

The Defeat Of Death – 1Corinthians 15:20-28

Bible Study ~ 8/2/17

Grace Church of Lockeford

In answering a question given to him by the Corinthian church, Paul gives us one of the most incredible passages on life, death, and life after death. We first learn that...

1. In Christ, All Are Made Alive vv. 20-24

v. 21 Christ is risen, the first of many! This is the idea of firstfruits. During the Mosaic Law the firstfruits of the harvest were offered to the Lord in faith that the rest of the harvest would come in. Similarly, live by faith that the harvest will come. We are described as sleeping because we will awake out of sleep! This is so encouraging as we consider the death of loved ones. Those who sleep in Christ will rise! V. 21 assures us that by man came death, but by the man Christ Jesus comes the resurrection! When we put our faith in Christ, we too rise. V. 22 In Adam we all die, in Christ we all will be made alive! At first glance this could seem to teach universalism, but v. 23 helps clarify.

Only those who are Christ's will be resurrected at His coming. Those who are not Christ's will not. There is an order in the resurrection. Christ has risen first, we will rise when He returns. V. 24 When Christ returns the end will come. The kingdom will be given to the Father and every rule and authority will be put down!

Death is defeated because of the reign of Christ! Death has no place where the author of life rules! Death is not the end. It is merely the method by which we transition from mortality to eternal life! The key to eternal life lies in being in Christ. When this is our standing, we have the absolute assurance that we will rise when He returns! What joy, what blessing there is to know that Christ has made us alive! He will deliver all things to the Father and eternity will be a life of peace. We are able to be made alive in Christ because...

2. Death Is Destroyed By Christ vv. 25-28

v. 25 this verse is connected to v. 24. In v. 24 Jesus defeats all rule, authority, and power. He reigns over them until all His enemies are under his feet. This is a figurative statement. It speaks of how a conquering leader would sometimes put his foot on the throat of a defeated general or king. Christ will stand in victory over all enemies. V. 26 the final enemy that Jesus will put under His feet is death. Christ stands in victory with His foot on death's throat! He has conquered it! Death is referred to as an enemy. This is always the case. Death is always the enemy. But now, in Christ, death is a defeated foe!

v. 27 is a somewhat confusing way of saying that God subjected all things to Christ, but excludes Himself from that subjection. It would be impossible for God the Father to be subject to God the Son. This also serves to illustrate that God Himself is the only exception. Everything else is subject to Christ! V. 28 when everything is subject to Christ, He will subject Himself to the Father and the trinity will rule forever and ever.

This is a revelation that we dare not take for granted! Death has been destroyed! It is a defeated foe. Christ will rule and reign in the Millennial kingdom. After the rebellion led by Satan and the victory of Christ, all things will be subject to the Father and God will reign! This is what we have to look forward too! Our troubles and trials will be a distant memory. We will live in perfect communion, perfect fellowship with God!

CHALLENGE: Be strengthened and take heart in the reality that death is not the end.