

The Great Christian Hopes Pt 5: Hope of the Resurrection

Phil. 3:20-21 – 20 For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ; 21 who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself.

1 Cor. 15:12-14 – 12 Now if Christ is preached, that He has been raised from the dead, how do some among you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? 13 But if there is no resurrection of the dead, not even Christ has been raised; 14 and if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is vain, your faith also is vain.

1 Cor. 15:17-26 – 17 and if Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins. 18 Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. 19 If we have hoped in Christ in this life only, we are of all men most to be pitied. 20 But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who are asleep. 21 For since by a man came death, by a man also came the resurrection of the dead. 22 For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be made alive. 23 But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, after that those who are Christ's at His coming, 24 then comes the end, when He hands over the kingdom to the God and Father, when He has abolished all rule and all authority and power. 25 For He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet. 26 The last enemy that will be abolished is death.

1 Cor. 15:19 “If we have hoped in Christ in this life only, we are of all men most to be pitied.”

I. Resurrection: The Finale of Salvation

Resurrection: Gr. *anastisis* – “To stand again”

A. I was saved, in my spirit.

B. I am being saved, in my soul.

C. I shall be saved, in my body.

1. I must have a body through which I can express my spirit.

2. I must have a body capable of restoring the image of God.

3. I must have a body that cannot die.

II. Jesus: First Fruits of Our Inheritance

1 Cor. 15:20,23 “But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who are asleep...But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, after that, those who are Christ's at His coming.”

A. The Feast of First Fruits occurred on the first day after the first Sabbath following Passover.

B. The principle of “first fruits” is that the first stands for all.

C. The history of Jesus becomes our history.

[The Notes for Part 2 of this teaching will be provided next time]