

What Are Your Hopes and Dreams?

Text: 1 Corinthians 15:19-26 NAS 1995

Introduction: Dear friends: In comparison to ETERNITY, *life on earth is much shorter!* We all have hopes and dreams for this life, but do we also have them for the life to come?

Today, we focus on eight verses in **1 Corinthians 15**, a.k.a., *the resurrection chapter*. We will consider:

- Jesus' resurrection!
 - Our resurrection!
 - The end of the world!
1. **Jesus' Resurrection:** ¹⁹ **If we have hoped in [counted on] Christ in this life only, we are of all men most to be pitied [miserable].** ²⁰ **But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who are asleep.** // Being close to Christ has two results: **now**—*persecution*, **later**—*bliss!* If Christ is only for now, *what a miserable situation!*
- a. **Resurrection Promised:** Jesus said to His disciples: **"The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes and be killed and be raised up on the third day"** (Luke 9:22). // **Day 1:** *died on Friday*; **Day 2:** *rested on Saturday*; **Day 3:** *raised on Sunday!*

b. Resurrection Fulfilled: Peter preached: Jesus was “delivered over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God... / godless men... put Him to death. **But God raised Him up again**” (Acts 2:23-24).

c. Jesus Is Called the First Fruits:

i. The Festival: The LORD commanded seven annual festivals in Leviticus [chapter 23](#). The third festival is Firstfruits; on that day, *the first ripe sheaf of barley was waved before the LORD to acknowledge His provision and give Him thanks.*

ii. Jesus’ Resurrection: The festival of Firstfruits always falls on the Sunday after Passover, *which was **the day Jesus was raised.** Jesus, the Ultimate First Fruit, was raised on the festival of Firstfruits!* It was all part of God’s awesome plan to save us!

2. **Our Resurrection**: ²¹ **For since by a man [Adam] *came* death, by a man [Jesus] also *came* the resurrection of the dead.** ²² **For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be made alive.** ²³ **But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits [on Easter Sunday], after that those who are Christ’s at His coming...**

a. By Adam Came Death: **Romans 5:12** “...just as through one man [Adam] sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned...”

b. By Christ Came Resurrection to Life:

i. Without Jesus and His Saving Work: ♦ We would be ***hopeless and helpless*** now, and ♦ we would be ***apart from God forever when we died.***

- ii. With Jesus and His Saving Work: For all who have **Spirit-worked** sorrow for sin and trust in Jesus, they have ✦God’s gift of forgiveness, ✦God’s gift of eternal life, and ✦the promise of being with God forever! Even though the repentant and the unrepentant seem the same – dead and buried, there are HUGE unseen differences: ✦at the time of death ([Luke 16:19-31](#)) and ✦in eternity ([Mt. 25:46](#))!
- c. The Day of Resurrection:
 - i. Two Comings: **In the past** *the Son of God put on flesh to take away the sin of the world. In the future He will come again to raise all people* ([Acts 24:15b](#)).
 - ii. Some to Life, Some to Judgment: **John 5:28-29** [*Jesus said:*] **“Do not marvel at this; for an hour is coming, in which **all** who are in the tombs will hear His voice, and will come forth; those who did the **good deeds** to a resurrection of **life**, those who committed the **evil deeds** to a resurrection of **judgment.**”** // Here is the proper understanding:
 1. Good Deeds Do Not Save: **Romans 3:20** “...by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified in [God’s] sight...”
 2. Good Deeds Only Come from Faith: **Hebrews 11:6** “...without faith it is impossible to please [God]...”
 3. Saving Faith Always Results in Works: Works are *the fruit of faith*. **When faith is genuine, the works will show** (to watch, listen to, or read an important sermon: [click here](#) or type in this link: BLC7500.com/Sermons/49777/Details).

3. **The End of the World:** ²⁴ then *comes the end, when [Christ] hands over the kingdom to the God and Father, when He has abolished all rule and all authority and power.* ²⁵ For He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet. ²⁶ The last enemy that will be abolished is death.
- a. Jesus Is Reigning: After Jesus completed His saving work, He declared: **Matthew 28:18** “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.” // Today, there are Christians who believe Jesus will reign on earth in the future, **but the Bible teaches that He is reigning now** (Eph. 1:22-23). Join us in Bible Class (Sa. 3:00 or Su. 10:30), *beginning next week to learn more!*
- b. The Last Enemy:
- i. Oil and Water Do Not Mix: Neither do **sin** and a **holy God**. Sin brings death, *so death is coming for each of us!* No matter how good we are, *no one can stand before God in his sin* (Ps. 130:3)!
- ii. Eternal Hopes and Dreams: They will come true for *all who know Jesus!* **Now** – such people live with peace and purpose! **In eternity** – such people will forever enjoy God’s eternal blessings!

Let Us Pray: Dear Jesus, You turned our gloom into hope and joy! *TYSM for Your finished work and current reign!* Help us to
▶live for You and ▶focus our hopes and dreams on eternity!

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