

Text— 1 Corinthians 15:21-28

Fellow redeemed sinners, redeemed by the blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ,

The pagan falsehoods of man's science-falsely-so-called with its teachings of evolution, which are widely pushed in society, are not only ridiculous but also lead those who hold such beliefs straight into hell, since there is but one Way to heaven and life-eternal: Jesus Christ the only Savior from sin and damnation. Yes, Holy Scripture is quite clear when it states, "God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned." (John 3:16-18; Mark 16:16) Furthermore, Jesus Christ Himself, who cannot lie, declares in John 14:6, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."

Realize that people who insist on believing they descended from lower forms of life after billions of years of accidental development act worse than animals, and they are truly headed for hell if they do not sincerely repent of their sins and believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. Man is NOT evolving into a better creature as time goes on but is rather proudly growing more and more sinful while the fact remains: "the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." (Romans 6:23)

My friends, God created human beings with a rational soul which the animals do not have. It is as Genesis 2:7 reports, "the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul." God's Word is truth!

People who have fallen for the lies of man's science-falsely-so-called will one day stand before the Lord, as will every other human being, for we read in Romans 14:10-12, "we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ. For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God. So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God." Indeed, Judgment Day is coming.

Accordingly, we can learn much from our Scripture selection which informs us regarding:

"RESURRECTION REALITIES"

With that as our theme, may we, in view of our text and with the help of the Holy Ghost, see—

- 1) What resurrection is specifically referred to in our text
- 2) What immediately follows upon the resurrection

-1-

Verses 21-22, ----- (1 Corinthians 15:21-22)

Notice our text opens with some very clear facts, for we just read: *since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.*

Think about it. Adam's fall into sin brought death into the world— spiritual death and temporal death. It's as Romans 5:12 relates: "Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned." Yes, with the exception of Jesus Christ, "all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God." (Romans 3:23)

In the history of mankind, only Enoch and Elijah were taken directly to heaven without having to experience physical, bodily, temporal death. By God's grace and power working through His Word in their hearts, Enoch and Elijah were given spiritual life as they were gifted with faith in the

Messiah – the Christ – who was then yet to come; and, by God’s grace, they departed this world without physically dying and are therefore positive examples of the never-ending life in soul and body which is to come to all those who believe on the Lord Jesus Christ.

Now, a spiritual resurrection is had by ALL those whom God graciously gifts with faith in the promised Messiah, Christ Jesus, for to all believers the Apostle Paul by inspiration of God writes in Ephesians 2:4-9, “God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus. For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.”

However, our sermon text is NOT referring to spiritual resurrection but rather to physical bodily resurrection, since the fact of Jesus Christ’s bodily resurrection is mentioned prior to our text. We read in 1 Corinthians 15 verses 3-8 and then in verses 19 & 20, “I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures: And that he was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve: After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep. After that, he was seen of James; then of all the apostles. And last of all he was seen of me also, as of one born out of due time. If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable. But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept.” Thus, Christ has proved the reality of our future physical bodily resurrection in that He has already physically bodily risen from the dead.

Looking again at the opening verses of our text, we read: *since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.* Note well that our text is very clear: *as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.*

It’s as Jesus Himself clearly states in John 5:26-29, “as the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself; And hath given him authority to execute judgment also, because he is the Son of man. Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.” Realize that only those with faith in Jesus actually do good, “But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.” — declares Hebrews 11:6.

Accordingly, although ALL people will be bodily resurrected at the command of Christ when He returns in glory at the end of days, only those who have done good – the believers in Jesus – will be raised to eternal life, while those who have done evil – all the unbelievers – will be raised to damnation to suffer never-ending death in hell, “Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched,” as Mark 9:44 puts it.

Verse 23, ----- (1 Corinthians 15:23)

Here our text shifts the focus specifically to the bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ and the bodily resurrection of those who believe on Him, for we just read: *every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming.* Think about it. Jesus Christ bodily rose to life in glory after three days in the grave, never to die again. Likewise, *they that are Christ's*, all true believers in Jesus as their personal Savior and Lord, will bodily rise to eternal life at Jesus’ return in glory, never to die again.

Fellow Christians, take the following words from Philippians 3:20-21 to heart: “our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.”

Oh beloved, it's as 1 Corinthians 15:53-57 relates: “this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

My friends, the resurrection realities are surely comforting to us Christians since Jesus our Savior has won eternal life for us which we will enjoy according to both soul and body. God has gifted us with faith in Jesus Christ as our personal Savior and Lord, and consequently eternal life is ours!

We Christians have no need to fear Judgment Day because Jesus our Lord assures us in John 5:24, “Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.” Yes, by God's grace we've heard Jesus' Word, we've heard the Gospel of Christ with our ears and with our hearts, and, “it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.” (Romans 1:16-17) Thanks and praise be to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

-2-

As we ponder our text to its conclusion, let us see what immediately follows upon the resurrection.

Verses 24-26, ----- (1 Corinthians 15:24-26)

Immediately following the resurrection of all the dead on Judgment Day, “When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory: And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats: And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left. Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels: And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.” (Matthew 25:31-34, 41, 46)

Indeed, the Judgment by Jesus will not be a long drawn-out process, but will rather be swift and certain; *Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power.* Yes, time will end, and Christ's rule in His Kingdom of Grace will end, while His Kingdom of Glory will be and continue forever with the Triune God – Father, Son, and Holy Ghost – ruling in perfect harmony over all things; us Christians being then established in perfection, unable to sin.

Fellow Christians, it's as 1 Corinthians 13:12 informs us, where we read, “now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.” We will have perfect knowledge of the one true God, the Triune God, and will happily love and serve Him forever, face to face.

Consider the fact that Jesus in His present rulership – His Kingdom of grace – *must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet. The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death.*

Right now while we still dwell in sinful flesh on

earth we need the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ each and every day since we sin daily, "For there is not a just man upon earth, that doeth good, and sinneth not." (Ecclesiastes 7:20) And, "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (1 John 1:8-9) However, once Jesus destroys death by returning in glory and raising His own to eternal life, He will then *have put down all rule and all authority and power*. Oh, the unbelievers will at that time have been bodily raised and consigned to never-ending death in hell where there is no more chance for them to benefit from the atoning work of our Lord Jesus Christ since He will *have put down all rule and all authority and power*, in that His Kingdom of Grace will have ended.

My friends, while we are yet in this world let us regularly pray that all people would realize "now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation." (2 Corinthians 6:2) Yes, now is the time of grace; the time for folks to repent IS NOW while there is yet time. While Jesus has not yet visibly returned in glory, the call still goes forth to all unbelievers, "repent ye, and believe the gospel." (Mark 1:15) Let us continue to pray for widespread repentance.

Verse 27, ----- (1 Corinthians 15:27)

According to Jesus' divine nature He always possessed all power and rulership over all things, for Colossians 1:15-17 reports concerning Jesus Christ: He "is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: And he is before all things, and by him all things consist." Colossians 2:9 adds: "in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily." However, according to Jesus' human nature God the Father *hath put all things under his feet. But when he saith, all things are put under him, it is manifest*

that he is excepted, which did put all things under him. So, God the Father was never put under God the Son.

Verse 28, ----- (1 Corinthians 15:28)

When the earth as we now know it is no more because Jesus has visibly returned in glory and judged the world, that's *when all things shall be subdued unto God the Father, and then shall the Son also himself be subject unto him that put all things under him, that God may be all in all*.

Therefore, perfect orderly unified rule by God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Ghost will be the case with the Church triumphant, for the three divine Persons are but the one true God. We Christians will praise the true God forever and ever!

Fellow Christians, we have much to look forward to, thanks to our Savior, Jesus Christ!

As we've pondered our sermon text we've considered resurrection realities. Let us keep in mind what we've learned from God's Word. Let us daily and sincerely repent of our sins. Let us continue to cling to Christ Jesus in heart-deep faith as our personal Savior and Lord. And, let us go forward praying that other folks would repent of their sins and believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, for, "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." (Acts 4:12) Amen.

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