

Message #67**I Corinthians 15:20-28**

Understanding the resurrection of Jesus Christ is THE central key to understanding the whole doctrine of the resurrection.

THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS CHRIST GUARANTEES A WONDERFUL CONCLUSION FOR GOD'S PEOPLE AND FOR GOD'S PROGRAM.

We may recall that in verses 12-19, Paul set forth the theological ramification "if" Christ were still dead. In **verses 20-28**, Paul sets forth the theological ramifications since Christ has resurrected life.

**ACCOMPLISHMENT #1 – Christ's resurrection guarantees a resurrection for God's people.
15:20-22**

The "first fruit" offering was the first offering of the harvest set apart to God as a way of saying thanks for His provisions and as an expectation of His future blessings. The "first fruit" offering guaranteed God's future blessings and protection (i.e. Ex. 34:22-24).

The idea behind "those who are asleep" is the idea of those who have died.

Reason #1 - Christ was raised because of the work of one man. 15:21

Adam brought death into this world because of his sin (Gen. 3:19).

Just as death is in the world by one man, so also one man brought the resurrection into this world.

Reason #2 - Christ was raised because of the effect on all men. 15:22

We have all inherited a sin nature and the death penalty from Adam. It is very important to observe that the words "all die" are present tense, meaning all who are in Adam are continually dead before God.

Paul wrote in Rom. 5:12: "Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned."

But notice carefully the promise of the verse those "in Christ" shall "all" be made alive. Anyone who is in Christ is guaranteed to be raised from the dead.

How then does one go from being a condemned sinner, who is promised death, to being an uncondemned believer who is promised life? One must be "in Christ."

How does one get “in Christ”? The answer is found in Colossians 2:6, by receiving Jesus Christ. When you receive Jesus Christ, you are made complete “in Christ” (Col. 2:10) and you are “made alive” unto God and “all” your transgressions and sins are forgiven (Col. 2:13).

**ACCOMPLISHMENT #2 – Christ’s resurrection guarantees a resurrection in God’s order.
15:23**

- 1) Resurrection of N.T. believers at the Rapture. I Thess. 4:13-18
- 2) Resurrection of O.T. believers after the Tribulation. Dan. 12:2
- 3) Resurrection of Tribulation martyrs after the Tribulation. Rev. 20:4-5
- 4) Resurrection of all unbelievers after the millennium. Rev. 20:5, 13

Now we may carefully notice the chronology: first Christ is raised and that opens the door for the other resurrections. Each resurrection comes in order and each comes in connection with the coming of Christ.

If we compare what Paul writes here with what he writes in I Thess. 4:12-18, we can legitimately call this the “in Christ” resurrection. This particular resurrection is to occur when Christ returns to meet His people in the air at the Rapture.

**ACCOMPLISHMENT #3 – Christ’s resurrection guarantees a completion to God’s
program. 15:24-28**

Work #1 - The resurrected Christ will deliver the kingdom of God. **15:24a**

The word “deliver” is one that means to hand over, to give, to present.

One of the things Jesus Christ will do is He will hand over the kingdom to God the Father.

Work #2 - The resurrected Christ will put down all power. **15:24b-25**

The “rule and authority” being discussed here is that which is against God. Jesus Christ will eventually trample down all power that is against God. He will stamp out all rebellion.

Work #3 - The resurrected Christ will destroy death. **15:26**

The last enemy Christ will destroy will be death. Death is still operative during the kingdom reign; however, the Bible is clear that once the Great White Throne Judgment has occurred, death shall be destroyed (Rev. 20:13-15; 21:4).

Work #4 - The resurrected Christ will be divinely honored. **15:27**

That word “excepted” is one that suggests it will be evident that Jesus Christ is “out of” God, that is He is a distinct Person of the Godhead who was carrying out the righteous work of God.

Eventually every knee will bow and every tongue shall confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father (Phil. 2:10-11).

Work #5 - The resurrected Christ will be eternally submissive. **15:28**

God is glorified when a person submits his will to God’s will. Ultimately, all things will glorify God for all things will be completely submitted to God. God desires that people submit to Him, not only because it glorifies Him, but also because it is best for them.

Jesus Christ will eventually bring to fruition this entire program of God. The historical event that proves this is His resurrection. Will you submit your will to His today?