

Easter

The resurrection and our hope in affliction

Goals

To understand the relationship between our suffering and the resurrection of Jesus Christ

To have our hearts gripped by the reality that our King lives and for that to be the primary reality for our life.

1 Corinthians 15:12-19

¹² Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? ¹³ But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. ¹⁴ And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain. ¹⁵ We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified about God that he raised Christ, whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised.

1 Corinthians 15:12-19

¹⁶ For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised. ¹⁷ And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. ¹⁸ Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. ¹⁹ If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied.

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1 Corinthians 4:8-13

⁸ Already you have all you want! Already you have become rich! Without us you have become kings! And would that you did reign, so that we might share the rule with you! ⁹ For I think that God has exhibited us apostles as last of all, like men sentenced to death, because we have become a spectacle to the world, to angels, and to men. ¹⁰ We are fools for Christ's sake, but you are wise in Christ. We are weak, but you are strong. You are held in honor, but we in disrepute.

1 Corinthians 4:8-13

¹¹ To the present hour we hunger and thirst, we are poorly dressed and buffeted and homeless, ¹² and we labor, working with our own hands. When reviled, we bless; when persecuted, we endure; ¹³ when slandered, we entreat. We have become, and are still, like the scum of the world, the refuse of all things.

For a list of Paul's personal afflictions, see [2 Corinthians 11:22-33](#)

1 Corinthians 15:19

19 If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied.

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2 Corinthians 4:16-18

¹⁶ So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. ¹⁷ For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, ¹⁸ as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.

Paul and the other apostles where not always like this.

How did they get there?

Walking with Christ

1. Jesus forgives sins

2. Jesus speaks about the kingdom

3. Jesus speaks about eternal life and even resurrection

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Matthew 9:1-8

Jesus has the authority to forgive sins.

¹ And getting into a boat he crossed over and came to his own city. ² And behold, some people brought to him a paralytic, lying on a bed. And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, “Take heart, my son; your sins are forgiven.” ³ And behold, some of the scribes said to themselves, “This man is blaspheming.” ⁴ But Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, “Why do you think evil in your hearts? ⁵ For which is easier, to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Rise and walk’? ⁶ But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins”—he then said to the paralytic—“Rise, pick up your bed and go home.” ⁷ And he rose and went home.

- Also see Mark 2:1-12

John 8:21-24

Belief in Jesus is how to not die in your sins.

²¹ So he said to them again, “I am going away, and you will seek me, and you will die in your sin. Where I am going, you cannot come.” ²² So the Jews said, “Will he kill himself, since he says, ‘Where I am going, you cannot come’?” ²³ He said to them, “You are from below; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world. ²⁴ I told you that you would die in your sins, for unless you believe that I am he you will die in your sins.”

Luke 18:9-14

Jesus does not refuse those who seek Him humbly

⁹ He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and treated others with contempt: ¹⁰ “Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. ¹¹ The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector.

Luke 18:9-14

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¹² I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.’ ¹³ But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, a sinner!’ ¹⁴ I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted.”

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Jesus speaks of the kingdom

This is an incomplete list from Matthew alone

Matthew 4:17 - “Repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

Matthew 4:23 - Jesus proclaims “the gospel of the kingdom”

Matthew 5:3, 10, 19, 20, 6:33, 7:21 - Jesus mentions the kingdom in the Sermon on the Mount

Matthew 10:7 - Jesus sends out His disciples to tell people about the kingdom

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23, 24-30, 31-33, 36-42, 44, 45-46, 47, 51-52, 18:23-35, 20:1-16, 22:1-14, 25:1-13, 14-30, 31-46 - Jesus teaches parables about the kingdom

John 14:1-3

Jesus is going to go ahead to prepare a place for them

“Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. ² In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.

Luke 22:24-30

Jockeying for position

²⁴ A dispute also arose among them, as to which of them was to be regarded as the greatest. ²⁵ And he said to them, “The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them, and those in authority over them are called benefactors. ²⁶ But not so with you. Rather, let the greatest among you become as the youngest, and the leader as one who serves. ²⁷ For who is the greater, one who reclines at table or one who serves? Is it not the one who reclines at table? But I am among you as the one who serves.

See also Matthew 18:1-4, 20:20-28

Luke 22:24-30

²⁸ “You are those who have stayed with me in my trials, ²⁹ and I assign to you, as my Father assigned to me, a kingdom, ³⁰ that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

See also Matthew 19:27-30

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Matthew 19:27-30

Jesus speaks about eternal life

27 Then Peter said in reply, “See, we have left everything and followed you. What then will we have?” 28 Jesus said to them, “Truly, I say to you, in the new world, when the Son of Man will sit on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

Matthew 19:27-30

Jesus speaks about eternal life

29 And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or lands, for my name's sake, will receive a hundredfold and will inherit eternal life. 30 But many who are first will be last, and the last first.

John 3:36 & 5:24

3:36 Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.

5:24 Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life.

John 11:21-26a

Jesus speaks about resurrection

¹⁷ Now when Jesus came, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. ¹⁸ Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles off, ¹⁹ and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them concerning their brother. ²⁰ So when Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, but Mary remained seated in the house.

John 11:21-26a

Jesus speaks about resurrection

²¹ Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²² But even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you.” ²³ Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” ²⁴ Martha said to him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.” ²⁵ Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, ²⁶ and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die.

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Matthew 26:31

³¹ Then Jesus said to them, “You will all fall away because of me this night. For it is written, ‘I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.’”

Even after all of this, the scope of their vision seems to extend to the end of this life and no further.

Jesus is betrayed

Arrested

All of His disciples and friends run

He is put on “trial”

Jesus is executed by crucifixion

They were following Jesus and
He went to His death.

When that happened, their
hopes went with Him...

Luke 24:13-21

¹³ That very day two of them were going to a village named Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁴ and they were talking with each other about all these things that had happened. ¹⁵ While they were talking and discussing together, Jesus himself drew near and went with them. ¹⁶ But their eyes were kept from recognizing him.

Luke 24:13-21

¹⁷ And he said to them, “What is this conversation that you are holding with each other as you walk?” And they stood still, looking sad. ¹⁸ Then one of them, named Cleopas, answered him, “Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?”

Luke 24:13-21

¹⁹ And he said to them, “What things?” And they said to him, “Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, a man who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, ²⁰ and how our chief priests and rulers delivered him up to be condemned to death, and crucified him. ²¹ But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel.

Luke 24:13-21

Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things happened.

²² Moreover, some women of our company amazed us. They were at the tomb early in the morning, ²³ and when they did not find his body, they came back saying that they had even seen a vision of angels, who said that he was alive. ²⁴ Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but him they did not see.”

Luke 24:13-21

²⁵ And he said to them, “O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! ²⁶ Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?”

²⁷ And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.

Luke 24:13-21

²⁸ So they drew near to the village to which they were going. He acted as if he were going farther, ²⁹ but they urged him strongly, saying, “Stay with us, for it is toward evening and the day is now far spent.” So he went in to stay with them. ³⁰ When he was at table with them, he took the bread and blessed and broke it and gave it to them.

Luke 24:13-21

³¹ And their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. And he vanished from their sight. ³² They said to each other, “Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures?” ³³ And they rose that same hour and returned to Jerusalem.

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He went to His death.

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The difference in Peter

Peter denies Jesus at the threat of the Jewish leaders. Matthew 26:69-75, Mark 14:66-72, Luke 22:47-53

Peter boldly preaches the gospel to the Jewish leaders. Acts 4:5-22 & 5:17-32

Acts 5:40-42

... 40 and when they had called in the apostles, they beat them and charged them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. 41 Then they left the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name. 42 And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they did not cease teaching and preaching that the Christ is Jesus.

1 Corinthians 15:12-19

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Their new reality

- *The forgiveness Jesus spoke of was not the pardon of a temporary kingdom, but the purchased grace from God to humanity.
- *Jesus is the King of Heaven over the Kingdom of Heaven and is presently alive and sitting on that throne
- *The resurrection Jesus spoke of is literal, physical, and eternal
- *Death is not the end

He is no fool who gives what
he cannot keep to gain what
he cannot lose.

- Jim Elliot

What is true for them is
true for us.

Application

Live in response to the reality of the resurrection

- * Praise God that we are forgiven of our sins
- * Orient your life towards the advancement of Christ's kingdom.
 - * Internally: Digging into the word of God and submitting to what it teaches.
 - * Externally: Telling people about the grace of Jesus and the kingdom that has begun and is the only one to last beyond the grace.
- * Rejoice in suffering, with the knowledge that it is preparing for you an eternal weight of glory

Questions

- * Take an inventory of your life
 - * How are you spending your time?
 - * What does your heart respond most to?
 - * What gives you anxiety?
 - * What are you afraid of?
 - * What beaks your heart?
- * Upon taking inventory of your life, what is your time and heart telling you about what you believe?
 - * What is the scope of your life?
 - * What do you value most?
- * What, if anything, needs to change?
 - * Invite the Holy Spirit to grip your heart with the resurrection and the reality of eternity.