

# He is Risen – Resurrection Hope is Ours

1 Cor 15:20-28

**Introduction** – Of course, we worship every Lord's Day commemorating the work of the power of the resurrection. But once a year, we gather and declare the power which declared Christ to be the Son of God with an exclamation point. Our meditation on this Day should bolster our joy in God's providence, His plan for the world, and strengthen our ongoing work of sanctification.

**Where Evil is for Good** (Acts 2:22-24) – One of the first things to note about the resurrection of Christ is that it proves that there is nothing too wicked or evil that God cannot use for good. Christ's crucifixion, the most heinous event ever upon this earth, gives us a vivid illustration that *'all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose'* (Rom 8:28).

**Providence from of Old** – There is another way to see that all that was happening in Jesus' life, death and resurrection, was always in the plan of God. The New Testament is not the invention of new ideas about resurrection. It is the fulfillment of glorious promises made in the Old Testament.

**Seed of the Woman/Seed of Abraham** – Ever since the Fall, God was gradually revealing to His people what His plans always were. There has been enmity between the seed of the woman and the seed of the serpent since then. Abraham, a descendant of Seth, is promised that the whole world will be blessed through his seed. When Abraham's faith is tested by a command to sacrifice his son, Abraham's faith is shown to be resurrection faith (Heb 11:17-19)

**The Hope of Job** (Job 19:23-27) – Job, one of the oldest books of the Old Testament, clearly testifies of this resurrection hope. And notice in Job, it is already clear that this hope is not in a gnostic sense of the immortality of the soul, but rather in a bodily resurrection.

**Salvation Song of Isaiah** (Is 26:19) – At the end of this song, Isaiah describes a physical resurrection, probably as an illustration of the promised spiritual rebirth of the nation of Israel in the New Covenant. Notice how natural the idea of a bodily resurrection is for the Hebrew mind.

**The Hope of Daniel** (Dan 12:1b-3) – Here is a detailed description of the general resurrection. This is the resurrection that Jesus describes (John 5:28-29), and that Paul is describing in 1 Cor 15.

**Our Resurrection Hope** (1 Cor 15:20-28) – The resurrection of Christ secures the resurrection of His people. God's providence works in a particularly efficacious way with those who are in Christ.

**The Firstfruits** – Christ, being the firstfruits of the resurrection, is proof of a great harvest to come. And it comes in that order – "Christ the firstfruits, afterward those who are Christ's at His coming." Christ's resurrection was a resurrection of victory, and so will ours.

**Efficacious Atonement, Not Universalism** – "All" is qualified twice in verse 22. All who are in Adam would, of course, be the whole human race. But not each and every person is in Christ. This is why Jesus said *"...you do not believe, because you are not of my sheep"* (John 10:26). And so, those who are in Christ, *all* of those, will be made alive.

**Reigning Now, Coming Then** – Christ is reigning at the right hand of God the Father now. He is not resting there, He is actively spreading His rule (Psalm 110:1-2), making people willing servants as their High Priest (vv. 3-4). This is Paul's language in 1 Cor 15:25-27. And so the general resurrection will occur after He has completed His work at the right hand of the Father. There He sits, discipling the nations through the work of His church (Matt 28:18-20). This is important to see 'by faith' in days of spiritual declension. Just as Judas's betrayal served the purposes of God, so the disobedience of the church today will not hinder the work of God.

**Resurrection Implications for Today** – Christ was raised from the dead. We will be raised from the dead if we are in Christ. You are only 'in Christ' if you have been crucified with Christ (Gal 2:20). Have you participated in His death that you might know that you will participate in His glorious resurrection?

If so, your body will one day be made like His, just as He promised. No more sin, no more death, no more sorrow. As you eagerly wait for such a promise, let it spur you on to worship Him, to love and good works, with great expectation – *"For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself."* (Phil 2:20-21). If that power can subdue the world, it certainly can subdue your greatest struggles with sin.