

Aug 27, 2023



Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

The Oaks Baptist Church
Grand Prairie, Texas

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:
Put Jesus first

COMMENT FOR THE WEEK:
When Jesus is our greatest influence in all of life, He will have His rightful place in our hearts

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:
And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist
(Col 1:17 NKJV)

(from "Our Daily Bread", Feb 10, 2016)

Series: God's Law Is Love

**UNIT 1: Love Completes,
Law Falls Short**

NEXT WEEK

**Jesus Confronts Hypocrisy
(Luke 11:37-44)**

God's Kingdom will be All in All 1 Cor 15:20-28

Lesson Background and Introduction

Our text comes from the next-to-last section of Paul's first letter to the Corinthians. It could almost be said that Paul was saving the most important part of his letter for last: his teaching about the resurrection. We should clarify at the outset what we mean by the word resurrection. Some students take that word to refer primarily to the immediate life after death: when someone who belongs to Jesus dies, that person's spirit remains alive in the Lord's presence. To be in the presence of the Lord after death is an important biblical idea, affirmed by Paul himself (2 Corinthians 5:1, 6; Philippians 1:20-24). The Lord is faithful: he will never abandon his people, even in death. But this is not the meaning of resurrection. Life in Heaven as disembodied spirits is not the final status of the Lord's people. From the outset, humans were intended to be a combination of body and spirit. As the Creator of everything that is seen and unseen, God's intent is to reclaim his entire creation (see Romans 8:22-23). This means that when Christ returns to complete God's saving work, God will raise the dead so that they are alive as a unity of body and spirit. They will be in fellowship with those who are still alive at Christ's second coming (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18). This final act in God's plan will mark the ultimate victory of God. For reasons that are uncertain, some members of the church of Corinth had begun to dismiss the idea that God will raise the dead. In light of Paul's emphasis on the church's "puffed up" pride, it may be that some found the idea of God's raising dead bodies to be distasteful or bizarre. Another error is to equate resurrection with reincarnation, the latter being part of a never-ending cycle of reward and punishment. Paul argued that God does indeed raise the dead because God raised Christ from the dead. He recounted to the Corinthians the gospel as they first heard it: focused on Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection, all "according to the Scriptures" (1 Corinthians 15:3-4). 'Then he recounted the many who saw Jesus after his resurrection, alive in his body that had been dead and entombed (15:5-7). It is Jesus' resurrection, Paul says, that demonstrates not only that God can raise the dead but that he will raise the dead.

Because we mortal humans live so close to death, a Christian's mind often goes to the promise of God that death is followed by life with God in Heaven. That promise is real, true, important, and a real comfort as we consider our mortality. But today's passage reminds us that there is even more to look forward to. As one writer put it, life after death is followed by "life after life after death." It will be a life that makes us again a body-spirit unity, as we are fitted for a new existence. Resurrection from the dead is integral to the end of history to come. Without resurrection, the "all things" over which God rules would leave out the most precious elements of God's creation: his people. But raised from the dead, God's people are made whole. We shall be brought together in living fellowship, and made new for a never-ending life in the new heavens and earth that God has prepared for us. It will be a life in which we inhabit the new heavens and earth, able to do the things in creation for which we were ourselves created. We should not forget that the world we live in now and the bodies that are currently ours are temporary, to be replaced by the permanent. That truth should sanctify our every action. This is what inspires hope even in the worst of trials. This is what God has promised us, now and eternally.

(Adapted from the NIV Standard Lesson Commentary)

NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

Guaranteed Victory (1 Cor 15:20-22)

Guaranteed because Jesus became the way (20)

- The way, truth, and life (John 14:6)
- The way of holiness (Isa 35:8)
- The way of salvation (Acts 4:12)
- The way of reconciliation (Eph 2:14-18)
- The way of cleansing (Heb 10:19-23)

Guaranteed because of promised resurrection (21)

- Resurrection that is based on Scripture (1 Cor 15:3-4)
- Resurrection through being united with Jesus (Rom 6:5)
- Resurrection through preaching (1 Cor 15:12-14)
- Resurrection through a new birth and living hope (1 Peter 1:3-4)
- Resurrection through baptism (1 Peter 3:17-21)

Guaranteed because of promised eternal life (22)

- An eternal life that is a gift from God (Rom 6:23)
- An eternal life that comes through being in Jesus (1 John 5:11-12)
- An eternal life that God promised before the beginning of time (Titus 1:2)
- An eternal life that God's promised because of being an heir (Titus 3:7)

Plan for Victory (1 Cor 15:23-26)

Plan of assured coming (23)

- Assurance because all in the grave will hear Jesus' voice (John 5:28-29)
- Assurance because it will come like a thief in the night (2 Peter 3:10-12)
- Assurance because rewards are to be handed out (2 Tim 4:8)
- Assurance because Jesus will raise up His Church (John 6:39)

Plan of eternal deliverance (24-25)

- Deliverance through redemption (Rom 8:23)
- Deliverance through transformation (Phil 3:20-21)
- Deliverance through trust (2 Cor 1:10)
- Deliverance through righteousness (Ps 34:19)
- Deliverance because God knows how to deliver (2 Peter 2:9)

Plan of destroyed death (26)

- Destroyed through the gospel (2 Tim 1:10)
- Destroyed through grace (Rom 5:17)
- Destroyed Jesus' resurrection (1 Cor 15:54-57)

Total Victory (1 Cor 15:27-28)

Total victory through Jesus' supremacy (27)

- Supremacy because Jesus has all authority and dominion (Eph 1:20-23)
- Supremacy because Jesus has supremacy over everything (Col 1:18)
- Supremacy because Jesus is the head over every power and authority (Col 2:10)
- Supremacy because angels are in submission to Jesus (1 Peter 3:22)

Total victory through Jesus's eternal rule (28)

- Jesus' rule will be one of wisdom and righteousness (Jer 23:5)
- Jesus rules over an eternal kingdom (2 Peter 1:10-11)
- Jesus is the eternal King (1 Tim 1:17)