

A Primer On Resurrection
Hope Chapel Honolulu
1 Corinthians 15:20-58

“When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: “Death is swallowed up in victory.” “O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?” The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.”
(1Corinthians 15:54-58, ESV)

Introduction

Last week we talked about why the Sadducees amongst others in the First Century refused to believe in life after death and how Job’s faith went beyond the language and experience of his people to keep his faith and hope in God (Job 19:23-29, 1Co15:12-19). In some ways these ancient cultural assumptions and mindsets are not so unlike our own today, especially when it comes to the resurrection. Whereas Old Testament saints didn’t have a word for resurrection, New Testament saints did: *anastasis*. While popular culture, religion and science seem much more comfortable with resuscitation or even reincarnation, it is the hope of resurrection which Christ and the apostles proclaimed, and this hope of resurrection is what Christians believe. Let’s take a closer look at what the Scriptures reveal to us how we should live in light of the resurrection.

1. Christ the firstfruits, then those who belong to Christ. (1Corinthians 15:20-34, ESV)

- a) “As in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive.” (v.22)
- b) “Otherwise what do people mean by being baptized on behalf of the dead?” (v.29)

2. A resurrection that is spiritual, intellectual, emotional and physical. (1Corinthians 15:35-49, ESV)

- a) “What you sow does not come to life unless it dies.” (v.36)
- b) What is raised is imperishable, glorious, powerful, spiritual, Christ-like. (vv.42-49)

3. More than just immortality, but victory over both sin and death. (1Corinthians 15:50-58, ESV)

- a) Does *anastasis* mean resurrection, salvation or rapture? (*John 11:25, 1Peter 1:3, Revelation 20:5-6*)
- b) The resurrection is not just about immortality, but final victory over both sin and death.

Conclusion

This thing we call resurrection is much more than just life after death, a second chance or a re-anything; it is the fulfillment of what is promised when God says, “if any man be in Christ, then he has become a new creation; old things have passed away, behold, everything has become new in Him” (2Co5:17-21). That the resurrection is the fulfillment of Christ’s ministry of reconciliation is why the apostle links this promise of resurrection with living for Christ and not just ourselves (1Co15:58). Because of Christ’s promise to share His victory over sin and death with all who believe our labor in the Lord is never in vain.

For our prayerful study, discussion and application:

- 1) Read and compare Isaiah 25:6-9, John 5:25-29 and 1Corinthians 15:12-20.
- 2) What does Christ’s resurrection, a promised general resurrection and Christ’s return have in common?
- 3) What are the Word and Spirit of God showing and telling you about resurrection?