

**Why the resurrection of Jesus Christ matters (Part 4) -  
Future judgment, future hope!  
Associate Professor Neil Foster**

**Main Bible reading**

**1 Corinthians 15:20-28, 50-58**

<sup>20</sup> But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the **firstfruits** of those who have fallen asleep. <sup>21</sup> For as by a man came death, by **a man has come also the resurrection of the dead.** <sup>22</sup> For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. <sup>23</sup> But each in his own order: Christ the **firstfruits**, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. <sup>24</sup> Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. <sup>25</sup> For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. <sup>26</sup> The last enemy to be destroyed is death. <sup>27</sup> For “God has put all things in subjection under his feet.” But when it says, “all things are put in subjection”, it is plain that he is excepted who put all things in subjection under him. <sup>28</sup> When all things are subjected to him, then the Son himself will also be subjected to him who put all things in subjection under him, that God may be all in all...

<sup>50</sup> I tell you this, brothers: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. <sup>51</sup> Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, <sup>52</sup> in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the **dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed.** <sup>53</sup> For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality. <sup>54</sup> When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written:

“Death is swallowed up in victory.”

<sup>55</sup> “O death, where is your victory?  
O death, where is your sting?”

<sup>56</sup> The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. <sup>57</sup> But thanks be to God, who **gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.**

<sup>58</sup> Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labour is not in vain.

**Other Bible verses**

**John 5:25-29**

<sup>25</sup> “Truly, truly, I say to you, an hour is coming, and is now here, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. <sup>26</sup> For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself. <sup>27</sup> And he has given him authority to execute judgement, because he is the Son of Man. <sup>28</sup> Do not marvel at this, for an hour is coming when **all who are in the tombs will hear his voice** <sup>29</sup> and come out, those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to the resurrection of judgement.”

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<sup>1</sup> See the excellent book by Sam Allberry, *Lifted: Experiencing the resurrection life* (IVP, 2010) esp ch 3, “Hope”, which I have relied on in preparing today’s talk. See also Adrian Warnock, *Raised with Christ* (Crossway, 2010) chs 18-19.

### Acts 17:29-31

<sup>29</sup> “Being then God's offspring, we ought not to think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of man. <sup>30</sup> The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, <sup>31</sup> because he has **fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.**”

### Acts 24:14-15

<sup>14</sup> “But this I confess to you, that according to the Way, which they call a sect, I worship the God of our fathers, believing everything laid down by the Law and written in the Prophets, <sup>15</sup> having a hope in God, which these men themselves accept, that there will be a **resurrection of both the just and the unjust.**”

### 1 Peter 1:3-9

<sup>3</sup> Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a **living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead**, <sup>4</sup> to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, <sup>5</sup> who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. <sup>6</sup> In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, <sup>7</sup> so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in **praise and glory and honour at the revelation of Jesus Christ**. <sup>8</sup> Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, <sup>9</sup> obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

### Revelation 20

<sup>11</sup> Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. From his presence earth and sky fled away, and no place was found for them. <sup>12</sup> And I saw the **dead, great and small, standing before the throne**, and **books** were opened. Then another book was opened, which is the **book of life**. And the dead were judged by what was written in the **books**, according to what they had done. <sup>13</sup> And the sea gave up the dead who were in it, Death and Hades gave up the dead who were in them, and they were judged, each one of them, according to what they had done. <sup>14</sup> Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. <sup>15</sup> And if anyone's name was not found written in the **book of life**, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

### Revelation 21

<sup>27</sup> But nothing unclean will ever enter it, nor anyone who does what is detestable or false, but only those who are written in the **Lamb's book of life**.

## Outline

We have seen so far that some of the implications of Jesus' resurrection have been:

- The **cosmic** implication that Jesus has been shown to be the Messiah, the Christ, the promised King of the Universe, and in fact has now been raised to sit at God's right hand and rule this world.
- The implication for the **past**, that when we see Jesus raised from the dead we know that he has won forgiveness of sins, what the Bible calls "justification", for all those who trust him.
- The implication for the **present**, in that Jesus' resurrection from the dead actually means that those who trust in him have also been spiritually raised here and now, given a new life, and given the Holy Spirit to help us serve and follow him.
- And then today we are going to see the implications for the **future**- our future and the future of the world.

### 1. The resurrection of Jesus points to the end-time resurrection of all people

Daniel 12:

**12** "At that time shall arise Michael, the great prince who has charge of your people. And there shall be a time of trouble, such as never has been since there was a nation till that time. But at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone whose name shall be found written in **the book**. <sup>2</sup> And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, **some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt**. <sup>3</sup> And those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky above; and those who turn many to righteousness, like the stars for ever and ever.

- Jesus was the "firstfruits" –see 1 Cor 15 v 20 and v 23.

Our resurrection is not wholly separate from Christ's resurrection, but earlier and later parts of the same event, with the earlier part serving as a promise and guarantee of that which is yet to come.<sup>2</sup>

-see also Acts 24:15

### 2. The resurrection of Jesus tells us who the end-time Judge is going to be

-see John 5:25-29

-see also Acts 17:31; Jesus' resurrection assures us that he is the King and God's chosen agent of judgment.

### 3. The resurrection of Jesus provides sure hope and assurance of salvation for all those who put their trust in Jesus now!

- the Bible makes it absolutely clear that if we have put our trust in Jesus **here and now**, we don't have to fear the final judgement. For if we are joined to Jesus by faith in him now, then we are assured that his resurrection to new life will be ours forever!

-see the metaphor of the "books" and the "Lamb's book of life" in the passage from Rev 20. The great news is that in contrast to these "books", there is one wonderful book called "**the** book of life". In the verse from Rev 21:27 it is called "the Lamb's book of life". And the title "the Lamb" in the book of Revelation is a title for the Lord Jesus! All those who trust in him and put their

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<sup>2</sup> R E Ciampa & B S Rosner, *The First Letter to the Corinthians* (Pillar NT Commentaries; Eerdmans, 2010) at 761.

lives into his hands, are written in his book! And all those who are written in his book escape condemnation, they are saved because they are his people and their sins are covered by the death he died for them (just as the sins of Israel in the Passover were covered by the blood of the Passover Lamb).

- Jesus said it himself in John 11:25-26, when speaking to Martha, the sister of Lazarus:

“I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live,<sup>26</sup> and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die.

Paul says it in the passage in 1 Corinthians:

For the trumpet will sound, and the **dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed.** <sup>53</sup> For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality... <sup>57</sup> But thanks be to God, who **gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.**

Peter also spells it out for us in the passage he writes:

According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a **living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,** <sup>4</sup> to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, <sup>5</sup> who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

#### **4. The resurrection of Jesus provides a reason for gospel proclamation here and now!**

-the future always affects what we do now!

- trust in Jesus

- 1 Cor 15:

<sup>58</sup> Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labour is not in vain.

- Jesus is risen. Jesus is Lord. Let's go on serving him and telling others the good news that they can be one of his people in eternity if they trust him now.