

***“The Foundations of Our Faith Revealed, Theme by Theme in Genesis —
Divine Election Operates in the Sphere of Divine Judgment — Part 2”
Resurrection Sunday 2022***

Introduction:

Heb. 11:13 These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.

These all died in faith, not having received the promises:: ULTIMATELY, ALL UNCONDITIONAL PROMISES STILL UNFULFILLED DEMAND RESURRECTION. Why? Because ... God's word is sure because he is always trustworthy and has given us his word of truth for our firm foundation in life and eternity.

Rom. 3:4 God forbid: yea, let God be true, but every man a liar; as it is written, That thou mightest be justified in thy sayings, and mightest overcome when thou art judged.

This is the Sunday each year when we want to recognize in a special way our Lord's resurrection. And though we are called to recognize that resurrection every Sunday and really every day, we do not always make that our main focus on this special day. But today we will.

As we have seen in our studies in the book of Genesis, resurrection has been a part of God's redemptive plan for sinful man from when sin came into this world and death by sin. When Adam sinned God announced judgment upon judgment but also gave a wonderful promise regarding the coming Seed of the Woman who would defeat all enemies in his time, including satan himself. And it would be he himself who would also bring resurrection and eternal blessing. Only through him would eternal salvation be possible.

In scripture we find woven a most blessed scarlet thread progressively revealed.... With the judgment came the hope of deliverance for all who would believe on him.

Indeed, the heavens also declare this glory as Psalm 19 so boldly declares. It is even written there! In our next fellowship here we will consider that further.

So, when the plan of redemption is as high as the heavens (quite literally), it must surely touch the earth with its power and glory, and that is what we will see today

...

1 Cor. 15 the apostle Paul ties resurrection in general for mankind with the resurrection of Christ himself, again, the seed of the woman. For it is there that heaven's glory is brought down to earth in such a way that even the faith of sinners is brought forth.

We go there today for glorious truths about the end of this story:

Recently we finished our Third Theme in Genesis with words like this: "With God, our weakness reveals his strength". Whether it be through Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, Jacob, or Joseph, all were part of the same mighty work of the Lord God. And we ourselves are also part of the great train of witnesses. For God did not create man in his own image with the liberty of free will and potentially sin and rebellion without the plan and promise of a coming redeemer. And then, when sin and rebellion came upon mankind God through satan's tempting of Eve and Adam's sin, the Lord God used even their fall for great blessing for many. The promise of the Seed of the Woman was for all generations. But would they receive it? The revelation of the eternal redemptive plan of God had been given and his testimony concerning that was evident . . .

Or would the Lord God bring Judgment for their unbelief and disobedience of faith while continuing to offer the promise under terms and conditions of his choosing? There is a Scarlet Thread throughout the scriptures and Genesis lays the foundation for that.

So we have seen how God's sovereignty over his entire creation demands that his strength be manifested even through the weakness of sinful man. So last time we began another corollary of that fundamental principle:

Our new theme was this, "Divine Election Operates in the Sphere of Divine Judgment", the common theme of the scriptures which is introduced so well in the first book of the Bible, the book of beginnings, Genesis.

To explain this further — in the Bible (and in Genesis) there are recorded a great many judgments, some on nearly all of mankind as in Noah's Flood — but the plan of God was (and is) still being carried out with his elect ones!! For he is creating a people for his name.

- **But that requires first of all his resurrection. First the judgment would fall (in him bearing all of our sin and sins) but then the blessing would come!**

- Sin, the Announcement of Coming Judgment, A Promise of Deliverance, and the Judgment Itself — Divine Election Operates in the Sphere of Divine Judgment

Today's Outline: The Only Saving Faith (Today) Is A Faith in Our Resurrected Lord:

- *The Good News Includes Christ's Resurrection*
- *Many Witnesses Testified of Christ's Resurrection*
- *Without Christ's Resurrection Our Faith Is Vain*
- *Our Election Demands Christ's Resurrection*
- *Christ Within Us Is Empowered by Christ's Resurrection*
- *Our Song of Victory Will Testify of Christ's Resurrection*
- *The Question: What is the Meaning Personally of Christ's Resurrection For Us Today?*

The Only Saving Faith (Today) Is A Faith in Our Resurrected Lord —

I. The Good News Includes Christ's Resurrection:

[READ] 1 Cor. 15:1-4

1 Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand;

2 By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain.

3 For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures;

4 And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:

- *Believing in our blessed Lord though the gospel presentation is the foundation of our salvation. "By which also ye are saved" the apostle writes here. There is no other way to salvation, the apostle writes here.*
- *All three parts of this gospel or good news are required for proper, saving faith — there is no other way:*
 - *That Christ "died for our sins" according to the scriptures*
 - *That "he was buried"*
 - *And finally, that "he rose again the third day" according to the scriptures*

- *Note particularly here that it does not say here that “Christ died because of our sins, but FOR OUR SINS. That is, he was the one taking our place in that death that had been ordained for all. He died FOR OUR SINS. This is most important. He paid the full penalty for then in his sacrificial death in our place.*
- *Then, the apostle notes that “believing in vain” is a possibility indeed! But how can that be? For if one has believed through this good news here, then one is saved! Well, that is the point of it all. That one must believe THIS, for otherwise one has believed in vain, that is, without the ordained consequence of our saving faith. Later in the chapter Paul again mentions this as we shall soon see.*

The Only Saving Faith (Today) Is A Faith in Our Resurrected Lord —

II. Many Witnesses Testified of Christ’s Resurrection:

[READ] 1 Cor. 15:5-10

5 And that he was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve:

6 After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep.

7 After that, he was seen of James; then of all the apostles.

8 And last of all he was seen of me also, as of one born out of due time.

9 For I am the least of the apostles, that am not meet to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.

10 But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.

- *That he died for our sins, was buried, and was then bodily and physically raised from the dead was not the full story. For, as it says here, the resurrected Lord Jesus was also SEEN in his resurrection glory! MANY, MANY, SAW HIM ALIVE AFTER HE WAS RAISED, AND SOME ARE LISTED HERE BY NAME. The fact of it is incontrovertible therefore, a part of history and undeniable.*
- *But more! Even some who were not present there at that time with its many miraculous events also saw him — significantly, also the man Saul (renamed Paul) and the author of this letter. Grace, grace, grace, though Paul as we read here in verse 10. “But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.” Paul cannot help but*

**testify here again to that transforming fact — he is risen indeed!
BUT MORE, THIS WAS AFTER HIS ASCENSION!**

**The Only Saving Faith (Today) Is A Faith in Our Resurrected Lord —
III. Without Christ's Resurrection Our Faith Is Vain:**

[READ] 1 Cor. 15:17-19

17 And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins.

18 Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished.

19 If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable.

- ***Now he addresses the main subject of this chapter. What if it were otherwise? What if Christ were NOT RISEN? Then what? This is grammatically much like verse 2, “unless ye have believed in vain”.***
- ***Paul is expressing the divine logic of it all. If something is demonstrably true, then denying it for argument's sake should give something so clearly false that there is no questioning that which has been denied.***
- ***This is a very compelling way to present the truth of the resurrection or Paul would not have written of it in this manner. He IS writing to believers, of course. He writes here in verse 17 that “if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain”, and furthermore, he adds, “ye are yet in your sins!” For if Christ is not risen, our faith is vain or ineffectual, accomplishing nothing positive and good even.***
- ***In other words, death will come and there will be no redemption. But more, as verse 19 states so unforgettably, in that case we are the most miserable creatures on this planet! I guess unbelievers kind of know this since they say, “well, that is OK for you!”, meaning that we are miserable, weak ones that have believed a lie and are suffering the consequence of failure to enjoy what this life has to offer. Well, Paul proclaims the same here as he writes in verse 32: “If after the manner of men I have fought with beasts at Ephesus, what advantageth it me, if the dead rise not? let us eat and drink; for to morrow we die.”***
- ***So another popular belief falls to the ground in the face of the Pauline teaching here, that even if it is not true, at least we had the benefit of our faith here in this life. Paul does not agree. Very interesting!***

The Only Saving Faith (Today) Is A Faith in Our Resurrected Lord —
IV. Our Election Demands Christ's Resurrection:

[READ] 1 Cor. 15:20-22

20 But now is Christ risen from the dead, *and* become the firstfruits of them that slept.

21 For since by man *came* death, by man *came* also the resurrection of the dead.

22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

- ***Our Election Demands Christ's Resurrection! Amen. I am reminded of Paul's first letter to the Thessalonians where he writes in verses 1-4:***

1 Thess. 1:2-4

2 We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers;

3 Remembering without ceasing your work of faith, and labour of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of God and our Father;

4 Knowing, brethren beloved, your election of God.

- ***Christ's resurrection "speaks volumes", as it were, about what is to come for us believers. For in his resurrection he was "the first fruits" of the coming harvest. So much more is yet to come, the apostle writes there in these verses. Remember Luke's account as written in chapter 24:***

Lk. 24:22-26

22 Yea, and certain women also of our company made us astonished, which were early at the sepulchre;

23 And when they found not his body, they came, saying, that they had also seen a vision of angels, which said that he was alive.

24 And certain of them which were with us went to the sepulchre, and found *it* even so as the women had said: but him they saw not.

25 Then he said unto them, O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken:

26 Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory?

- *First the suffering AND THEN THE GLORY! That is the divine principle. So what glories are yet to come are foreshadowed in Christ's own resurrection and glorification as Paul writes here.*
- *In Adam all die. But in Christ shall all be made alive gloriously!*
- *"For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive", but some to everlasting joy in the presence of our precious Lord Jesus and the rest to everlasting tribulation in the presence of the devil and his angels. The apostle states so clearly here that our salvation and also therefore our election by God demands Christ's resurrection, for otherwise true salvation could never be our lot. Sin would always cast a crimson stain that could never be erased.*

But Christ IS risen! Amen.

***The Only Saving Faith (Today) Is A Faith in Our Resurrected Lord —
V. Christ Within Us Is Empowered by Christ's Resurrection:***

[READ] 1 Cor. 15:42-45

42 So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption:

43 It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power:

44 It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body.

45 And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit.

- *Now the practical question of "How" is answered in verses 42 through 45. He is writing here of our promised resurrection. Considering our frame of "dust", the magnitude of this question cannot be overemphasized. After some contrasts meant to open our minds, our ears, and our hearts, he writes in verse 45:*

"The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit".

- *This is very down to earth and practical, he is saying here. We are now alive in Christ and he dwells in us as written elsewhere (see Rom. 8:9-10, "if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his"). Truly, his life is ours. Col. 1:27 states it this way:*

Col. 1:27 ... To whom God would make known what [is] the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:

- ***So the indwelling Christ in resurrection will not cease his working until we are also gloriously raised — or transformed! Amen.***

The Only Saving Faith (Today) Is A Faith in Our Resurrected Lord —
VI. Our Song of Victory Will Testify of Christ's Resurrection:

1 Cor. 15:51-57

51 Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,

52 In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal *must* put on immortality.

54 So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.

55 O death, where *is* thy sting? O grave, where *is* thy victory?

56 The sting of death *is* sin; and the strength of sin *is* the law.

57 But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

- ***Ah, there is so much here, isn't there? Spring is bursting forth as winter wanes and blows its last fitful breaths of rage. New life from old is showing its colors again on this earth. And so it shall be on that day.***
- ***Christ's full victory over sin and death must claim all within whom he dwells. His glorious death and resurrection have accomplished it already but he and his beloved must be brought together to full glory as well! WE SHALL ALL BE CHANGED! This is a sacred secret and was a mystery, but it is now revealed! Praise God. The final victory is ours as well.***
- ***Believe it and rejoice! We "follow in his train". A great hymn of the faith and a favorite of ours is the Thomas Chisholm, "He Was Wounded For Our Transgressions":***

"He was wounded for our transgressions,

*He bore our sins in His body on the tree;
For our guilt He gave us peace,
From our bondage gave release,
And with His stripes, and with His stripes,
And with His stripes our souls are healed.*

*He was numbered among transgressors,
We did esteem Him forsaken by His God;
As our sacrifice He died,
That the law be satisfied,
And all our sin, and all our sin,
And all our sin was laid on Him.*

*We had wandered, we all had wandered
Far from the fold of "the Shepherd of the sheep;"
But He sought us where we were,
On the mountains bleak and bare,
And brought us home, and brought us home,
And brought us safely home to God.*

*Who can number His generation?
Who shall declare all the triumphs of His Cross?
Millions, dead, now live again,
Myriads follow in His train!
Victorious Lord, victorious Lord,
Victorious Lord and coming King!"*

*"Sin had left a crimson stain,
He washed it white as snow."
(Hymn by E.M. Hall, "Jesus Paid It All")*

- *The question for us all remains: What is the Meaning of Christ's Resurrection For Us Today?*

Concluding Words:

- *Finally, brethren, we will close by reading those central verses from Romans chapter 5:*

Rom. 5:12, 17, 21

12 ... Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned.

...

17 For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.)

...

21 That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord.

- ***But God! The Seed of the Woman (Gen. 3:15-16) — Our Risen Savior — Soon Calling Us Into Glory! Praise God for his glory and his abundant grace.***