

GETTING READY FOR OUR NEW HOME:

1 Corinthians 15: 50

Reading: 1 Corinthians 15: 50-58.

There are big world events taking place all around us. But none are greater than this event of the resurrection. We are hearing reports of people dying in tragic circumstances, but here is hope among all this death. Here we can see we have an eternal hope. Here is something for the people of Ukraine, many of whom seem to have lost everything. What Easter Sunday stands for is full of hope and shows us where our real home is.

1. Longing for heaven.

Sometimes we might defer thinking about heaven because we fear it makes us less useful here on earth. Beautiful days are marred by sin. The world presents a sad spectacle where we see failure in planning, decision-making, honesty and courage. Our children are inheriting the failures of our generation and previous ones. Those failures have often been moral and spiritual failures.

We can see that our bodies wear out (1 Corinthians 15:42-43; and 2 Corinthians 5: 1-5). We find our various bodily parts and organs fail us. Our bodies suffer from an inner corruption. Cancer is a failure of our cell production. We can all of us share stories of ways that our bodies embarrass us.

So we are right to long to be properly clothed. We look for our eternal habitation, heaven itself. We will have a new body fit for our new home. We are on the move, moving towards the Day of the Lord and our new home. We have realized that this world, and the bodies we have, are not permanent.

2. Christ's resurrection is proof of our new home.

Our Lord shows us that way. He Himself is that way. He shows us our future and leads us to that future. He tells us to look at Himself, to see that He is alive forevermore. He is able to pass through walls, to appear and to disappear. He eats and is able to have fellowship and friendship with His people. He is able to mix comfort with rebuke, to address our fears and our doubts.

With their perspectives raised to the next life, the apostles were able to risk and lose their lives proclaiming the gospel. They believed that the resurrection of Christ was proof that they too would be raised, if they died. It showed them what it meant to be

raised in power. Our Lord spoke to the dying thief about being with Him today in paradise. This is our immediate destination ahead of the general resurrection when our Lord returns to judge the world. Paradise is the foretaste of the yet greater things to come.

Our home is not some strange and disembodied existence. It is a real physical place, and we have real physical bodies. It is a life to be lived with joy, surprises, learning. It is not a body that does nothing but mindlessly praise. It is not stale and repetitive, but it is always a new song that we sing, enriched by the discoveries we are making in the bright world above.

3. Failing to prepare for the move.

We have to be in a process of detaching ourselves from our old home, and getting ready for our new one (see Psalm 45: 10-11). Lot's wife is an example to us of loving this world too much, including its wickedness.

Sometimes we are too taken up with trying to put everything right in this world. We might be thinking very much of the legacy we will leave behind us. Our hopes of leaving the world better after us, may have been dashed or severely dented. There is so much injustice in the world. Racism continues to be witnessed. There is persecution of believers, and many threats and the use of intimidation. There are wars and famines. Though none of these things is a reason to stop trying to help, it does remind us how fallen the world is.

We see some sections of the church trying to build a kingdom on earth. They try to stage revival with false experiences and false hopes.

We may hope too much that we can solve all the problems for our families and leave everyone and everything happy after we leave. We have to accept that there is much that will be left unfinished and unsolved. There will still be losses people suffer, bad behaviour they have to endure, accidents and illnesses.

4. Remember what it's all about.

Easter Sunday points us toward the future. It tells people they have a permanent home, that they can 'come home', find their 'true home', which is permanent, peaceful and where the best of friendships and fellowship will be enjoyed.