The Victory of the Resurrection
1 Corinthians 15:20-28

I. Intro

- Anecdote

- Victory

  - Victory - it's the success we achieve whenever we overcome a difficult struggle.

    - Victory is the triumph we experience after defeating an opponent.

      - And whether we're talking about a sports competition - or a military operation - or a political campaign…

        - …those who want to secure the victory must work hard - in order to acquire the victory they desire.

          - For example - the NFL team that wants to secure a Super Bowl victory must defeat the best teams in the league.

            - The military that wants to secure the victory over their enemy must outwit and outmaneuver their enemy.

              - And the political leaders who want to secure the office they seek - must - you know - rig the election with fraudulent mail in ballots.

- Receive

  - With all of this in mind - we should take a moment to consider how many people want to claim the victory for themself - - without doing the work.

    - For example - it was last February - when the fans of the Seattle Seahawks were quick to claim the Super Bowl victory for themselves…

- …and this was despite the fact that it was their team who did all the work - to secure the super bowl trophy.
  - In similar fashion - it was last July when the fans who were cheering for the Spain national football team - claimed World Cup victory…

    - …after their team defeated the Argentina national football team.

      - And while it's true that the 26 member squad playing for Spain did all of the work…

        - …they secured this World Cup victory for their fans - who literally did nothing to earn it.

II. Outline

- Points

- Secured

  - In a similar - yet spiritual way - those who trust in Jesus Christ now benefit from the victory of His resurrection…

    - …and yeah - this is despite the fact that we did nothing to deserve this victory.

      - With this as our focus - we're going to spend our time today - considering the victory of Jesus resurrection.

        - And as we study the scriptures before us this morning - we'll begin to see that...

          1. …the resurrection of Jesus secured Victory over the Curse

          2. …the resurrection of Jesus secured Victory over the World

          3. …the resurrection of Jesus secured Victory over the Enemy

            - With this as our outline - let's open our Bibles to 1st Corinthians chapter 15...

- ...where we find Paul - describing the victory that Jesus secured for us - through His resurrection.

III. The Curse

- Set up

- Context

  - As we make our way to the 15th chapter of 1st Corinthians - I wanna take a moment to put our text - back into it's context.

    - It was back in the beginning of this chapter - where Paul presented prophetic proof - for Jesus' death - burial - - and resurrection.

      - And knowing that there were some at the church in Corinth who were questioning the physical resurrection of Jesus…

        - …Paul took the time to present them with an argument - in order to help them gasp the reality of the resurrection.

          - Now - here in our text today - we find Paul - advancing his point - by helping his audience to understand that…

            - …the physical resurrection of the Lord Jesus is the evidence of the victory that our Savior has secured for those who trust in Him.

              - With this as our focus - let's pick up our study of 1st Corinthians 15 look with me beginning there at verse 20 - where Paul declared…

- Text

1Co 15:20 But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.
1Co 15:21 For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead.
1Co 15:22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive.
1Co 15:23 But each one in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those who are Christ's at His coming.

1Co 15:24 Then comes the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power.
1Co 15:25 For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet.
1Co 15:26 The last enemy that will be destroyed is death.
1Co 15:27 For “He has put all things under His feet.” But when He says “all things are put under Him,” it is evident that He who put all things under Him is excepted.
1Co 15:28 Now when all things are made subject to Him, then the Son Himself will also be subject to Him who put all things under Him, that God may be all in all.

- Victory

  - Here in our text today - we find Paul - describing the victory that the Lord Jesus secured - through His death - burial - and resurrection.

    - This includes the victory that He secured over death - which was caused by the curse.

      - This also includes the victory that Jesus secured over the kingdoms of this wicked world.

        - And finally - our Savior also secured the victory over those who make themselves the enemies of God.

          - And being that the victory of Christ’s resurrection now belongs to those who trust in our risen Redeemer…

            - …let’s consider how those who trust in Jesus - have been given victory over the curse.

- Firstfruits

  - With this as our focus - let’s back up - and let’s take another look beginning there at verse 20 - where Paul declared…

    1Co 15:20 But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

- When Jesus rose up from the dead - He was presenting His preeminence over the creation - which was cursed.

  - The proof of my point is found in the word - firstfruits - which was translated from a Greek word…
    - …which was used in reference to the first agricultural produce of the season.

      - In this context - Paul was using this word - in reference to the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

        - In this way - he was helping his audience to understand that Jesus is the preeminent One - Who has the power to reverse the curse.

- Man

  - Let's consider how Paul put it - here in our text today look with me again - beginning there at verse 20 - where he declared…

    1Co 15:20 But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.
    1Co 15:21 For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead.

  - Here in these verses - we find Paul - helping his audience to understand that the Lord Jesus has solved the problem of death.

    - You might not know this - but - death was not part of God's perfect plan - when He created the universe.

      - And the proof of my point is found there in verse 21 - where we learn that it was by man - that death came into the world.

        - Paul was of course referring to the first man - Adam - who actively rebelled against the instructions of the Lord.

          - And in response to his rebellion - the Lord cursed the Creation - resulting in the corruption of death.

- Sin
  - Let's consider how Paul put it in Romans chapter 5 - it's verse 12 where he declared…

    Rom 5:12 …just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned

    - According to Paul - it was the sin of one man - whom Paul later identified as being Adam…
      - …it was through the sin of Adam - that death was introduced into the world.
        - Just to be clear - it'll help you to know that - the Lord decided to curse the entire creation - in response to Adam's rebellion.
          - And listen - this was according to the warning that the Lord presented…
            - …when He informed Adam that those who ate from the tree of knowledge of good and evil - would surely die.

- Warning
  - It's in Genesis chapter 2 - beginning at verse 15 - where we learn that…

    Gen 2:15 …the LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it.
    Gen 2:16 And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat;
    Gen 2:17 "but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."

    - Now - it's interesting to note that Adam and Eve did not physically die on the day they ate the forbidden fruit.
      - No - instead - they spiritual died on that day - - and what this means is that - the curse affects us spiritually.

- It's also interesting to note that Adam died at the ripe old age of 930 years old.

  - Seeing how a 1000 years is like one day to the Lord - then - Adam did in fact die within the first day - according to God's timeline.
    - Not only that - but - the descendants of Adam have all been affected by the curse of the fall.

- Reason

  - In order to understand why - we should consider the explanation that Paul presented - in the letter he sent to the church in Rome.

    - Hold your place here in 1st Corinthians - and let's turn in our Bibles - to Romans chapter 8.

      - And as we make our way to the 8th chapter of Romans - I wanna take a moment to point out that…

        - …the decision to eat the forbidden fruit - left Adam and Eve in a state of sin.

          - It's for this reason that the Lord kicked them out of the garden - in order to stop them from eating from the tree of life.

            - The Lord cursed sinful men to suffer the pain of death - so that those who trust in Him…

              - …could be redeemed from the curse - through the resurrection.

- Application

  - Solution

    - Let's consider how Paul explained it here in Romans chapter 8 - look with me beginning there at verse 18 - where he declared…

Rom 8:18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.
Rom 8:19 For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God.
Rom 8:20 For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope;
Rom 8:21 because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.
Rom 8:22 For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now.
Rom 8:23 Not only that, but we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body.

- Here in these verses - we find Paul - helping his audience to understand that…
  - …the entire universe was subjected to futility at the time of the curse.
    - In other words - the curse not only affected the human race - - but - it also affect all of creation.
      - And in order to understand why - it'll help you to know that the Lord cursed the creation - in hope…
        - …as He looked forward to the day when our Savior would reverse the curse - through His death - burial and resurrection.

- Resurrection
  - Let's consider again how Paul put it - back in our text today - and so let's turn back to 1st Corinthians 15.
    - I wanna take another look - beginning there at verse 20 - where Paul declared…

1Co 15:20 But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

1Co 15:21 For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead.

- By the sin of the first Adam came death - according to the curse.
  - By the obedience of the second Adam came the reverse of the curse - resulting in the resurrection of the dead.
    - In other words - the second Adam - Jesus Christ - has reversed the curse - through His substitutionary sacrifice.
      - In this way - our Savior has secured for us - the victory over the curse.
        - And the proof of this is found in the fact that Jesus has become the firstfruits from the dead.

- Transition

- Points
  - Now - this brings us to our second point - because listen…

1. …the resurrection of Jesus not only secured Victory over the Curse…

2. …but - the resurrection of Jesus also secured Victory over the World.

- With this as our focus - let's continue to consider the point that Paul was making - here in 1st Corinthians 15.
  - Look with me again - beginning there at verse 22 - where he declared…

IV. The World

- Text

1Co 15:22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive.
1Co 15:23 But each one in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those who are Christ's at His coming.

1Co 15:24 Then comes the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power.

- All
  - As we take a closer look at these verses - we must not fail to notice how the resurrection of Christ actually affects all people.
    - Much like the sin of Adam - which has affected every person on the planet…
      - …the resurrection of Jesus will also affect every single person.
        - And what this means is that - everyone will eventually take part in the resurrection from the dead.
          - And while those who are in Christ - will arise to everlasting life…
            - …those who reject Jesus will arise - to everlasting punishment.

- Separation
  - Let's consider how the Lord explained it in Matthew chapter 25 - where He described the separation of the sheep and the goats.
    - It's verse 46 - where Christ Jesus described the resurrection of both believers and unbelievers - by declaring…

Mat 25:46 "…these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

- Those who trust in the resurrection of Jesus - will arise to everlasting life…
  - …while those who reject the resurrection of Jesus - will arise to everlasting punishment.
    - This was precisely the point that the prophet Daniel was making - in Daniel chapter 12 - it's verse 2 - where we learn that…

- …those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake - some to everlasting life - and some to shame and everlasting contempt.

- And what this means is that the resurrection of Christ will impact every person - for better or for worse.

- Order

- We should also consider the order that Paul described here in our text today.

- Look with me again - beginning there at verse 23 - where Paul declared…

1Co 15:23 But each one in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those who are Christ's at His coming.
1Co 15:24 Then comes the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power.

- Now - that word - order - found there in 23 - was translated from a Greek word…

- …which was used in reference to and arrangement of soldiers - who march in sequence.

- The same Greek word was also used figuratively - in reference to a series or a succession.

- And in the context of this passage - Paul was referring to the order in which people will arise from the grave.

- First

- With this in mind - we must not fail to notice that this order begins with Christ Jesus - Who is the firstfruits from the dead.

- Let's consider how Paul elaborated on this - in Colossians chapter 1 - it's beginning at verse 15 - where we learn that…

Col 1:15 (Jesus) is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.
Col 1:16 For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him.
Col 1:17 And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.
Col 1:18 And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.

- Now - when Paul referred to the Christ Jesus - as the firstborn from the dead…

  - …he was helping his audience to understand that the Lord Was the first to rise up from the grave.
    - And what this means is that when it comes to the order of those who rise up from the grave…

      - …it was necessary for the Lord Jesus to rise up first - because - He is before all things -and in Him all things consist.

        - That being the case - Jesus is the preeminent One - Who is also the firstborn over all creation.

- 2nd Coming

  - Paul also pointed out that those who are Christ's will rise up at the time of His second coming.

    - Let's consider how he put it - here in 1st Corinthians 15 - look with me again there at verse 23 - where Paul declared…

1Co 15:23 But each one in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those who are Christ's at His coming.

- Here in the second half of this verse - we find Paul - pointing to the second coming of Christ…

  - …as the time when those who are Christ's - will rise up from the grave.

- In other words - those who trust in Jesus will rise up in the rapture of the church - at the time of His return.

- And while this might sound like the rapture of the church will take place at the end of the tribulation…

- …it's important to understand that - the second coming of Christ is actually a 7 year event.

- Rapture

- In order to make my case - let's consider how Paul put it - in the first letter that he sent to the church in Thessalonica.

- Hold your place here in 1st Corinthians and let's turn in our Bibles to 1st Thessalonians chapter 4.

- And as we make our way to the fourth chapter of 1st Thessalonians - I should take a moment to point out that…

- …the rapture of the church coincides with the removal of the Restrainer…

- …and the removal of the Restrainer will take place - prior to the rise of the antichrist.

- And while it's true that time of the Antichrist will last for seven years culminating in the return of Jesus Christ…

- …it's also true that the second coming of Christ actually begins - before the beginning of the tribulation.

- Caught up

- Let's consider how Paul explained it - here in 1st Thessalonians chapter 4 - look with me beginning there at verse 13 - where he declared…

1Th 4:13 I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope.
1Th 4:14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.
1Th 4:15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep.
1Th 4:16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.
1Th 4:17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.
1Th 4:18 Therefore comfort one another with these words.

- Paul was describing the day when the church will be caught up together with the bodies of those who's souls are already with the Lord.
  - In other words - the bodies of those who's souls are already with the Lord will be resurrected at the same time as the rapture.

    - And we must not fail to notice that this resurrection is going to take place - after Christ Jesus descends from heaven.

      - And while it's true that He will descend from His throne with a shout - with the voice of an archangel - and with the trumpet of God…

        - …it's also true that we will meet Him in the air - prior to His arrival here on the Earth.

- Bema Seat

  - I believe that we will headed to the Bema seat of Jesus Christ - where we will receive heavenly rewards - prior to the completion of Christ's second coming.

    - It's in 2nd Corinthians chapter 5 - beginning at verse 10 - where Paul informs us that…

2Co 5:10 …we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

- Paul was referring to the Bema seat of Jesus Christ - where believers will receive rewards for the ways we served our Savior.
  - And it seems to me that this judgement will take place - as the 7 year tribulation takes place here on the Earth.
    - Then - after we are clothed with white robes - we will follow the Lord Jesus to the Earth…
      - …where He will establish His Millennial kingdom - for 1000 years.
        - And it's at that point in time - when He will secure His victory over the kingdoms of the Earth.

- Victory
  - With this as our focus - let's turn back to 1st Corinthians chapter 15 - where we find Paul - describing this victory.
    - Look with me - beginning there at verse 23 - where Paul declared…

1Co 15:23 But each one in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those who are Christ's at His coming.
1Co 15:24 Then comes the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power.

- According to Paul - there's coming a day - when the King of kings will put an end to all Earthly rule - authority - and power.
  - That word - rule - was translated from the Greek word - Arche - which in this context - refers to earthly magistrates.
    - That word - authority - was translated from a Greek word - which was used of the jurisdiction of government officials.

- And the word - power - was translated from a Greek word - which was used of the military leaders who control armed forces.

- And according to Paul - there's coming a day - when Jesus will put an end to all earthly rule - authority - and power.

- Application

- Kingdoms

- I like the way that the prophet Daniel described it - in Daniel chapter 7 - it's beginning at verse 13 - where he declared…

Dan 7:13 "I was watching in the night visions,
And behold, One like the Son of Man, Coming with the clouds of heaven!
He came to the Ancient of Days, And they brought Him near before Him.
Dan 7:14 Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom,
That all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him.
His dominion is an everlasting dominion,
Which shall not pass away, And His kingdom the one
Which shall not be destroyed.

- Christian - listen - there's coming a day - when our resurrected Redeemer will return…

- …and it's at that point in time when He will secure the victory over the kingdoms of this world.

- And that's great news - especially as we consider the current state of the governments of the world.

- Without debate - there is no world government that hasn't been affected by the corruption of carnality.

- That being the case - we can rejoice in knowing that the resurrection of Jesus will result in His victory over this world.

- Transition

- Points

- Now - this brings us to our third and final point - because listen…

1. …the resurrection of Jesus not only secured Victory over the Curse…

2. …and - the resurrection of Jesus not only secured Victory over the World…

3. …but - the resurrection of Jesus also secured Victory over the Enemy

    - With this as our focus - let's continue to consider the point that Paul was making - here in 1st Corinthians 15.

        - Look with me again - beginning there at verse 25 - where he declared…

V. The Enemy

- Text

1Co 15:25 For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet.
1Co 15:26 The last enemy that will be destroyed is death.
1Co 15:27 For "He has put all things under His feet." But when He says "all things are put under Him," it is evident that He who put all things under Him is excepted.
1Co 15:28 Now when all things are made subject to Him, then the Son Himself will also be subject to Him who put all things under Him, that God may be all in all.

- Order

    - Here in these verses - we find Paul - describing the day when the Lord Jesus will gain the final victory over every enemy.

        - And just to be clear - when Paul assured his audience that Christ must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet…

            - …he was pointing to the end of the Millennial Kingdom - when Satan will be released for a short season of time.

- This is the period of time that the apostle John was describing - in Revelation chapter 20…

- …where he informs us that Satan will be released from his prison after the thousand years have expired.

- It's at that point in time - when the Lord will allow Lucifer to go and deceive the nations - just before the resurrection of unbelievers.

- Return

- Now - before I get to far ahead of myself - we should take some time to consider how Jesus will destroy His enemies - at the time of His return.

- Hold your place here in 1st Corinthians - and let's turn in our Bibles to the book of Revelation - - I'd like you to make your way to Revelation 19.

- It's here in the 19th chapter of Revelation - where we find the apostle John…

- …describing the day when the Lord Jesus will return to the Earth.

- And while His second coming begins on the day when He brings every believer - before His Bema seat in the air…

- …it's at least seven years later when the second coming of Christ will be completed - as we follow Him to the Earth.

- It's at that point in time when the King of kings will wage war against His enemies.

- War

- With this as our focus - let's consider John's description of that dreadful day.

- Look with me - there at Revelation chapter 19 - let's begin reading there at verse 11 - where John declared…

Rev 19:11 Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war.
Rev 19:12 His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself.
Rev 19:13 He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God.
Rev 19:14 And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses.
Rev 19:15 Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.
Rev 19:16 And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.
Rev 19:17 Then I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the birds that fly in the midst of heaven, “Come and gather together for the supper of the great God,
Rev 19:18 “that you may eat the flesh of kings, the flesh of captains, the flesh of mighty men, the flesh of horses and of those who sit on them, and the flesh of all people, free and slave, both small and great.”
Rev 19:19 And I saw the beast, the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him who sat on the horse and against His army.
Rev 19:20 Then the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who worked signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. These two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone.
Rev 19:21 And the rest were killed with the sword which proceeded from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse. And all the birds were filled with their flesh.

- Here in these verses - we find the apostle John - describing the day when the King of kings will wage war against His enemies.
  - And as we consider the contents of this vision - there should be no doubt that…
    - …the enemies of our Savior won’t stand a chance against the Lord of lords.

- And it's sad to say that battle of Armageddon will be a bloodbath - as the bodies of the Lord's enemies become food for the vultures.

- And in this way - the resurrection of Jesus will result in His victory over every enemy.

- Resurrection

- And listen - this not only includes the pre-millennial enemies - who will be destroyed at the battle of Armageddon…

- …but - this also includes those who will follow Satan - at the end Christ's Millennial reign.

- With this as our focus - let's turn our attention to the 20th chapter of Revelation…

- …which begins with the imprisonment of Satan - followed by the first of two resurrections that will bookend the Millennial kingdom of Christ.

- The first resurrection of our Messiah's Millennial reign will take place - as the tribulation age Saints receive their glorified bodies.

- And the second resurrection of our Messiah's Millennial reign will take place at the end of the thousand years…

- …as every unbeliever is brought before the great white judgment throne of Jesus.

- Rebellion

- But before that final judgement commences - the Lord will allow Lucifer to deceive the people who populate the planet.

- Let's consider how the apostle John explained it in Revelation chapter 20 - it's beginning there at verse 7 - where he declared…

Rev 20:7 Now when the thousand years have expired, Satan will be released from his prison
Rev 20:8 and will go out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle, whose number is as the sand of the sea.
Rev 20:9 They went up on the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city. And fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them.
Rev 20:10 The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

- Here in these verses - we find John the revelator - describing the day - when Satan will be released from his prison.

- And after having been bound for 1000 years - Satan will be set free for a short season…

- …and it's at that point in time when He will be permitted to deceive the people who will populate the planet - during the reign of Christ.

- And while it's true that there will be those who will follow him in this rebellion…

- …it's also true that the Lord Jesus will secure the victory over every enemy - and this includes the last enemy - which is death.

- Death

- With this as our focus - I want you to keep your place here in Revelation 20 - and let's quickly turn back to 1st Corinthians chapter 15.

- Look with me again - beginning there at verse 26 - where Paul declared…

1Co 15:26 The last enemy that will be destroyed is death.
1Co 15:27 For "He has put all things under His feet." But when He says "all things are put under Him," it is evident that He who put all things under Him is excepted.

1Co 15:28 Now when all things are made subject to Him, then the Son Himself will also be subject to Him who put all things under Him, that God may be all in all.

- Accoring to Paul - the Lord Jesus will not only secure the victory over every enemy…
  - …but - He will also destroy the last enemy - which is death itself.
    - And listen - this is great news - especially as we consider how the New Jerusalem is described as a place…
      - …where there is no death - nor sorrow - nor crying - there shall be no more pain - for the former things have passed away.
        - Isn't that nice to know that the resurrection of Jesus has secured the victory against the enemy of death.

- Subjection
  - And while it's true that those who trust in Jesus - have received the victory over death…
    - …it's also true that those who reject the Lord Jesus - will placed in everlasting subjection - in the lake of fire.
      - This was precisely the point that Paul was making - when he assured us that there's coming a day - when he put all things under His feet.
        - With this as our focus - let's turn back to Revelation chapter 20 - where we find the apostle John - describing the day…
          - …when every unbeliever will rise up from the grave - - and it's at that point in time…
            - …when their works will be judged - according to the righteous standard of God.

- Application

- Cast

  - Let's consider how John described it - here in Revelation chapter 20 - look with me - beginning there at verse 11 - where he declared…

    Rev 20:11 Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them.
    Rev 20:12 And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books.
    Rev 20:13 The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works.
    Rev 20:14 Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.
    Rev 20:15 And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.

    - Here in these verses - we find John - describing the day when every unbeliever will stand before the great white judgment throne of Jesus.

      - This is a resurrection that will take place at the end of Christ's millennial reign - when every enemy will finally and forever be put under His feet.

        - It's at that point in time when those who rejected the grace of God received by faith in the death - burial - and resurrection of Jesus…

          - …these unregenerate unbelievers will receive the just punishment that they deserve - for every single sin they ever committed.

            - And it's at that point time when every enemy will be cast into the lake of fire - forevermore.

VI. Conclusion

- Wrap up

- Points

  - With all of this in mind - we can rejoice in knowing that the victory of Christ's resurrection - has been transferred to those who trust in Him.

    - And though we didn't do anything to earn this victory - those who trust in Jesus can rejoice in knowing that…

      1. …the resurrection of Jesus has secured Victory over the Curse…

      2. …the resurrection of Jesus has also secured Victory over the World…

      3. …and finally - the resurrection of Jesus has secured Victory over the Enemy

         - And it's for this reason that Paul concludes this chapter - by assuring us that God gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

           - Not only that - but - the apostle John also assured us that this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.

             - By faith in Jesus Christ - we have received the victory of our Savior's resurrection - and in this - we can rejoice.