

The Promise Of The Resurrection

Series: Promises, Promises

John 5:24-30; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; 1 Corinthians 15:12-24; 51-58

“All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will certainly not cast out. “For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me. “This is the will of Him who sent Me, that of all that He has given Me I lose nothing, but raise it up on the last day. “For this is the will of My Father, that everyone who beholds the Son and believes in Him will have eternal life, and I Myself will raise him up on the last day.” (John 6:37-40)

I. Without The Resurrection We Have No Hope (1 Corinthians 15:13-24)

What if no resurrection?

- Christ would not be raised from the dead.
- If that is true then our faith would be worthless because we would still be lost in sin!
- If that is true that we are still lost in sin then all who have died in Christ would have perished.
- We would have no real hope and it would be pointless to be a Christian.

However, the resurrection is real (1 Corinthians 15:20-24).

That means:

- Jesus is alive and has power over death!
- That our faith is the victory that overcomes the world!
- That means in Christ our sins are forgiven!
- It means our dead brothers and sisters in Christ are living with Jesus now!
- It means that we have hope for the future. And that means power for the present!

2 Corinthians 4:5-5:10

Why was Paul so confident? Because he had nothing to fear from life or death! He had just listed some of the trials that were a part of his life and ministry, and now he was affirming that his faith gave him victory over all! If Jesus Christ has conquered death, the last enemy, then why fear anything else?

When you live by faith in Christ, you get the right perspective on suffering, trials, service, and all aspects of life. Note the contrasts Paul presented in 2 Corinthians 4:17:

- light affliction—weight of glory
- momentary—eternal
- working against us—working for us

Paul saw the human body as an earthen vessel (2 Corinthians 4:7) and a temporary tent; but he knew that believers would one day receive a wonderful glorified body, suited to our glorious home in heaven.

II. The Hope Of The Resurrection (John 5:24-30)

The Four Resurrections:

- Lost sinners resurrected into eternal life (John 5:24-25; Ephesians 2:1-10)
 - Jesus' own resurrection (John 5:26; 1 John 1:4; Acts 2:24; 3:15; John 10:17-18)
 - Resurrection of life (John 5:28-29a; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; 1 Corinthians 15)
 - Resurrection of judgment (John 5:29b)
1. It is for all Christians! – 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
 2. It will be according to how we live! – Philippians 3:20-21; 1 John 3:1-3
 - a. We must obey Him (John 14:15)
 - b. We must abide in Him (John 15:5-7)
 - c. We must walk in the light (John 8:12; 1 John 1:7)
 - d. We must love others especially including our enemies (Luke 6:35; John 15:12-14)
 3. It will challenge us to live for Jesus!

For not one of us lives for himself, and not one dies for himself; for if we live, we live for the Lord, or if we die, we die for the Lord; therefore whether we live or die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, that He might be Lord both of the dead and of the living. (Romans 14:7-9)

but thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord. (1 Corinthians 15:57-58)

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. (1 Peter 1:3-5)

Is Jesus your Lord? Are living only for Him?