

**THERE AIN'T NO GRAVE GOING
TO HOLD MY BODY DOWN**

TEXT:1 Corinthians 15:20-28

Independence Hall where the Declaration of Independence was signed, there is the Liberty Bell, and all the sights so cherished in our nations history. To a history buff, it is an exciting place to visit. However, of all you would see, the most exciting is the epitaph on the grave of Benjamin Franklin, located just in sight of Independence Hall. It was written by Franklin himself and reads:

The Body of Benjamin Franklin, printer
(Like the cover of an old book,
Its contents worn out,
And stripped of its lettering and gilding)
Lies here, food for worms!
Yet the work itself shall not be lost,
For it will, as he believed, appear once more.
In a new
And more beautiful edition,
Corrected and amended,

By its Author!

What Franklin was referring to is the future resurrection of the believer. As the believer anticipates the future, one of the blessed truths that thrill's the soul is that one-day there is going to be a resurrection of the body.

As we saw in our last study (Vs.12-19), there were some in Paul's day that did not believe in the bodily resurrection of the believer. Yet Paul declares that if there were no resurrection of the believer, it would mean that Christ had not risen from the dead. We read in **verse 13 "But if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen." Also in verse 16 "For if the dead rise not, then is not Christ raised."**

If Christ was not raised from the dead, then as we saw in our last study, there are serious consequences as Paul explained in verses **12-19:**

- * Our preaching is vain (**Vs.14**)
- * Our faith is vain (**Vs.14, 17**)
- * All who preach a resurrected Christ are false witnesses (**Vs.15**)
- * We are yet in our sins (**Vs.17**)
- * Those who have died have perished (**Vs.18**)
- * We are to be pitied (**Vs.19**)

But after telling us what it would mean if Jesus had not been raised from the dead, **in verse 20 Paul boldly and assuredly states, "But now is Christ risen from the dead." Paul proclaims, "He's alive! He has risen from the dead!"**

Jesus declared in John 14:19, "Yet a little while, and the world seeth me no more; but ye see me: because I live, ye shall live also."

To the sorrowing family of Lazarus Jesus said: **"Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live" (John 11:25).**

What is Jesus saying? He was declaring that there "ain't no grave going to hold our body down." If Jesus does not come in our lifetime and we must face the appointment with death, one day our bodies will be resurrected. Our loved ones who died in the Lord, there is coming a day when their bodies will be raised from the dead.

I. IT IS A SECURED RESURRECTION!

Notice in **verses 20-21** what Paul says about Christ's own resurrection.

Paul informs those that did not believe that the bodies of the believers would be raised from the dead that one day there would be a resurrection of the body. Furthermore, he states that the resurrection of body is a fact guaranteed.

Christ's own resurrection is the guarantee.

A. THE POWER OF CHRIST'S RESURRECTION.

In **Philippians 3:10** Paul expressed a great desire of his heart: " That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death."

Paul saw the resurrection as a powerful matter historically, eternally, and personally. **In verse 20 he says, "But now is Christ risen from the dead."**

The words "**is risen**" are in the perfect tense indicating that the resurrection of Christ is an historical event in the past, yet the effects of that event are still felt in the present.

It has been 2000 years since Jesus rose again from the dead, but the power of His resurrection is still being felt today. Every time a person gets saved we see the effects and power of His resurrection.

Consider the case of Saul of Tarsus. We see him hastening along the Damascus road, bitter hatred filling his heart for the One called Jesus and all who confessed His name. But suddenly the heavens opened and a light brighter than the sun shown down on the wayward persecutor.

**A. THE POWER OF CHRIST'S
RESURRECTION.**

**B. THE PLEDGE OF CHRIST'S
RESURRECTION.**

In verse **20** we read that Christ has "become the Firstfruits of them that slept," and in verse 23 Jesus is called, "Christ the Firstfruits."

The word "Firstfruits" comes from a word meaning "the beginning" "from" therefore meaning, "from the beginning."

It is a word associated with the Jewish sacrificial system. They would bring the first of their flocks or harvest as a sacrifice to God to express their gratitude to God. It was an action that consecrated the entire flock or harvest and expressed not only their thanksgiving but also their faith in the future harvest.

The word "slept" in verse 20 simply speaks of those that have died. **We read in verse 21, "For since by man came death..." Literally, "death came through a man."**

We are familiar with the story in Genesis and the entrance of death through Adam.

The death of Adam affects us all for we read in **Romans 5:12, "Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned."**

Death came through man but **verse 21** not only tells that death came through man but by another man **"came also the resurrection of the dead."**

I. IT IS A SECURED RESURRECTION!

II. IT IS A SELECTED RESURRECTION!

In verse 22 we read "all die" and as well "all shall made alive." The scripture is saying that everyone will die and that everyone will be raised. Now, the **"all"** takes in everybody, meaning that everyone is going to be resurrected. But, as we shall see, everybody is not in the same group. As we look at our text we find that God sees people in two groups. Let me explain.

A. HOW GOD RECOGNIZES EACH GROUP.

We read in 22, "For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive."

When God looks at the human race He sees us as either "in Adam" or "in Christ." It doesn't matter the color of a persons skin, nationality, background, vocation, upper class, middle class, or lower class, in the eyes of God the

whole human race is either in the "in Adam" or "in Christ."

Those that are "in Adam" are those who have never been saved. Those that are "in Christ" are those that are saved. All of us are in one of these two groups and classes of people.

I ask you today, are you "in Adam" or "in Christ?" Have you been saved or are you lost. Are you bound for hell or are you bound for heaven? It all depends on whether or not you are "in Christ" or "in Adam."

A. HOW GOD RECOGNIZES EACH GROUP.

B. WHEN GOD RESURRECTS EACH GROUP.

In verse 23 we read, "But every man in his own order."

The word "**order**" The word was a military term describing the separation of soldiers into detachments or into groups.

The Bible tells us that every person, "**in Adam**" **and "in Christ;**" saved or lost will one day be resurrected from the dead. Both groups will experience a resurrection from the dead but the "when" and time each group is resurrected if different.

Each group will be resurrected in "his own order."

Acts 24:15, "...that there shall be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and unjust."

In verse 23 Paul tells us when those "in Christ" will be resurrected. We read, "Christ the Firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at His coming." At the "coming" of the Lord Jesus, those that are in Christ will be resurrected.

1 Thes. 4:15-17: "For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. [16] For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: [17] Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord."

I am glad I can say:

*On that bright and cloudless morning when the
dead in Christ shall rise,
And the glory of His resurrection share;
When His chosen ones shall gather to their home
beyond the skies,
And the roll is called up yonder I'll be there.*

I. IT IS A SECURED RESURRECTION!

II. IT IS A SELECTED RESURRECTION!

III. IT IS A SPLENDID RESURRECTION!

The glory of the resurrection is not only what it will mean to the believer but also for what it will mean to Christ. **In verse 24** Paul describes what will follow our resurrection. Paul tells us that the resurrection will be a glorious matter for afterward Christ shall reign.

A. THE ESTABLISHMENT OF HIS REIGN.

We read in **verse 24**, **"Then cometh the end, when He shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father..."**

After the resurrection of the believer and a period of time called the Tribulation, Christ will reign over this earth for 1,000 years. As Luke describes, He will sit upon the throne of David. Afterward He will deliver up the kingdom to the Father.

Verse 25 tells us that, "He must reign." There are three musts related to Christ. **He must rise, He must return, and He must reign.**

The Bible tells us in **Romans 14:11**, **"For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God."**

This world as a whole does not recognize Him as Lord and does not bow to His lordship. But there is coming a day when He shall reign and every knee shall bow and every tongue shall confess Him as Lord.

A. THE ESTABLISHMENT OF HIS REIGN.

B. THE EFFECTS OF HIS REIGN.

The effects of His reign are many. **We read in verse 24 that he will, "put down all rule and all authority and power."**

Also, in **verse 25, we read that He will, "put all enemies under His feet."**

Every Christ-rejecting nation, every Christ-rejecting person, every demon and devil in hell, as well as Satan himself, will be put under His feet.

Verse 26 tells us that even death will be eliminated: "The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death."

On that day, "it is manifested that He is excepted" (Vs.27). He will be revealed that He is Lord of lords and Lord of all.

1Co 15:28 And when all things shall be subdued unto him, then shall the Son also himself be subject unto him that put all things under him, that God may be all in all.