

1 Corinthians 15:24-25 Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet.

INTRO: Christ came conquering and with the intention to conquer. This is the message of 1 Corinthians 15:24-25.

CONTEXT: In 1 Corinthians 15, Paul is hammering the reality that when Christ took up His life again (in the resurrection), He was putting death, His last enemy, on notice.

CONTENT:

- I. THE END DECLARED: CHRIST WILL DELIVER THE KINGDOM TO GOD THE FATHER
- II. BEFORE THE END: HE WILL CONQUER
 - I) HE WILL DESTROY EVERY RULE
 - II) HE WILL DESTROY EVERY AUTHORITY
 - III) HE WILL DESTROY EVERY POWER
- III. THE REASON FOR THIS:
 - I) FOR HE MUST REIGN
 - i. THE TIME OF HIS REIGN: NOW, UNTIL...
 - ii. THE POWER OF HIS REIGN: HE HAS PUT
 - iii. THE EXTENT OF HIS REIGN: ALL HIS ENEMIES
 - iv. THE EXALTATION OF HIS REIGN: UNDER HIS FEET

For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet.

DOCTRINE: that Christ Jesus will gradually conquer until all His enemies are brought beneath His feet.

I. THE END FOR WHICH CHRIST RECEIVED HIS MEDIATORIAL REIGN IS TO CONQUER

Hebrews 15:24a Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father

I) CHRIST'S HUMILITATION: THE END FOR WHICH HE RECEIVED HIS BODY WAS TO SUFFER

i. THE FATHER GAVE JESUS A BODY

Hebrews 10:5 "Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body have you prepared for me;

ii. THE FATHER GAVE JESUS A BODY FOR A SPECIFIED END

Mark 8:31 And he began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes and be killed, and after three days rise again.

iii. THE SON COMMITTED HIS FINISHED WORK INTO HIS FATHERS HANDS

Luke 23:46 Then Jesus, calling out with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!" And having said this he breathed his last.

II) CHRIST'S EXALTATION: THE END FOR WHICH HE WAS RESURRECTED WAS TO CONQUER

i. THE FATHER GAVE JESUS ALL AUTHORITY

Matthew 28:18-19 "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations

ii. THE FATHER GAVE JESUS ALL AUTHORITY FOR A SPECIFIED END

1 Corinthians 15:25 For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet.

iii. THE SON WILL COMMIT HIS FINISHED WORK INTO HIS FATHERS HANDS

1 Corinthians 15:24 Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power.

III) THE THREEFOLD KINGDOM BELONGING TO CHRIST

i. ETERNAL DOMINION

The eternal Son of God can no more divest Himself of this dominion than He can cease to be God.

ii. INCARNATE DOMINION OVER HIS OWN PEOPLE

The incarnate Son can no more divest Himself of this dominion than God's promises can fail.

iii. DOMINION GIVEN FOR THE WORK OF REDEMPTION

One day, there will be no more enemies to conquer. Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father.

Here is the end of Christ's mediatorial reign, but what about the intervening years?

II. FOR THE DURATION OF CHRIST'S MEDIATORIAL REIGN HE WILL CONQUER

Hebrews 15: 24b after destroying every rule and every authority and power.

- **Judges 9:45** And Abimelech fought against the city all that day. He captured the city and killed the people who were in it,
- and he razed the city
- and sowed it with salt.
- **Does not all of church history gloriously display this doctrine?**
- The city on seven hills was brought to its knees by the torches in Nero's garden.
- She raised her head again under the Pope, and was held out to open shame through a skittish monk.
- And so will Christ do to all of His enemies.
- He will put every principality beneath His feet. He will raze their authority to the ground. And He will sow their power with salt until never again they have the strength to rise against Him.
- O beloved! Here is your sanctification. May Christ do such a work in your heart.
- Before the **atomic bomb** was dropped on Hiroshima, leaflets were scattered exhorting all to flee for refuge. Beloved, the conqueror is at the door. And He has commissioned you to carry His euangelion to the inhabitants of the earth before He razes it to the ground. There is still refuge in Christ, but soon, it will be too late. The end will come. He will deliver the kingdom to His Father. Those who have not been told, will perish.

Christ came conquering and with an intent to conquer, and He will not fail. Why?

III. CHRIST WILL CONQUER FOR HE MUST REIGN

Hebrews 15:25 For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet.

I) THE NATURE OF HIS REIGN

i. THE TIME: NOW

For he must reign *until*

ii. THE POWER: HE IS ACTIVELY PUTTING HIS ENEMIES UNDER HIS FEET

he has put

iii. THE EXTENT: ALL OF HIS ENEMIES WILL BE PUT BENEATH HIS FEET

all his enemies

iv. THE EXALTATION: UNDER HIS FEET

under his feet.

Joshua 10:24-25 And when they brought those kings out to Joshua, Joshua summoned all the men of Israel and said to the chiefs of the men of war who had gone with him, "Come near; put your feet on the necks of these kings." Then they came near and put their feet on their necks. And Joshua said to them, "Do not be afraid or dismayed; be strong and courageous. For thus the LORD will do to all your enemies against whom you fight."

II) OVER WHOM DOES CHRIST REIGN?

i. HE MUST REIGN OVER ALL HIS ELECT

These were given to Him before the foundation of the world. These were purchased by Him with His own blood. He has a double right to them. And He will not loose a single one, for "He must reign."

ii. HE MUST REIGN OVER ALL NATIONS

Every knee will bow. By the power of the Holy Spirit, some will kneel willingly, but all will be made to kneel. Either to receive the crown, or to receive a just retribution. For "He must reign."

iii. HE MUST REIGN OVER SATAN, SIN, AND DEATH

The strong man has been bound. The roaring lion is held on a leash. His time has been fixed, and it is short. Sin will no more have dominion over any heart. Death received its fatal wound in Christ's resurrection, and soon, at the sound of His voice, the victory of death will be no more.

III) WHY MUST HE REIGN?

i. BECAUSE THE SAINTS WILL HAVE HIM REIGN

Proverbs 14:28 In a multitude of people is the glory of a king, but without people a prince is ruined.

ii. BECAUSE THE LABORER MUST HAVE HIS WAGES

Acts 20:28 which he [purchased] with his own blood.

iii. BECAUSE HE IS HEIR OF ALL THINGS

Hebrews 1:2 whom he appointed the heir of all things

Romans 11:29 the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable.

iv. BECAUSE WHO CAN STOP HIM?

Matthew 28:18-19 "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to [Him].

v. BECAUSE THE FATHER HAS DECREED IT

Psalms 110:2 The LORD sends forth from Zion your mighty scepter. Rule in the midst of your enemies!

Christ will conquer, for "He must reign."

IV. USES

- Must He reign? Then the time that is past suffices for living in the fear of men.
- Must He reign? Then tremble, lest you let sin reign in your mortal body any longer (Romans 6:12). Does sin still reign in your heart? Do you make excuses for your pride? Greed? Lust? Self-righteousness? Self-love? Man pleasing?
- **SPURGEON** You must either let him reign over you, or else you will have to lie beneath his feet.
- Must He reign? Then repent and believe on Christ while there is still time! The kingdom has not yet been delivered! Mercy's gates will soon close their doors forever.
- Must He reign? Then willing confess your sins to Him, until they are all brought beneath His conquering feet.
- Must He reign? Then go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations. All of our boldness and courage to face the giants in Canaan are founded upon these three words, "He must reign."
- Must He reign? Then rejoice when you suffer for righteousness sake. Those who share in the sufferings of Christ, must share in His reign.
- Will you have Him to reign over you?
- **SPURGEON** "I yield to Christ," saith one. How far do you yield? Do you yield so far as to be saved by him? "Yes," say you. Do you yield so far as to be forgiven by him? "Yes," say you. Do you yield so far as to become his disciples? "Yes," say you. But do you yield that he should reign over you, — that you should do as he bids you, and not do what he forbids? Shall he be King over you? If you want to have him on any other terms than these, you cannot have him at all, for "he must reign."