            3. But out of that seed comes a new, glorious life.

More glorious than the seed that went in the ground.

* + 1. What about a person whose body has been in the grave for two or three millenniums, and the body is disintegrated?
       1. It is not the individual particles that God is concerned about.
          1. Every few years we get a new body, as far as the particles are concerned.

We don’t have the same body we had ten years ago.

Our bodies keep changing, and each year it gets a little less than it was before.

But it is the same body.

You are the same person you were as a child of six months old, yet there is not one particle that was in your six-month-old body that is in your body today.

* + - 1. There is something that makes us individuals, and it is DNA.
         1. In one cell is encoded all of the characteristics of that particular life.

That is God’s blueprint for an individual.

* + - * 1. God has a blueprint on every one of us.
        2. Psalm 139:16

The author of this passage is talking about us in our mother’s womb.

God has a book on everyone and gives us our DNA, our genetic code.

He sees that person being developed in continuance.

We are unique individuals.

* + - 1. God built into each of us a genetic code.
         1. When God gets ready to raise you up, He will not have to search for any particular particles.

He is going to raise you, that person that is united around that genetic code that He has allowed to go into the grave.

We are coming out of the grave.

* 1. When is the rapture going to take place?
     1. 1 Corinthians 15:52
        1. “*In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye*.”
     2. Historically, what time is it on God’s clock?
        1. There have been roughly 6,000 years of recorded history.
           1. “6” is the number of a man.
        2. 2 Peter 3:8
        3. Exiguus, a mathematician and philosopher, gave us the modern calendar in 532 AD.
           1. He calculated the birth of Jesus, but his calculations were wrong.
           2. According to his calendar, Jesus was born in 4 BC.
        4. If Jesus was born in 4 BC, then the year 2000 was actually 1997.
     3. We do not know when He is coming.
     4. From the time that Jesus went away to the time that He is to come again, He could have come at any moment.
        1. We are not waiting for some sign to be fulfilled.
           1. Signs may encourage our faith, but they do not prove that Jesus is near.
     5. He could come at any time.
  2. The last days began at Pentecost.
     1. 1 John 2:18
        1. John said that, “*it is the last time*,” over 2,000 years ago.
     2. The Second Coming of Jesus is always imminent.
     3. The early Christians looked for Jesus to come.
        1. Philippians 3:20
        2. 1 Thessalonians 1:9-10
           1. The early Christians 2,000 years ago were waiting for Jesus.
        3. James 5:8
        4. Titus 2:13
     4. It has always been, since Jesus went back to Heaven, the last days.
  3. We have an idea that we are living in the last part of the last days.
     1. We are 2,000 years closer to the Second Coming of Jesus than they were in Paul’s day.
  4. From the time Jesus ascended, people were remembering the message of the angels.
     1. Acts 1:11
     2. So, we are watching and waiting for the Lord Jesus Christ to come.
        1. He may come at any moment.

1. the steadfast ministry of the redeemed (1 Corinthians 15:54-58)
   1. 1 Corinthians 15:54-58
      1. Paul is talking about the victory.
         1. We are to be living every day and every moment serving Christ in the light of that victory.
      2. Jesus Christ has conquered death.
         1. He has been the death of death.
            1. He has taken the pain out of parting and the gloom out of the grave.
            2. He has taken the strength out of sin and the sting out of death.
            3. He gives us a hope that is steadfast and sure, so that we can literally mock death.

We can laugh at death.

* 1. 1 Corinthians 15:55-56
     1. The law makes sin sin; therefore, sin becomes a sting to us.
     2. But Jesus Christ pulled the sting from death.
        1. Jesus took that sting in His own body and removed it from death.
        2. He fulfilled the law for us; therefore, death holds no terrors for us.
        3. The sting of death was taken by Jesus, and death cannot hurt us.
  2. The rapture is when the living saints will be translated, and the dead saints will be raised.
  3. The two-fold anthem of the redeemed:
     1. Those who are raptured and will never die will say, “*O death, where is your sting*?”
        1. 1 Corinthians 15:55
     2. Those who have come out of the grave are going to say, “*O grave, where is your victory*?”
        1. 1 Corinthians 15:55
     3. Then, together, we will say, “*Thanks be unto God which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ*.”
        1. 1 Corinthians 15:57
  4. 1 Corinthians 15:58
     1. We are to have stability.
        1. Be steadfast.
           1. We are living in a day where everything that is not nailed down is coming loose.
        2. Be unmovable.
     2. We are to have fervency.
        1. Go to work for Jesus.
        2. Occupy till He comes.
        3. Get your head out of the clouds of prophecy, and get your feet on the pavement of soul winning.
        4. The great proof that we believe these things to be true is this: what are we doing to warn people to flee from the wrath to come?
     3. We are to have expectancy.
        1. It pays to serve Jesus; it pays every day.
  5. As Jesus’ coming gets nearer, we should want to move one step higher:
     1. In our love for the Lord.
     2. In our faith.
     3. In our faithfulness.
     4. In our stewardship.
     5. In our soul winning.
  6. We should not want to just learn some facts about prophecy, but our hearts need to be burning with a zeal for the Lord Jesus Christ.
  7. 1 John 2:28

1. CONCLUSION
   1. It is going to be too late one of these days to be a soul winner because the rapture will have come.
   2. It is going to be too late one of these days to be faithful to God’s church because the rapture will have come.
   3. It is going to be too late one of these days to be a tither because the rapture will have come.
   4. What you are going to do for Jesus, you need to do now.
   5. Jesus walked out of that grave.
   6. He is there in His sovereign majesty.
   7. Jesus is coming soon.
      1. That is the sacred mystery.
         1. 1 Corinthians 15:52
      2. Our steadfast ministry:
         1. 1 Corinthians 15:58
   8. We know that Jesus lives; do you live?
      1. This question is not do you exist, but do you live?
         1. Are you saved?
   9. Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
   10. Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
       1. Romans 3:23
       2. Romans 10:9-10
       3. Romans 10:13
       4. Acts 16:31
       5. John 3:16