

For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet.
The last enemy to be destroyed is death. - 1 Corinthians 15:25-26

I. DEATH IN ADAM, LIFE IN CHRIST

- “In Adam” all die. “In Christ” all will be made alive. The resurrected Christ is the “firstfruits.” Jesus lives first, then all those who are his at his second advent (Acts 1:11; Rom. 8:10-11, 23-25, 29; 1 Cor. 15:50-56).
- “All” means “all” in Scripture unless it is qualified. The “all” in verse 22 related to life is qualified in verse 23. Not all without exception, but all without distinction (Rom. 5:15-19).

II. THEN THE END

- Christ’s resurrection marked the beginning of the end. There is an order to things in God’s economy (Vs. 24).
- Christ reigns with a view toward absolute dominion. He conquers, he does not woo. All human and demonic realms will be destroyed. Then death itself will reign no more (cf. Ps. 2:8-9; Rev. 20:10; Rom. 8:38; Eph. 1:21, 6:12; Col. 1:16, 2:10, 15).
- Everything is currently in subjection to Jesus, except, of course, the Father, who put all things under subjection to Jesus. Once again, “all” does not mean “all.” (Ps. 8:6; Eph. 1:15-23).
- When all has been accomplished, then Jesus will rightfully turn over all things to the Father and take his place in the eternal Trinity. The kingdom of this world becomes the kingdom of our Lord and his Christ (Rev. 11:15-18).

III. SOME HAVE NO KNOWLEDGE OF GOD

- Baptism for the dead? Don’t lose sleep on this one.
- Paul’s life has been in constant danger for the sake of the gospel—all for naught if the resurrection is a mirage.
- The Corinthians (and we) must wake up. Ignorance is not bliss; it leads to false teaching.

KNOW: Christ has been raised from the dead. Therefore, there are things that we need to know. Christ reigns now, and he will reign forever. But first, things must progress as God has ordained.

DO: Wake up from your slumber. The consummation approaches.

Suggested Reading:

Four Views on the End Times by Timothy Paul Jones (Available in the LifePoint Adult Library)

For Children:

The Gospel: Big Thoughts for Little Thinkers by Joey Allen (Available in the LifePoint Kid's Library)

Next Week's Preaching Text: 1 Corinthians 15:35-49

**Questions/Discovery Points for
Life Groups/Families**

Please Read I Corinthians 15:20-34

1. What is the flow of Paul's argument now that he has declared that Christ has been raised from the dead?
2. What is in subjection to Jesus now? In what ways will that be finalized?
3. How will God destroy death? What does that mean for us?
4. Who will ultimately reign over all things throughout eternity?
5. Paul's final argument seems to be that if Jesus did not rise, he has wasted his time. Why is that so?
6. Does it concern you that some issues raised in the Scriptures (e.g. baptism for the dead) have no definitive answers?
7. How will you "wake up from your slumber"?