

Sunday, April 26, 2020 with Mike Teel, Pastor
EASTER: Implications of the Resurrection

FOCAL PASSAGE: I Corinthians 15:20-28 ²⁰ *But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.* ²¹ *For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man.* ²² *For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive.* ²³ *But each in turn: Christ, the firstfruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him.* ²⁴ *Then the end will come, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father after he has destroyed all dominion, authority and power.* ²⁵ *For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet.* ²⁶ *The last enemy to be destroyed is death.* ²⁷ *For he "has put everything under his feet." Now when it says that "everything" has been put under him, it is clear that this does not include God himself, who put everything under Christ.* ²⁸ *When he has done this, then the Son himself will be made subject to him who put everything under him, so that God may be all in all.*

IMPLICATIONS OF THE WHY

I Corinthians 15:20-22 ... ²⁰ *But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.* ²¹ *For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man.* ²² *For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive.*

- The first phase that Paul speaks about is the period of **man in need of Jesus**.
- Paul here in the middle of his discourse on the resurrection, reminds us why the resurrection should be and is so important to us.

1. SPIRITUAL SEPERATION FROM GOD

I Corinthians 15:21 ... *For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man.*

- Paul reminds us about the fall of man and the need for salvation.
- **Romans 5:18-19** ... *Consequently, just as one trespass resulted in condemnation for all people, so also one righteous act resulted in justification and life for all people.* ¹⁹ *For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous.*
- **Romans 6:23** ... *For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*
- Just as all died because of one man, Adam (law) – All may live (spiritually) because of one man, Jesus (God's Grace).

2. SPIRITUAL RENEWAL WITH GOD

I Corinthians 15:21-22 ... *For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man.* ²² *For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive.*

- **John 6:46-51** ... *No one has seen the Father except the one who is from God; only he has seen the Father.* ⁴⁷ *Very truly I tell you, the one who believes has eternal life.* ⁴⁸ *I am the bread of life.* ⁴⁹ *Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, yet they died.* ⁵⁰ *But here is the bread that comes down from heaven, which anyone may eat and not die.* ⁵¹ *I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats this bread will live forever. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world."*
- In Adam, all died – In Christ, all live and become new.
- **II Corinthians 5:17** ... *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!*

THE IMPLICATION OF THE WHEN

I Corinthians 15:23-24 ... *But each in turn: Christ, the firstfruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him.* ²⁴ *Then the end will come, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father after he has destroyed all dominion, authority and power.*

- Notice **verse 23** ... *"But each in turn:"* ...
- God has an order and sequences pertaining to the resurrection.

- Passages like **John 5:25-29** and **Revelation 20** indicate there is no such thing taught in Scripture as a “**general resurrection.**”
- Notice the order that Paul begins to describe for us here in these passages.

1. CHRIST THE FIRSTFRUIT IS AT THE HEAD

I Corinthians 15:23a ...*But each in turn: Christ, the firstfruits;*

- **John 6:37-38 (NKJV)** ... *All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out. ³⁸ For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.*
- What a promise! No one will be cast out who comes to Jesus the Firstfruit of the Resurrection.

2. THE CHURCH WILL FOLLOW

I Corinthians 15:23 ...*But each in turn: Christ, the firstfruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him.*

- Paul mentions the second resurrection group when Christ comes again, the Church – those who belong to Christ – will be resurrected.
- **I Thessalonians 4:16-17**... *For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever.*
- This is called “**the Resurrection of Life**” or what we commonly refer to as the “**Rapture of the Church.**”

3. THE CLIMAX OF HUMAN HISTORY

I Corinthians 15:24-28 ... *Then the end will come, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father after he has destroyed all dominion, authority and power. ²⁵ For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. ²⁶ The last enemy to be destroyed is death. ²⁷ For he “has put everything under his feet.” Now when it says that “everything” has been put under him, it is clear that this does not include God himself, who put everything under Christ. ²⁸ When he has done this, then the Son himself will be made subject to him who put everything under him, so that God may be all in all.*

- From the Garden of Eden to the last days, Paul is covering the entire course of History.
- There will be a **Great Tribulation** (which you do not want to be a part of); a **Millennial Reign** (1,000 years) of Christ on the earth; a terrible **Resurrection of the Damned**; and then the **Kingdom of Christ will be delivered to God the Father.**

4. PERSONAL IMPLICATIONS

- What does all this mean for you and me?
- If you are a Christian then this is all good news.
- If you are not a Christian . . .
- Good news! You can change your destination from the **resurrection of the damned** to the **resurrection of life** by asking Jesus to be your Lord and Savior.

LIVE IT OUT

- Which resurrection will you be a part of?
- This is how you change from damned to life – trust Jesus.