

**Sermon**

***He Will Swallow Up Death Forever***

**(Isaiah 25:8)**

**The Resurrection of Our Lord, April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2012**

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**Introduction: Never Underestimate the Amazing Victory that is the Resurrection of Jesus Christ!**

- A. How important is it? If you experienced every blessing from God here on earth, but were left with not knowing what had been done with the last enemy – namely death – then every other good thing in your life would be ruined.**
- B. But if you know what has in fact been done, then everything is glorious (even the hardships that cause tears will lead to those tears being wiped away by God); everything now since the resurrection of Christ has shining behind it the victory of Christ, yes victory even over death!**

**Part I: The picture in Scripture of Christ's victory!**

- A. Isaiah 25:8: The Lord swallows up death forever and wipes away tears from all faces.**
- B. Ambrose: Death is now "sweet." (ACC, X, 166)**
- C. Is this just cheap talk?**
- D. I saw how it is not through my friend Mitch Matthis. At the end through the singing of what became his favorite hymn, "How Great Thou Art" let me tell you how he faced death.**
- E. Eusebius of Caesarea: "[Christ] pursued [death] from behind and drove him [death] on, trodden under his feet and fleeing, and he burst the eternal gates of his dark realms and made a road of return back again to life for the dead [referring to us, dead in our trespasses and sins, Eph. 2:1]." (ACC, X, 167)**
- F. Luther in commenting on Isaiah 25 connects it to Hosea 13 and reads it as Christ proclaiming to death: "*O Death, I will be your plagues. O [place of death], I will be your destruction.*" (AE, 16, 197)**
- G. Death is now viewed completely differently. As it was with Mary Ann Cota. She knew about the cancer, but we went through with the wedding and while we later met towards the end she held onto the large crucifex around her neck and with a defiant faith said what the Word of God says:**

**1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15:54: *"When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: 'Death is swallowed up in victory.'"***

**Part II: On account of Christ's resurrection!**

- A. His body had been violently torn through the scourging and through the excruciating crucifixion.**
- B. But raised, His body was glorified. His real human body now filled with the power of God.**
- C. You see the swallowing up of death.**
- D. The signs of weakness disappear because of the cause of weakness (sin) disappears.**
- E. What remains is the resurrected body that is glorified.**
- F. Christ was not immediately recognizable in some of the 12 resurrection scenes in Scripture, because He was no longer the humble and weakened servant who subjected Himself even to death, but He was raised as the glorified and strong Victor who conquered death (only the marks of the nails remaining to memorialize His loving sacrifice to save all people).**
- G. And the resurrection accounts are full of details; and the eye-witness accounts are there to give you full assurance of the bedrock foundation of your faith:**
  - 1. Jesus died there is no doubt.**
  - 2. He was buried there is no doubt.**
  - 3. That tomb became empty.**
  - 4. And it was not for enemies who would have exposed it; nor was it for his disciples who would not have died for a lie and transformed from scared skeptics to powerful evangelists who gave their lives for the Gospel, but it was for the fact that He was raised.**
  - 5. And the Resurrected Lord appeared over 40 days to over 500 witnesses.**

**Conclusion: The Victory is Ours!**

- A. And now His resurrection is the basis for your resurrection.**
- B. Christ's power over death has been given to you.**
- C. His life-giving light over the darkness of death now fills you.**
- D. Now this is true for you:**
  - 1. You may now face death not as bitter, but as sweet.**
  - 2. All cause for sorrow has been removed.**

**3. Revelation describes your sweet reward all on account of our Resurrected Lord!**

**Revelation 21:4: *"He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning nor crying nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."***