

**Introduction:**

1. The opioid epidemic
2. A bright hope to dispel the darkness of hopelessness
  - a. Hope to cope with the conflicts of life.
  - b. Unresolved conflicts that penetrate the person's inner life.
  - c. Unresolved conflicts that deteriorate and break down family and community relationships.
  - d. Unresolved conflicts that trigger hopelessness that leads to self-destruction—a major cause of the opioid epidemic and other self-destructive behaviors.
  - e. Total trust in the crucified and resurrected Christ is the cure for hopelessness.

**Text:** 1 Corinthians 15:1-4, 13-14, 17-20, 56-58

**Three Reasons for Hope****Reason #1: The Relevance of the Gospel to our Deepest Needs**

1. The need to have a sense of personal worth higher than material values.
2. The need to be delivered from the consequences of our moral failures which we cannot do for ourselves.
3. Our need to involve and invest our life in a cause bigger than ourself to have real meaning and purpose in life.

**Reason #2: The Relevance of the Gospel to Human Mortality**

(1 Cor. 15:56-57; 1 John 3:1-3; Phil. 1:21)

1. We are born dead spiritually, and we are born to die physically.
2. As human beings, we are conscious and concerned about our mortality.
3. But the question is: What is next after physical death?

**Reason #3: The Relevance of Job's Testimony in coping with Life's critical Crises**

1. Job's ringing RESUME loudly proclaimed by God (Job 1:1-3).
2. Job's rapid REVERSES permitted by God (Job Chapters 1 to 2).
3. Job's real RELIANCE in the goodness of God (Job 13:15).
4. Job's RESURRECTION hope (Job 19:25-27).
5. Job's double RESTORATION by God (Job 42:10, 16-17).

**REFLECTION:** How can we become a winsome lighthouse of hope?

**TABLETALK STARTERS** (For family devotions and Life Group discussions)

**Text:** 1 Corinthians 15:1-4, 12-20, 55-58

In last Sunday's sermon,

1. How can we derive a wholesome self-worth that is higher than material values (vv. 1-4)?
2. What did Christ do to deliver us from the consequences of our moral failures and to empower us to live a changed life (vv. 1-4)?
3. Why are Christians "to be pitied more than all men," if Christ did not rise from the dead (vv. 12-20, 32-33)?
4. For Christians, what is the optimistic next experience after physical death (Phil. 1:21; 1 John 3:1-3)?
5. How can Job's reassuring testimony inspire you to cope with any of your life crises?

**P R A Y**