

There are many people who think that the resurrection of Jesus is just a made up story. After all, how can a dead person be made alive again? The apostle Paul in his letter to the Corinthians addressed this very issue. Corinth was a Greek city and the Greeks did not believe in the resurrection of the dead. In fact, when Paul was preaching in Athens in Acts 17 and brought up the resurrection of Jesus Christ, some of the people laughed at him (vs. 32). This skeptical attitude had invaded the church in Corinth and Paul hit it head on in 1 Corinthians 15! The resurrection of Jesus Christ has so many doctrinal and practical implications that this issue had to be dealt with. In fact, if you take away the resurrection of Jesus Christ you take away everything. On Sunday we went through verses 50-58. We learned from these verses that because of the bodily resurrection of Jesus we can have victory in death because death has been defeated. For those of us who have recognized that our sin has separated us from God and have placed our faith in Jesus to be our Savior, we have been forgiven of our sin. We are now a part of the family of God and will spend eternity in heaven with Him. We have a lot to look forward to! Because of sin, death is a part of life. Everyone is going to die. Yet, because of Jesus, life is a part of death for those who have put their faith in Him. Jesus is the guarantee of our bodily resurrection. He is the guarantee that one day you and I will be reunited with loved ones who also have put their faith in Jesus to be their Savior. Hallelujah!

We also learned that because of the bodily resurrection of Jesus we can have victory in life. The literal translation of verse 57 is “***But thanks be to God who keeps on giving us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.***” Victory IN death and IN life. That means victory today. That means that I can experience abundant life IN Christ. Jesus didn't suffer, die, and rise from the grave so that you and I could mope around here on earth with no joy just trying to survive. Jesus paid for sin, so when a person places their faith in Him, their sins are paid for and they no longer are slaves of sin. They begin a process of becoming more and more like Jesus. The reason that is so great is that the more my life is aligned with His, the more I really live. If He's alive and lives in me than He goes with me wherever I go. He is with me right now and His presence changes everything! I don't have to live defeated here on earth longing for the day I will experience victory in heaven. For those of us who have trusted Jesus as our Savior, we are VICTORIOUS right now because of Him. As we submit to Him and seek to do what He wants we experience the joy, hope, and freedom He intended for us. Victory in death and victory in life because of the resurrection of Jesus!

Rejoicing in Him,

Pastor Matt

Thank God for the resurrection of His Son!