

1 Corinthians 15.45-58

A Tale of two Adams

Into the heart of life stalks the specter of death... we all are born with the fear of it in our breast, the knowledge of it in our souls... for many that fear never abates, the knowledge a pressure that cannot be avoided, or alleviated. It is into this darkness of mind and heart that the Word of God speaks most powerfully. It is into this all-consuming fear that God breathes peace unto us by the power of His own sacrifice. The memorial of Easter is the restating of the eternal promise of God. The promise of redemption, of deliverance, of a restoration of the tree of life to all who are found in the Son. For it IS life that we have been promised, life everlasting, life eternal, life triumphant, life defined and determined by the God of life Himself. It is so much more than merely getting away from death, it is a total and complete victory over the ancient foe. It is a complete carrying away of the enemy's treasures, it is triumph at the most fundamental level. Our victory over death is absolute

because our Lord has despoiled the camp of the enemy!

I. OUR FIRST FATHER ADAM

a. A living being

- i. Reason
- ii. Spirit at his creation, able to commune with God
- iii. Happiness in his work and calling...
- iv. Immortal as a created being. Created for life

b. A fallen soul

- i. Chose to defy the light of God's law and set himself up as superior to the God who created him... thus reason died
- ii. Lost the ability to commune with God, thus spirit dies
- iii. Since the Father is the source of all good things, and Adam could no longer commune with God his joy and happiness are completely

determined by transient circumstance... thus joy and peace are ended.

- iv. Punished with death, and so everlasting life is now living death.

c. An empty progenitor

- i. Having nothing to pass on to his posterity, he gave us only the death that now ruled in him.
- ii. He had no spirit to bestow
- iii. No happiness or joy to communicate, settling for a life a quiet misery and desperation
- iv. Death now haunts his dreams and his own passing cements in the minds of his children that death also stalks them...

II. OUR LAST ADAM – CHRIST

a. The life-giving spirit

- i. Able to communicate life unto dead hearts –

Ephesians 2.1-5

- ii. Able to restore reason and understanding –

1 Corinthians 2.14-16

- iii. Giver of joy disconnected to circumstance, joy as the fruit of the Spirit that inhabits us, joy as the promised possession of the child of God.
- iv. Gives hope to the afflicted –

Psalm 119.50

- v. Calls the wandering child back to Himself –

Hosea 14.4

- vi. As the victor over death, Jesus is the Lord of Life who actually bestows life on all of His children. -

Acts 3.13-16

Philippians 3.20—21

- b. An Obedient Son –

- i. Fulfilled the whole law of God submitting Himself to the God of all things willingly.

Philippians 2.5-11
1Corinthians 15.22-28

- ii. Walked with God all the days of His life, and now is seated at the right hand of the Father. –

Luke 3:22 (NKJV)

22 And the Holy Spirit descended in bodily form like a dove upon Him, and a voice came from heaven which said, “You are My beloved Son; in You I am well pleased.”

Hebrews 8.1-2

- iii. Obeyed for the joy set before Him

Hebrews 12.1-2

- iv. Carried death captive in His train –

Ephesians 4:8 (NKJV)

⁸ Therefore He says: *“When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, And gave gifts to men.”*

c. A full and generous elder brother

- i. He has restored us to a right relationship with God -
- ii. He has prepared a place for us –

John 14.1-5

- iii. He has shared with us the fullness of His own inheritance –

Romans 8.14-17

- iv. He has promised and delivered us from the power of death...

III. VICTORY OUT OF DEFEAT

- a. Triumph over death is NOT

- i. Dying as a beast with no understanding or appreciation of death
- ii. Dying as a sceptic who do not believe in anything after this life
- iii. Dying as a stoic who simply set their teeth and endure what cannot be avoided...
- iv. All of these fail to earn or display victory

b. It IS

- i. Understanding just what it is to die, what it brings us unto, and what it means for death to destroy our bodies but not be able to touch our soul.
- ii. It is to have a scripturally based understanding and confidence that death does not have any real power to injure us...
- iii. It is to be joyfully assured that to live is Christ and to die is gain. –

Philippians 1.21

IV. VICTORY IN DEFEAT

- a. Has no longer any power to separate us from God
- b. Though we die, sin itself has already been punished and is slain in our stead.
- c. The law has been fulfilled in the person of Christ
- d. That having been satisfied, the law and the grave lose their sting
- e. Christ having fulfilled the law has now set it aside so that it cannot in any fashion harm us
- f. His own resurrection stands as proof that God has counted His death in our stead and accepted His blood as payment for our sin.

Romans 4.23-24

V. WALKING IN VICTORIOUS DEFEAT

- a. Be clothed in the righteousness of Christ

- b. We must know that we are found in Him
- c. We must stand ready to abandon all that this world holds over us and follow Him completely
- d. We must live close to God and commune with Him, for in Him is all peace, knowledge, power and hope. And this is the main thing that Adam lost for us. Thus it is the key inheritance restored in the victory of Christ over death.

VI. FACING THE DARKNESS IN HOPE

- a. Doubt is real for some
- b. Praise is the aim for all
- c. Triumphant shouts of worship are the desire of our hearts...
- d. But no matter how we actually face our death, we must know that we are found in Christ. We all die alone, but not ever really alone. For our Jesus has gone this way before. He has

prepared both a place and a passage for us. Therefore, wondrously, when the time comes for us to die, we will have nothing to do but go to Him. There remains no work for us to accomplish, no payment for us to pay, no price or punishment for us to endure. Jesus has won the victory over death and has done so through the power of His own resurrection!