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Sermon Notes

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The Eternal Gospel Proclaims: “Christ is Risen!”

1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Introduction: Dr. Paul Brand, *Fearfully and Wonderfully Made*

Wrestling with the problem of pain and suffering in the human race; asserted that grappling in a healthy way with suffering is a great weakness of the church in America. Many unbelievers who grew up in the church will say plainly that they can't believe in a God who would allow such astonishing human suffering in the world—like the Holocaust in WWII or the random violence of terrorists who slaughter innocent people for a political or religious purpose. Others say that it's because a beloved person in their life (maybe a mother or a grandfather or a childhood friend) died despite the prayers of many that is the root of their rejection of God. “Why didn't God answer my prayers?” comes the anguished cry. “God abandoned me... so I abandoned him.”

The problem of pain, suffering, and death is for many people the greatest challenge to believing in the God of the Bible... the all-powerful, sovereign King who is gracious and compassionate, whose eye is on the sparrow and who cares for us. They feel the wretchedness of the human race, the foul way in which so many die, the very personal rejection they feel when God won't heal, won't save a loved one from the grave... is simply too much to bear.

C.S. Lewis wrote a classic treatise on this issue entitled, *The Problem of Pain* in 1940... addressing why a God who is both good and all-powerful allows people to suffer pain and death.

“We can ignore even pleasure. But pain insists upon being attended to. God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks in our conscience, but shouts in our pains: it is his megaphone to rouse a deaf world.”

Twenty years later, however, C.S. Lewis went through the greatest trial of his life: the death of his wife, Joy Davidson, to cancer. His grief was stunningly deep, and he put his thoughts and reflections into a book entitled *A Grief Observed* which he published under a pseudonym.

In it, he writes this:

“Is anything more certain than that in all those vast times and spaces, if I were allowed to search them, I should nowhere find her face, her voice, her touch? She died. She is dead. Is the word so difficult to learn?”

He also wrote these words:

“Meanwhile, where’s God? This is one of the most disquieting symptoms. When you’re happy, so happy that you have no sense of needing Him, if you turn to Him then with praise, you’ll be welcomed with open arms. But go to Him when your need is desperate, when all other help is vain, and, what do you find? A door slammed in your face, and a sound of bolting and double-bolting inside. After that... silence. You may as well turn away.”

That sounds like a man in deep suffering, wrestling with pain at levels few of us can articulate as powerfully as he, but many of us have felt as acutely.

Dr. Brand cited this to open the question of how best to minister to those in acute suffering, to those who are facing their own death or the death of a loved one... he acknowledged deep problems in knowing what to say. Brand relates the story of a young couple that he knew, John and Claudia Claxton... newlyweds in their twenties, just beginning a happy life together... but then, Claudia was diagnosed with Hodgkins Disease—cancer of the lymph glands—and given a 50% chance to live. She had had painful and destructive surgery removing every diseased lymph node they could target... she then underwent radiation therapy that aged her and caused her hair to drop out and left her completely listless and weak... she was nauseous almost all the time.

But the Christians that sought to minister to Claudia in the midst of her suffering in most cases just did more harm than good

1) A deacon from their church said God was trying to teach her something... surely there was something in her life that was causing this stern discipline; God was displeased in some way; these things don’t just happen! She just needed to find the way she’d disobeyed God and all would be well

2) A woman from her church that she barely knew came... this woman had embraced a ministry to the sick and dying as her personal calling in life; she brought flowers, sang hymns, read some happy Psalms about rivers flowing and deserts blooming and mountains clapping their hands... whenever Claudia tried to talk about her cancer or suffering, the woman quickly changed the subject; her strategy was to combat suffering with cheer and good will; but she only visited once, and the cheerful mood faded as quickly as the flowers

3) Another woman came by who was a faithful follower of television faith healers; she was enraged at what the deacon had told her, and assured her that disease was NEVER God’s will; that Christ’s stripes had healed us; all Claudia needed to do was to MUSTER UP enough faith to claim her healing, to make the devil flee, because this sickness was the devil’s attack; Claudia tried to “muster up” faith, but didn’t really know how that

happened... faith seemed slippery, intangible, impossible to grasp... so that advice just left Claudia more depressed than ever

4) A very spiritually mature woman in the church brought along some books about praising God for everything that happens... “Claudia, you need to come to the place where you can say to the Lord, ‘God, I love you for making me suffer like this. It is your will, and you know what is best for me... and I praise you for allowing me to go through this; in all things, including this, I give thanks.’” After this woman left, Claudia’s mind filled with grotesque images of God like some giant troll, capturing travelers on the road and then squeezing them with his hands under they exclaim, “I love you, God, for squeezing me like this!” This idea was repulsive... her faith was draining

5) Yet another visitor... her pastor, came to talk with her and said that God had chosen to do this in her life to put her faith on display; that she was like a champion who was running an Olympic race so that everyone else could watch her and grow; “God chose you because of your great strength and integrity, like He chose Job... You should feel privileged, not bitter.” She should picture the trials of this cancer like a series of hurdles she would need to leap on the way to the victory stand! After the pastor left, Claudia alternately felt happy to be chosen like this, but then—when the pain would rise powerfully—bitter about a God who would put hurdles in front of His children.

All these contradictory words show how incredibly difficult is the problem of suffering and death...

In one sense, the whole book of Job is written to answer this problem...

But perhaps no chapter has the power to comfort sick and dying Christians as does 1 Corinthians 15... the glorious resurrection chapter

Over the next four weeks, culminating in Easter Sunday, we are going to look at this chapter. I will be preaching today and on Easter, Rick Lesh next week, and Andy Winn the week after.

Our goal is to heighten in each of you the awesome power of the truth of Christ’s resurrection... to prepare you to answer some of the most profound and searching questions a human heart will ever face

Immediate Problem: Some Corinthians were asserting that there is no resurrection from the dead

1 Corinthians 15:12 But if it is preached that Christ has been raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead?

Week 1: The Historical Fact of Christ’s Resurrection is central to the gospel (vs. 1-11)

Week 2: The Certainty of Our Resurrection Proven by Connection with Christ's Resurrection (vs. 12-34)

Week 3: The Nature of the Resurrection Body (vs. 35-49)

Week 4: The Timing and Implications of the Resurrection (vs. 50-58)

We come to consider a simple question:

Job 14:14 If a man dies, will he live again?

How can a body that has been destroyed by worms, destroyed by microbes, burned up in fire, bloated and dissolved by water, consumed by predators... how can a dead body rise again??

The idea seemed preposterous to the Greek Philosophers that the Apostle Paul preached to at the center of human wisdom, Athens... on Mars Hill...

Acts 17:32 When they heard about the resurrection of the dead, some of them sneered

Their basic philosophy was wired to reject the body as corrupt and the spirit as pure.

But the more you read the Bible, and the more you understand the inexorable force of God's sovereign will, the more you see that God does everything for a reason!! And he created the human being to have a PHYSICAL BODY... and He made that body AMAZING!!

GOD DID NOT MAKE THAT AMAZINGLY COMPLEX BODY TO DIE! TO BE EATEN BY WORMS AND TO DISINTEGRATE!

God intended that we will have bodies, and He said so 1) at Creation, 2) in Christ's miracles; 3) at Christ resurrection!

The philosophers thought they knew best—matter is evil, spirit is good!

In Christ, God has answered everything... the resurrection of Jesus Christ answers all questions once and for all!!

Main idea of 1 Corinthians 15:1-11: The resurrection of Christ is essential to the gospel we have believed... and it empowers steadfast labor for his glory!!

I. The Resurrection of Christ Foundational to the Gospel (vs. 1-2, 11)

1 Corinthians 15:1-2 Now, brothers, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. ² By this

gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain.

- A. Some Corinthians Asserting Christ Had Not Been Raised (vs. 12)
- B. Paul Reminds them of the Gospel Message

“Now brothers, I want to remind you of the gospel...”

- 1. The need for constant reminders intrinsic to our salvation journey

- C. Time Orientation of Salvation

Vs. 2 “By this gospel YOU ARE BEING SAVED...”

- 1. We HAVE BEEN SAVED by faith in Christ (justification)

Ephesians 2:8-9 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith-- and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God--⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast.

- 2. We ARE BEING SAVED by faith in Christ (sanctification) (HERE, in verse 2...)
- 3. We WILL BE SAVED by faith in Christ (glorification, vindication on Judgment Day)

Romans 5:9 Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him!

- D. The Gospel Does an ONGOING Work in our Souls

- 1. Ongoing hearing of this gospel is ESSENTIAL to the running of this race... we must continue to hear of Christ crucified, buried, resurrected... and of the need for repentance and faith in Him
- 2. So Paul REMINDS them of the very same gospel message he first preached to them, and which they first believed, and on which they have TAKEN THEIR STAND!!
- 3. We don't need a new gospel... we need to preach the old one to ourselves again and again

- E. Continued Faith in the Gospel is Essential to Final Salvation

1 Corinthians 15:2 By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain.

- 1. Paul effectively issues them a warning here

2. If they cease believing in the central facts of the gospel, they will not be saved in the end
3. Renewing their faith by an ongoing hearing of the same gospel message is essential to their ongoing salvation

Hebrews 2:1 We must pay more careful attention, therefore, to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away.

4. SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD: if you genuinely believed it at first, it's because God gave you the gift of saving faith; and if He gave it to you at the beginning, He will sustain it until the very end
- F. Paul's Point: PAUL PREACHED THE RESURRECTION OF CHRIST at that time... nothing has changed... the resurrection of Christ was essential to the gospel he preached, that they believed, on which they took their stand

II. The Resurrection of Christ was According to Scripture (vs. 3-4)

- A. Paul then Gives a Creedal Formula Accepted in All the Churches... Like an Ancient Hymn... Everyone knew the Words

1 Corinthians 15:3-4 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

B. This Gospel Paul Received

1. Paul did not make it up
2. Paul did not concoct it, nor did any human being
3. Paul "received it" from heaven... this gospel message was crafted in the mind of God before the foundation of the world

C. This Gospel Paul Passed On

1. This is the essence of Paul's apostolic ministry... the passing on of the gospel message to those who had never heard it before

D. "As of First Importance"

1. Nothing is more important than these doctrinal ideas... this is the glowing center of the message that is the POWER OF GOD FOR THE SALVATION OF SINNERS WHO BELIEVE!!
2. The bible is filled with many fascinating doctrines

- a. The doctrine of predestination is fascinating to many
- b. So also the doctrine of the calling of Israel to be God's possession
- c. So also the concepts of end times teaching, or ethical precepts about money or the relief of the poor
- d. Many books have been written about the Antichrist and the circumstances of his coming
- e. Theology textbooks have much about angels, or demons, or prayer, or marriage or parenting... all of it important
- f. BUT THIS IS OF FIRST IMPORTANCE!!

E. The Basic Historical Facts of the Gospel

1. Christ died for our sins ACCORDING TO THE SCRIPTURES

- a. Substitutionary atonement is at the center of God's message to a sinful human race
- b. In Adam, we were born under the death penalty for our sins
- c. Death entered the world through Adam's sin, and each of us dies because of sin; most of us die because, like Adam, we violate our consciences by willfully breaking holy law;
- d. We deserve the death penalty for our sin
- e. BUT CHRIST DIED FOR OUR SINS... in our place, taking the punishment we deserved
- f. What does "according to the scriptures" mean? Well... it was predicted in the prophets
- g. If any one passage teaches this, it is Isaiah 53

Isaiah 53:5-6 But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed. ⁶ We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

2. "That he was buried"

- a. The burial of Christ was also clearly predicted in Isaiah 53

Isaiah 53:9 He was assigned a grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death, though he had done no violence, nor was any deceit in his mouth.

- b. The mention of the burial here stresses the physical nature of the death AND the resurrection... like we say "He was dead and buried"... as if just saying DEAD isn't quite clear enough... the physicality of disposing of the body emphasizes the physicality of the resurrection
- c. The EMPTY TOMB a great proof of the truth of Christianity

Matthew 28:12-15 *When the chief priests had met with the elders and devised a plan, they gave the soldiers a large sum of money, ¹³ telling them, "You are to say, 'His disciples came during the night and stole him away while we were asleep.' ¹⁴ If this report gets to the governor, we will satisfy him and keep you out of trouble." ¹⁵ So the soldiers took the money and did as they were instructed. And this story has been widely circulated among the Jews to this very day.*

- i) But the empty tomb stands as a stark historical proof of the bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead
3. "That he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures"
- a. The resurrection was intrinsic to the gospel message that Paul was proclaiming all over the world
 - b. It is what sets Christianity apart from every other religion in the world
 - c. The resurrection is supported by many texts from the Old Testament

Isaiah 53:9-11 *And they made his grave with the wicked and with a rich man in his death, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth. ¹⁰ Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him; he has put him to grief; when his soul makes an offering for guilt, he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days; the will of the LORD shall prosper in his hand. ¹¹ Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see and be satisfied*

Psalms 16:10-11 *you will not abandon me to the grave, nor will you let your Holy One see decay. ¹¹ You have made known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand.*

- d. The third day is linked to the sign of Jonah

Matthew 12:40 *as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of a huge fish, so the Son of Man will be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.*

- F. Summary: the Resurrection of Christ from the Dead was According to the Scriptures
- 1. This was not some innovation of Paul's

2. The scriptures predate all the Greek philosophers whose writings are cited... before Plato, before Aristotle, before the Stoics or the Epicureans... before any of them, God had spoken through the prophets of the death, burial, and resurrection of His Son
3. So how can any of them say there is no resurrection??!

III. The Resurrection of Christ was Verified by Eyewitnesses (vs. 5-7)

1 Corinthians 15:5-8 and that he appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve. ⁶ After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. ⁷ Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, ⁸ and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born.

- A. These Eyewitness Accounts Move the Question Beyond Any Doubt
- B. The Testimony of Two or Three Witnesses is Sufficient to Establish Any Issue

2 Corinthians 13:1 This will be my third visit to you. "Every matter must be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses."

C. Here we Have the Clear Testimony of Over 500 Witnesses

1. Beginning with Peter... the chief of the Apostles... the Apostle to the Jews
2. Paul singles him out because some were questioning Paul as the "least of the apostles"... they were criticizing him and attacking him and minimizing his ministry... like he was a minor league player, but the main Apostles were major leaguers
3. So, Paul starts with Peter
 - a. Peter was the spokesman on the Day of Pentecost
 - b. He testified personally to the resurrection

Acts 2:32 God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of the fact.

4. "then to the Twelve"
 - a. The twelve were the inner ring of Jesus' select Apostles
 - b. They were chosen to be witnesses of his life and death, but especially of his resurrection
 - c. This refers to the clear proof in the upper room and many other such encounters

- d. Their eyewitness testimony was the basis of the gospel accounts that would later be written:

Luke 24:36-43 *While they were still talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." ³⁷ They were startled and frightened, thinking they saw a ghost. ³⁸ He said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds? ³⁹ Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have." ⁴⁰ When he had said this, he showed them his hands and feet. ⁴¹ And while they still did not believe it because of joy and amazement, he asked them, "Do you have anything here to eat?" ⁴² They gave him a piece of broiled fish, ⁴³ and he took it and ate it in their presence.*

5. Many others were eyewitnesses as well

1 Corinthians 15:6-7 *After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. ⁷ Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles,*

- a. This is the only mention of the 500 eyewitnesses
- b. Perhaps it was in Galilee to the mountain where Jesus told them to go
- c. Perhaps it was on the Mount of Olives, right before his ascension to heaven
- d. WE DON'T KNOW
- e. But their testimony was widespread
- f. Paul acknowledges that some of them had "fallen asleep"
- g. This may refer to a false idea that the end of the world was imminent and that anyone that died was not truly born again
- h. Paul also mentions James (the brother of Jesus) and "all the apostles"... this could refer to other church leaders (for James himself was called an apostle, though he wasn't one of the Twelve)

- D. The Eyewitness Testimony of these 500 Plus People Should Settle the Matter forever

IV. The Resurrection of Christ Empowered Paul to Labor (vs. 8-11)

- A. Paul Mentions Himself Last of All

1 Corinthians 15:8 *and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born.*

1. The phrase is strange
2. Paul calls himself, in effect, a “miscarriage”
3. The word is used to speak of a deformity in reference to birth... in some way the child being born out of order, not fully formed, not in term
4. Probably picking up on the many disparaging comments some opponents were making of his physical appearance or his weak speaking style

2 Corinthians 10:10 For some say, "His letters are weighty and forceful, but in person he is unimpressive and his speaking amounts to nothing."

5. “Paulos” means “small”... like dwarf...
6. Paul accepts this disparaging wholeheartedly
7. In the second epistle, he will speak of his weaknesses and deformities
8. BUT he was also an EYEWITNESS of Christ’s bodily resurrection from the dead
9. It was not in the usual way... it was in heavenly glory
10. So in effect, he got a foretaste of the terror the unbelieving world will have when Christ returns in glory

Matthew 24:30 "At that time the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and all the nations of the earth will mourn. They will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky, with power and great glory."

11. Christ did it with him on the road to Damascus... and instead of it meaning his condemnation, it meant his salvation

Acts 9:3-5 As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. ⁴ He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" ⁵ "Who are you, Lord?" Saul asked. "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting," he replied.

B. Paul Speaks of His Call to the Apostleship

1 Corinthians 15:9 For I am the least of the apostles and do not even deserve to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.

1. Paul can never forget the wretchedness of his rebellion against Christ
2. He willingly consented to the death of the godly Stephen, stoned to death by the jealous and wicked Sanhedrin

3. He persecuted the church with astonishing, prideful zeal... he dragged off men and women and put them in jail; no doubt they begged for mercy, and pleaded with him to heed the scriptural proof that Jesus was the Messiah promised by God
4. But Paul was

1 Timothy 1:13 a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent man,

5. He deserved to DIE...consider these verses:

Acts 8:3 But Saul began to destroy the church. Going from house to house, he dragged off men and women and put them in prison.

Galatians 1:13 I persecuted the church of God and tried to destroy it.

1 Corinthians 3:17 If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him; for God's temple is sacred, and you are that temple.

6. But Jesus Christ PAID FOR PAUL'S SIN... he saved him and called him to his service
7. WHAT AMAZING GRACE

C. The Grace of God in Christ Changed Him forever

1 Corinthians 15:10 But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me was not without effect. No, I worked harder than all of them-- yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me.

1. What an incredible statement: BY THE GRACE OF GOD I AM WHAT I AM!!!
2. And God's grace was powerful and effective... it changed Paul, made him a new creation; instead of persecuting Christians, he now loved them; instead of destroying the church, he vigorously sought to BUILD IT UP by courageous preaching, even at the risk of his life
3. The grace of God powerfully moved Paul to WORK HARDER THAN ANYONE ON THE FACE OF THE EARTH for the Kingdom of Jesus Christ
4. Amazing balance between human effort and God's sovereignty
 - a. Grace and love

1 John 4:19 We love because he first loved us.

- b. Grace and work

1 Corinthians 15:10 his grace to me was not without effect. No, I worked harder than all of them-- yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me.

We work because He first works in us

D. Summary: Paul's example of hard work for Christ was based on the resurrection of Christ and that power in his life... so also THEY (and us) should work hard BY GRACE

1 Corinthians 15:58 Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.

The resurrection of Christ has the power to MOVE US to suffer great things for Jesus and to run with endurance the internal journey of holiness and the external journey of evangelization... because the fear of death has forever been removed!!

V. Applications

A. Come to Christ

1. This gospel is the simple message of salvation for every sinner on the face of the earth
2. Face the reality: someday, you are most certainly going to die!
3. Your body will go back into the ground from which Adam's body came, and your soul will go to God for judgment
4. You cannot survive that judgment without Christ as your Savior
5. Consider these simple words: "Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures..." Do you know that that is true of you? Trust in Him NOW!!

B. Review the Gospel Daily

1. Preach to yourselves! Martyn Lloyd-Jones said that the biggest problem with Christians who are depressed or discouraged is that they listen to themselves rather than preach to themselves
2. In other words, we tend to run a depressing tape of discouraging words in our hearts... "It'll never work" "I'm no good" "I'll always feel this pain" "The Lord isn't going to heal me" "Everything is so bleak"
3. Instead, we should preach the gospel to ourselves every day:

1 Corinthians 15:3-4 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

4. Say to yourself every day, “I am forgiven because Christ died for my sins! I am adopted! Christ rose from the dead, and so will I! Christ has a glorious resurrection body and so will I!”
5. Preach excellent sermons to yourself!!

C. Labor for Christ

1. The unifying theme of the entire chapter is that, since Christ has been raised from the dead, we also will be raised from the dead
2. There is no doubt about this at all in Paul’s mind... this is the climax of the good news of the gospel
3. Paul’s APPLICATION is in verse 58 as we’ve said... sell out entirely for Christ in this world, knowing that whatever we do for His glory and the advancement of the Kingdom of God will be eternally EFFECTIVE
4. We should “let nothing move us”... don’t be discouraged in your labor in sanctification or in evangelism/missions
5. The resurrection of our bodies is absolutely guaranteed... and so is the success of all Christian labor by the power of the Spirit
6. So look at 1 Corinthians as a whole: Paul fills the epistle with all kinds of practical things he wants them to do: concerning factions and divisions, concerning sound doctrine and the building of the church, concerning suffering persecution from the world, concerning church discipline and personal holiness, concerning meat sacrificed to idols, concerning running the Christian race with endurance, concerning becoming all things to all people to win some, concerning spiritual gifts and the Lord’s Supper and love...
7. DO THESE THINGS with great perseverance

D. God Intended You to Have a Body... and You Will!!

1. Marvel at how “fearfully and wonderfully made” we are
2. Ponder at the fact that God will raise you up in Christ!

E. Suffer Well

1. We are going to suffer and die
2. The resurrection of Christ has taken the sting out of death forever... but there is still pain

3. Honestly, many of the persuasions that Claudia's friends gave her were worth listening to... but not in the way they gave them
 - a. If you get sick, you should ask the Lord humbly if you've sinned... but friends shouldn't assume that you did
 - b. If you suffer, you should ask God to give you a special grace to put your faith on display
 - c. If you suffer, you should use it as a platform to share the gospel with other sufferers as well
 - d. If you are dying, you should meditate on the fact that, by Christ's wounds you will finally be healed in the resurrection
 - e. Store up these themes NOW so that you can suffer well based on them when the time comes!

F. FBC: Comfort one another with the resurrection!

1. If you are called on to visit someone in great suffering, remind them of this incredible chapter
2. Go over it with them in detail to point their hearts to the healing message of what Christ has promised us!!