

4. JESUS RESURRECTION, ASCENSION AND HEAVENLY RULE

1 CORINTHIANS 15:1-49

1. JESUS HAD TO DIE AND TO RISE FOR OUR SALVATION

(a) Through his death Jesus pays the price for our sin

- Romans 6:23, "For the wages of sin is death..."
- John 19:30, "It is finished"

(b) Jesus resurrection is necessary for our salvation.

- the Cross and resurrection cannot be separated
- 1 Corinthians 15:17, "futile... still in your sins"

2. WHAT DID JESUS' RESURRECTION "DO" TO JESUS?

- Romans 1:4, "... who through the Spirit of holiness was declared with power to be the Son of God by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord."
- Acts 13:32-33, "We tell you the good news: What God promised our fathers he has fulfilled for us, their children, by raising up Jesus. As it is written in the second Psalm: "'You are my Son; today I have become your Father'."
- 1 Timothy 3:16, "Beyond all question, the mystery of godliness is great: He appeared in a body, was vindicated by the Spirit, was seen by angels, was preached among the nations, was believed on in the world, was taken up in glory."

3. WHAT DOES JESUS' RESURRECTION DO FOR CHRISTIANS?

(a) Because HE is vindicated, WE are justified

- Romans 6:9, "We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. ¹⁰ For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God." (ESV)
- "a dead Christ is an unjustified Christ, and unjustified Christ means an unjustified believer." (Richard Gaffin)
- Romans 4:22-25, "That is why his [Abraham's] faith was "counted to him as righteousness." ²³ But the words "it was counted to him" were not written for his sake alone, ²⁴ but for ours also. It [righteousness] will be counted to us who believe in him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord, ²⁵ who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification." (ESV)

(b) He is raised as second Adam who gives resurrection life to his people

Questions for group discussion:

Look at 1 Corinthians 15:20-23. From these verses consider:

- What does **Adam** do?
- What does **Christ** do?

Look at 1 Corinthians 15:42-49. From these verses consider:

- What do we learn about **Adam** and his family?
- What do we learn about **Christ** and his family?

4. CHRIST IS NOW ASCENDED AND RULING OVER ALL THINGS

(a) The event of the Ascension

- Predicted: John 14:2, 16:28, 17:5
- Described: Luke 24:50-53, Acts 1:1-11

(b) The Ascension brings Jesus to the height of glory

- “Jesus’ ascension was his Father’s act of withdrawing him from his disciples’ gaze upward (a sign of exaltation) into a cloud (a sign of God’s presence). This was not a form of space travel, but part two (the resurrection being part one) of Jesus’ return from the depths of death to the height of glory” (J.I. Packer, *Concise Theology*, p127).
- Seated at the right hand of God, e.g. Hebrews 8:1, Philippians 2:9-11

(c) From here he rules everything, for the sake of the Church

- Matthew 28:16-20
- Ephesians 1:19-22

(d) From here he pours out the Holy Spirit on His people

- Acts 2:1-4, 22-23 (his death), 24-32 (resurrection), 32-33 (ascension)
- Jesus and the Spirit:
Matthew 3:11
1 Corinthians 15:45, 2 Corinthians 3:17,
Revelation 3:1, 5:6
Romans 8:9-10
John 14:12,16-18.

(e) Summary

Jesus ascension is not his abandoning of the church. Though he is bodily present elsewhere, it is through the Ascension that Christ comes in power to dwell in his church. Once ascended he poured out his Holy Spirit upon his people.

5. HOMEWORK

For reflection:

- Read, pray and worship in the light of 1 Corinthians 15
- Read Charles Wesley's hymn and think about its words

Rejoice, the Lord is King!

Your Lord and King adore:
mortals, give thanks and sing,
and triumph evermore:

*Lift up your heart, lift up your voice:
rejoice! Again I say, rejoice!*

2. Jesus, the Saviour, reigns,
the God of truth and love;
when he had purged our stains
he took his seat above:

3. His kingdom cannot fail,
he rules both earth and heaven;
the keys of death and hell
are to our Jesus given:

4. He sits at God's right hand,
till all his foes submit
and bow to his command
and fall beneath his feet:

5. Rejoice in glorious hope!
Jesus the Judge shall come
and take his servants up
to their eternal home:

*We soon shall hear the archangel's voice;
God's trumpet-call shall sound - Rejoice!*

Charles Wesley 1707-88 Praise! No. 495

Next week: our union with Christ

- Please read Ephesians 1:1-14 and Romans 5:12-21