

Connection with Unit Theme: To complement the small group study of *Unstoppable Gospel* these sermon outlines will use different Scripture passages related to the small group study theme, so the pastor can reinforce the study from the pulpit.

Introduction: What is the best piece of good news that you have ever received? “You get a promotion!” “It’s a girl!” “Your project was chosen!” We all love good news especially when it changes our life for the good. The greatest news that has ever been given is the message of Jesus Christ’s death and resurrection. And for all those who have received this message and made it their own, their lives have definitely been permanently changed for the better. In 1 Corinthians 15, Paul explains the significance of this message that was passed to him and that he then passed to these believers. Jesus died, He rose again, and that makes Him Lord over all.

1. Because of His death and resurrection, Jesus is Lord over sin. (v. 1-11)

- a. He is Lord over the sin of all mankind (v. 3-8) – “Christ died for our sins”
 Jesus died to pay the sin debt of all mankind. There is no sin of any person no matter how bad or how abundant that reaches beyond the Lordship of Jesus Christ.
- b. He is Lord over the sin of each individual (v. 9-11) – “I persecuted the church”
 Paul takes that sacrifice that covers the sin debt of all and applies it to his own personal life. He says, “I was a persecutor of the church – Jesus’ bride. But Jesus’ debt covered *me*. He didn’t just cover the sins of the world. He covered *my* sin.” And Paul would say that if Jesus could cover His sin, then he can cover the sin of any person.

2. Because of His death and resurrection, Jesus is Lord over the opinions of men. (v. 12-19)

- a. Some say that this life is all there is (v. 12-14) – “say some...no resurrection”
 Paul was living in a time when people were denying the reality of the resurrection. “This life is all we have.” Sound familiar? The short-sighted advantage to this way of thinking is that men are able to live with the false assumption that there will be no long-term consequences to their actions. But the downside is that it removes all hope of abundant and eternal life.
- b. The Scriptures say that there is hope beyond the grave (v. 15-19) – “he raised up Christ” cf. “according to the Scriptures” (v. 3,4)
 Regardless of what men say, the Bible gives evidence – eye-witness testimony – to the reality that there was a resurrection. And if there *was* a resurrection for Jesus, then there *will be* a resurrection for us. We are not of all men most miserable because there is something more. Let men say what they will say; Jesus will have the final word.

- 3. Because of His death and resurrection, Jesus is Lord over all His enemies. (v. 20-34)**
- a. He is Lord over His physical enemies – *“all die...made alive”* (v. 22)
 Philippians 2 records that Jesus became one of us in order that He might do what all men since the sin of Adam have done. He came to die. The men who witnessed Jesus’ death and stationed guards at His tomb thought they had won. And until that day, man had been defeated 100% of the time by death. But Jesus defeated in one blow the men who opposed him *and* the enemy of all of us.
 - b. He is Lord over His spiritual enemies – *“put down all rule and all authority and power”* (v. 24)
 Jesus created all that there is including those spiritual forces who have rebelled against Him and are trying to thwart His plan and Lordship (Col. 1:16). We face the same enemy and battle against these forces every day (Eph. 6:12). But it was through the cross and the empty tomb that Jesus triumphed over His and our enemies. They threw their best at Him, but He defeated them for all the universe to behold (Col. 2:15).
- 4. Because of His death and resurrection, Jesus is Lord over my weakness. (v. 35-50)**
- a. Humanity is in a depressing state now – *“dishonor”* (v. 43)
 When you look in the mirror, it’s not hard to understand why Paul used such negative language to describe the present state of our physical bodies. Even if you’re in the best shape of your life, you have to admit that you have limitations and weaknesses. And those will only increase as you mature. I’m limited by my weaknesses; Jesus is not. In fact, they give Him an opportunity to receive glory (1 Cor. 1:27-29).
 - b. Humanity will be in an exciting state then – *“glory”* (v. 43)
 Paul makes it abundantly clear that what we see now in the mirror and what we will see one day are two radically different realities. Right now, we see through a glass darkly (1 Cor. 13:12). What will it be like to finally be rid of all those frailties that have held us back for so long?! But we can’t wait until then to serve. He calls us – weaknesses and all – to submit to Him and to serve Him now as Lord.
- 5. Because of His death and resurrection, Jesus is Lord over the future. (v. 51-58)**
- a. We will be permanently changed – *“we shall be changed”* (v. 51-53)
 Are you ready to be changed? Some of you are. You want the future that Jesus has prepared for you. Others are satisfied with the way things are and hoping Jesus will wait a while. But Jesus is Lord. He decides when He will come and what we will be.
 - b. We will be eternally alive – *“O death, where is thy sting?”* (v. 54-57)
 The normal future for all people is that they will eventually die. Doesn’t matter who they are or how hard they work to change their fate. Death used to be Lord. But Jesus defeated death. Even if death is in your future, it is NOT the master! It is only the one who brings you to the Master.
 - c. We will be openly successful – *“labor is not in vain”* (v. 58)
 No one likes to work and think that there is no point to what they do. But Jesus promises that not only will there be a future for us, but there will be a future for our work. He promises a good return on the investment that we

make in the future – ours and others’. And He can guarantee this because He is Lord of the future.

Conclusion: Chelsee Richard, of Bloomingdale High School in Brandon, Florida lost her chance to win the 2004 state championship — by being honest. In the qualifier for the state finals, Chelsee hit her tee shot on the second hole into the rough. Without knowing it, she played another golfer’s ball out of the rough and finished the hole. On the third hole, she realized what she had done. The rule is that a golfer must declare on that hole that they hit the wrong ball before putting the ball into the hole, or they are disqualified. Chelsee reported her error which brought a painful ending to her senior season and her dream of going to state. She said: “With my faith and with God, being honest was the most important thing to me, and that’s what is going to advance on throughout my life, being honest and making the right choices.” (November, 2004; www.PreachingToday.com) Jesus chose to die for us. He is our Lord in every area and in every decision. The message of the cross doesn’t just affect our eternity; it affects us in the here and now. If Jesus is not your Lord now, then he will not be your Lord in eternity.

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