

ULC Sermon Study Resource
Crisis to Renewal // Renewal of Meaning
Pastor Gabe Kasper
September 26th, 2021

Prayer: Pause for a few moments to go to the Lord in prayer. Ask that He would draw near to you in this time, and open your heart and mind to hear His Word.

Icebreaker: Would you rather win an Olympic Gold Medal or a Nobel Prize?

Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:50-58

Outline:

- I. The Failure of Exile and Journey (v. 50-53)
 - a. There are two ways in which most people try to get their meaning: Exile (Making your own meaning) and Journey (To not think about it at all, and just live).
 - b. Meaning has to be discovered in transcendence, otherwise suffering takes away meaning found in this life.
Q: *Why do the two paths of exile or journey become so common?*
- II. The Promise of Pilgrimage (v. 54-57)
 - a. Our eternal destiny is secure because of the victory of Jesus' death and resurrection.
 - b. Our present hope in the eternal destiny, gives the present all of its meaning.
Q: *How does being a christian set us on a pilgrimage that leads to the meaning of life?*
- III. The Meaning of the Present (v. 58)
 - a. We as creatures, made in the image of God, were created to be in communion with God and cultivate love towards one another.
 - b. Because of Jesus' victory over death and our hope found in eternity with Christ, everything we do now has meaning. Jesus did not die for people who don't matter.
Q: *How does Paul call us on to live in light of the gospel?*

Reflection/Application Questions:

- 1) Where are places in your life that you place your meaning in?
- 2) Why must we put on an immortal body and what does Paul mean by this?
- 3) How can you live in the present pilgrimage?
- 4) How are you living in communion with God and others?
- 5) Suffering takes away meaning without transcendence, so what does suffering do with a transcendent meaning of life found in Christ?

Suggestions for further study:

- James 1:12 **Q: *What does God promise a faithful follower who endures the suffering of this life?***
- 1 Corinthians 10:31 **Q: *Everything we do has meaning, so how are we called to live as Christians?***
- Genesis 2:7 **Q: *Who are we and how is our creation significant?***

Closing Prayer:

Dear God, we thank you that you made us for a purpose. To cultivate your world to live in love towards each other, but above all, to be in communion with you. We thank you that you sent your son Jesus to make that possible. To give us the hope of eternity, to give us meaning in our lives now. God, teach us to live in light of that reality, to live in pilgrimage. We pray this all in Jesus' holy name. Amen