



## 1 Corinthians 15:12-23 Made Alive in Christ! Let's Rejoice!

October 12, 2014

### **Text: 1 Corinthians 15:12-23**

- In this passage of Scripture, Paul continues his “first importance” theme from verses 3-8...
- That Christ died for sins according to the Scriptures, was buried, raised on the third day, and appeared to many people, including the other apostles and to Paul himself, which we read about last week.
- Throughout the rest of the chapter, it seems that Paul is attempting to correct yet another Corinthian misunderstanding, this time in the area of a critical truth: that true believers will also rise from the dead.
- **Indeed this is one of the greatest promises of the Gospel, and one in which we should rejoice!**

*Rom 6:4-5 ESV* We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. (5) For if we have been united with him in a death like his, **we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.**

*Php 3:8-11 ESV* Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ (9) and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith-- (10) that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, (11) **that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.**

*1Th 4:14-18 ESV* For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. (15) For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. (16) For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. **And the dead in Christ will rise first. (17) Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord.** (18) Therefore encourage one another with these words.

***“Hallelujah! For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns. (7) Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his Bride has made herself ready” (Rev 19:6-7)***

### **Our Text:**

*(1Co 15:12 ESV)* - Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead?

- Again, we see that Paul is addressing an error in doctrine in the church; some apparently thought that even though Christ was raised from the dead, believers would not be raised.

*(1Co 15:13 ESV)* - But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised.

- This is an amazing point: Paul connects Christ’s resurrection with that of those who believe in Him!
- Essentially, he’s saying if we aren’t raised, Christ wasn’t either! It is critical to the message of the Gospel that believers are raised to life!

*(1Co 15:14 ESV)* - And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain.

- In other words, if Christ remained dead, we will simply die and therefore we have no **hope**.
- But the opposite is also true; if He is raised then we do have hope...we will be raised too!

*(1Co 15:15 ESV) - We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified about God that he raised Christ, whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised.*

- Again, Paul establishes a firm connection between Christ's resurrection and the future resurrection of believers from the dead!
- Remember the hope of the Gospel: that because Christ died for our sins, we will have eternal life.
- Christ himself promised not just a spiritual eternity, but a **physical** one:

*Joh 5:28-29 ESV Do not marvel at this, for an hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear his voice (29) and come out, those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to the resurrection of judgment.*

*Joh 6:39-40 ESV And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. (40) For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day."*

*Joh 11:25 ESV Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live,*

- **One day in a glorious future, paradise lost (the fall of man into sin) will be paradise RESTORED, because of the finished work of Christ, which includes His Resurrection! Amen!**

*(1Co 15:16-17 ESV) - For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins.*

- One more time (do you think he really wanted them to get this? ☺), Paul locks down this connection between Christ's rising and the believer's rising.
- Fundamentally, if Christ is dead **sin** has NOT been paid for!
- Gordon Fee writes, "The death of Jesus as "for us," including both justification and sanctification, is inextricably bound together with His resurrection. To deny the one is to deny the other.
- Believing that true followers of Christ will rise from the dead is an essential doctrine precisely because of the biblical link to whether Christ rose!

*(1Co 15:18 ESV) - Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished.*

- In Pauline theology, even though he taught that "to be absent from the body is to be present with Lord (2 Cor 5:6)," the physical, bodily resurrection of Christ leads to the physical, bodily resurrection of believers is a non-negotiable.
- To not believe this is akin to "perishing."
- Upon our deaths, we go to be with Him "in spirit!" Then at the Resurrection at Christ's Second Coming, are **bodies** will rise too! Hallelujah!

*(1Co 15:19 ESV) - If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied.*

- I like the Contemporary English Version here: "If our hope in Christ is good only for this life, we are worse off than anyone else." (1Co 15:19 CEV)
- From Paul's perspective, in context, if Christ is not raised, yet we hope in Him "in this life," we are deceived and have lost both our present hope and future hope.

*(1Co 15:20 ESV) - But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.*

- Rejoice! He is risen! Our faith is NOT futile and we do in fact have HOPE!

- And He is the “firstfruits,” meaning that many more will follow!
- *Rom 8:11 ESV* If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, **he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.**

*(1Co 15:21-22 ESV)* - For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive.

- Again, paradise lost will turn into paradise restored!!!
- The first Adam’s failure will be totally eclipsed in every way by the **Second** Adam...
- *Rom 5:17-21 ESV* For if, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ. (18) Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men. (19) For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous. (20) Now the law came in to increase the trespass, but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more, (21) **so that, as sin reigned in death, grace also might reign through righteousness leading to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

*(1Co 15:23 ESV)* - But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ.

- So then we await a final, physical resurrection from the dead. Those chosen by Christ will be made alive!
- The “all” in verse 22 doesn’t mean everyone who lived. It means “those who belong to Christ.”
- Christ’s own resurrection is the “earnest and seal” of this truth!
- When Christ returns, all who belong to Him will be given **glorified** bodies!
- Dear friends, “our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, (21) who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.” (*Php 3:20-21 ESV*)
- **There will be no more crying, hurt or pain. No drama! No sin! No disappointment and depression!**
- Indeed....

*Rev 21:3-6 ESV* And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. (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.” (5) And he who was seated on the throne said, “Behold, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.” (6) And he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment.

Amen and AMEN!

Rejoice! ☺