

**“The Normal Christian Life – Truth and Consequences”
What If Jesus Were Not Raised From the Dead?**

- Our subject here continues to be the Normal Christian Life and how that may be lived with the empowering of Almighty God, under grace.
- **The Normal Christian Life Can Only Be Lived By Sharing In His Working**
 - Chapter 7 ends with these words:

Romans 7:24-25

24 O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?
25 I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin.

- The ending of chapter 8 is this gives the rest of the glorious story, filling in some very important details indeed:

[READ] Romans 8:35-39

35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? *shall* tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

36 As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.

37 Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.

38 For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,

39 Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

- These words are the capstone on this marvelous teaching, intended to be the basis for our hope. The grand question in chapter 7, “Who shall deliver me from the body of this death?” has its answer in the whole of chapter 8. And in its concluding verses, our apostle finishes his testimony intended to become ours as well, that as “more than conquerors”, our Lord God, through his only son and our savior, Christ Jesus, has provided the solution. And we are right in the center of it.

So be encouraged! His grace truly is sufficient. Paul was persuaded. Are we? These words have the power to ensure that end, praise God.

- With so much revealed about how the Lord God is working in and through us, including our sufferings, will we receive this teaching, live in the light of it, or turn away? On our life’s journey, from glory to glory, we

reach many turning points, crisis points. What shall be the conviction of our hearts, that we may be prepared for them? For if we are not prepared in advance, we shall surely be unprepared for those trials of our faith.

- Agreed? But, as our apostle has written, our cries to the Lord continue:

Romans 8:23-25

23 And not only *they*, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, *to wit*, the redemption of our body.

24 For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for?

25 But if we hope for that we see not, *then* do we with patience wait for *it*.

- Our cries shall continue, and what will their fruit be? Here it is written that they should be with hope and much patience of the spirit, the blessed persuasion that our beloved apostle Paul had gained, even as we have just read: ***His grace is always sufficient!***

2 Corinthians 12:7-10

7 And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me **a thorn in the flesh**, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure.

8 For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me.

9 And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

10 Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.

- Amen? Amen. So be it.

Introduction:

- Do you know the Lord through the saving grace via his gospel and by way of faith alone -- with no works even involved?
 - Or have you never come to him on his terms, in his way, recognizing that his shed blood was sufficient payment for all of your sins, past, present, and future, and that his resurrection is a reality.
- Do you know him daily and moment by moment - are you walking with him? Or are you living your life out in the realm of the flesh and the world and not

enjoying the blessings of his abundant grace?

- And HOW are we suffering? Have the Apostle's words here in this eighth chapter of Romans made a difference? Have they been written on our hearts, or only perhaps on our minds?
- FINALLY, are we encouraged?
 - Well, the blessings God has granted to us believers under grace are great indeed. And they are all of grace and never of works. So the apostle can speak quite authoritatively and with great power concerning all of us.
- Praise God for his grace and the new life that we have in Christ. He dwells within.
- And his promise is that we shall be delivered once and for all one day from all of the trials of this life as we suffer together with him -- HEAVEN'S GLORY IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER, BELOVED!!

Our Last study concluded with this verse:

Romans 8:18 For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time [are] not worthy [to be compared] with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

- But the apostle's intent was not only to comment on our coming future glory after our catching up into heaven's glory. No, but the present reality of God's glory in this life was his primary subject. Today, on Resurrection Sunday, 2026, that shall be our theme: the present reality of God's glory in this life as we co-operate with Christ in his glorious resurrection.

For 1 Corinthians 15 says it so clearly:

HE IS RISEN INDEED!

[READ] 1 Corinthians 15:45 And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening [or, life-giving] spirit.

Colossians 1:26-27

26 ... *Even* the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints:

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:

Some Foundational Scripture:

1 Corinthians 15:12-19, 32. [Our message today is taken from these verses]

12 Now if Christ be preached that he rose from the dead, how say some among you that there is no resurrection of the dead?

13 But if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen:

14 And if Christ be not risen, then *is* our preaching vain, and your faith *is* also vain.

15 Yea, and we are found false witnesses of God; because we have testified of God that he raised up Christ: whom he raised not up, if so be that the dead rise not.

16 For if the dead rise not, then is not Christ raised:

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.

...

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.

- Do we understand this? Do we. Are we taking these words of our apostle to heart? Maybe we have to live here in these words to understand what is written, what our apostle is testifying here.

Ephesians 1:15-23

15 Wherefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus, and love unto all the saints,

16 Cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers;

17 That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him:

18 The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints,

19 And what *is* the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power,

20 Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set *him* at his own right hand in the heavenly *places*,

21 Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come:

22 And hath put all *things* under his feet, and gave him *to be* the head over all *things* to the church,

23 Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.

- Praise God — so wonderful indeed! The emphasis in Paul's teaching is on the here and now, not on what will follow when we are caught up into heaven's glory. As verses 22 & 23 teach so powerfully, it is through the Body Church that the Lord God is working today. And that is now, in the midst of all of our trials and sufferings — Have you grasped this?

The Normal Christian Life – Truth and Consequences: What If Jesus Were Not Raised From the Dead?

Our Outline Today: “Co-Operating With Christ in His Resurrection from the Dead”

- ***If Jesus Were Not Raised From the Dead, We Could Have No Hope***
- ***If Jesus Were Not Raised From the Dead, We Could Have No Peace***
- ***If Jesus Were Not Raised From the Dead, We Could Have No Freedom***
- ***If Jesus Were Not Raised From the Dead, We Could Have No Joy!***

... and We Would Be of All Most Miserable!!!

- **But praise be to God, for HE IS RISEN!!!**

Transition:

- What is the overwhelming theme of the Scriptures written TO THE CHURCH, THE BODY OF CHRIST? Justification by faith? No. The gospel? No. It is the walk of the believer in and under GRACE, living in the sphere of the full, unmerited, undeserved, riches of God as poured out without limit on sinners considered by God (because of their faith and that alone) to be the proper and appropriate recipients of all of His Good Pleasure.
- In those earliest centuries, the church would not have continued to exist for very long because of a unique doctrine or theory of life after death, if it were not for the difference Christ made in the lives of those first-century believers!
 - Though martyrdom was all but assured for the members of the early church, many were willing to die to demonstrate their faith, even unto death. They knew well what they had been delivered from and were living out that transformation day by day and hour by hour.

“For me to live is Christ and to die is gain,” indeed. Amen. For they well knew that the perpetrators of their death were religious but lost, and they would in due time die in their sins with eternal consequence. Knowing what one has been delivered from is therefore so very important. Along with that is knowing what one has been delivered for, that is, a new and abundant life in Christ Jesus, as members of his heavenly Body Church.

Others may talk and act like they are Christians, but in reality, they are only religious and members of a group, an organization, a denomination, and for many, a cult. Their life story is as Shakespeare wrote of it in Macbeth and as William Faulkner quoted in his famous novel, “The Sound & the Fury”:

“...all of these stories would be just as "idle tales, as told by an idiot, full of the sound and the fury --- signifying nothing.”

Macbeth, Act 5 Scene 5

There would have been a time for such a word.
Tomorrow, and tomorrow, and tomorrow,
Creeps in this petty pace from day to day
To the last syllable of recorded time,
And all our yesterdays have lighted fools
The way to dusty death. Out, out, brief candle!
Life's but a walking shadow, a poor player
That struts and frets his hour upon the stage
And then is heard no more: it is a tale
Told by an idiot, full of sound and fury,
Signifying nothing.

- So, how can this bondage to sin and the consequence of the law of sin and death be broken? Our apostle teaches clearly and powerfully that this deliverance, this salvation, cannot be found through the religions of this world, even when they are called “christian”.

The only deliverance is through the completed death, burial, and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ and by simple, saving faith in him.

And then, furthermore, let us simply say that Practical truth (or living truth) is Positional truth applied to one's life, that is, when Christ died, we died with Him.... And now, every moment is a segment of his new life worked out in and through us believers.

- Paul writes of this in relatively few words in his first letter to the Corinthians, where we read earlier:

1 Corinthians 15:12-17

12 Now if Christ be preached that he rose from the dead, how say some among you that there is no resurrection of the dead?

13 But if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen:

14 And if Christ be not risen, then *is* our preaching vain, and your faith *is* also vain.

15 Yea, and we are found false witnesses of God; because we have testified of God that he raised up Christ: whom he raised not up, if so be that the dead rise not.

16 For if the dead rise not, then is not Christ raised:

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

I. If Jesus Were Not Raised From the Dead, We Could Have No Hope:

We Could Have No Hope and would be without God in the World. For, ...

- ... If Christ were not raised from the dead...
 - We would still be in our sin and in our sins:
 - We would not have been delivered from the penalty of sin. We would not be delivered from the power of sin. And we would never be delivered from the presence of sin!

Revelation 22:10-11

10 And he saith unto me, Seal not the sayings of the prophecy of this book: for the time is at hand.

11 He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still.

- We await (as do all the lost) judgment, condemnation, and eternal Hell

2 Thessalonians 1:7-10

7 And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels,

8 In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ:

9 Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;

10 When he shall come to be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in all them that believe (because our testimony among you was believed) in that day.

- But praise be to God, HE IS RISEN, and we have HOPE INDEED!

- The Truth:

- We have hope, being justified by faith! We are IN CHRIST!

[READ] Romans 5:1-4

1 Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:

2 By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

3 And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience;

4 And patience, experience; and experience, hope:

- The Consequences (for our daily lives):

- Superabounding in the realm of hope IS POSSIBLE TODAY:

[READ] Romans 15:13 Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost.

- Hope for the future CAN yield HOPE FOR TODAY:

Philippians 1:18-21

18 What then? notwithstanding, every way, whether in pretence, or in truth, Christ is preached; and I therein do rejoice, yea, and will rejoice.

19 For I know that this shall turn to my salvation through your prayer, and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ,

20 According to my earnest expectation and *my* hope, that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but *that* with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether *it be* by life, or by death.

21 For to me to live *is* Christ, and to die *is* gain.

If Jesus Were Not Raised From the Dead, We Could Have No Hope - But We Do, Praise God!

II. If Jesus Were Not Raised From the Dead, We Could Have No Peace:

- If Christ were not raised from the dead...

- We could have NO SECURITY; We could have NO place to rest; We would know in our hearts that God is AGAINST US

- As DO all unbelievers (in the deepest part of their being). And HOW they live to escape from the reality of this knowledge!

- But praise be to God, HE IS RISEN!!!

- The Truth:

Romans 5:1 Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:

- The Consequences:

- We SHOULD HAVE the peace of God as well as the peace with God.

[READ] Philippians 4:6-7

6 Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

7 And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

- Christ Himself is our peace! He is in us, and we are in Him. Let's CO-OPERATE with HIM.
- Peace results in rest!! Without peace, there can be no rest. He is our peace. Let us rest in Him!

If Jesus Were Not Raised From the Dead, We Could Have No Peace - But We Do, Praise God!

III. If Jesus Were Not Raised From the Dead, We Could Have No Freedom:

- If Christ were not raised from the dead...
 - We would be in bondage, spiritually, mentally, emotionally, and physically.
 - Sin has its consequences!
 - But praise be to God, HE IS RISEN!!!
- The Truth: (elutheria - - 33 times, mostly Pauline)
 - We have been delivered from corruption by being included in the liberty of the glory of God and His Children.

Romans 8:18-25

18 For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time *are* not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

19 For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God.

20 For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected *the same* in hope,

21 Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.

22 For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now.

23 And not only *they*, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, *to wit*, the redemption of our body.

24 For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for?

25 But if we hope for that we see not, *then* do we with patience wait for *it*.

- So we have the firstfruits of the spirit now already and will have the full benefit of Christ's resurrection when we are fully glorified. Amen.

- The Consequences: (Some already received, others available by faith)

- We are exhorted to co-operate with the "Christ in us - our hope of glory" by standing fast!

Gal. 5:1 "Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage."

If Jesus Were Not Raised From the Dead, We Could Have No Freedom - But We Do, Praise God!

IV. If Jesus Were Not Raised From the Dead, We Could Have No Joy!

- If Christ were not raised from the dead...

- We could have NO TRUE JOY in this life. Oh, how the world fakes this!! Such pretense. Such a lie.

But praise be to God, HE IS RISEN!!!

- The Truth:

- The First Words Jesus spoke after His resurrection were: "OH JOY!"

Matt. 28:9 "And as they went to tell his disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying, All hail [*or, literally, Oh joy!*]. And they came and held him by the feet, and worshipped him."

- The Consequences:

- When we co-operate with Christ, applying the positional FACT that we have joy with God always to our lives HERE AND NOW, we will superabound with JOY unspeakable NOW, IN THIS LIFE!!

This is true joy, not a make-believe joy, something merely superficial, and not truly from the heart.

- Filled with All Joy

Rom. 15:13 Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost.

If Jesus Were Not Raised From the Dead, We Could Have No Joy - But We Do, Praise God!

2 Cor. 7:4 "Great is my boldness of speech toward you, Great is my glorying of you: I am filled with comfort, I am exceeding joyful in all our tribulation."

2 Cor. 8:2 "How that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty bounded unto the riches of their liberality."

Col. 1:11 "Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness."

1 Thess. 1:6 "And ye became followers of us, and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Spirit."

Behold. All joy! He is risen indeed and has become the firstfruits of them that slept. If Jesus Were Not Raised From the Dead, We Could Have No Hope, No Peace, No Freedom, No Joy - But We Do, Praise God! AMEN.

Christ the Lord Is Risen Today - Charles Wesley

1 Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia! Earth and heaven in chorus say, Alleluia! Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia! Sing, ye heavens, and earth reply, Alleluia!

2 Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia! Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!
Death in vain forbids him rise, Alleluia! Christ has opened paradise, Alleluia!

3 Lives again our glorious King, Alleluia! Where, O death, is now thy sting? Alleluia!
Once he died our souls to save, Alleluia! Where's thy victory, boasting grave? Alleluia!

4 Hail the Lord of earth and heaven, Alleluia! Praise to thee by both be given, Alleluia!
Thee we greet triumphant now, Alleluia! Hail the Resurrection, thou, Alleluia!