

The Firstfruits of Our Resurrection
1 Cor. 1:20-34

"It was submission to the Father's will that the Lord Jesus won the right for us to step out of slavery into freedom. It cost Him absolute obedience; His total submission from the throne to the cross won us the right to His life, His power, His faith, His purity. Who would ever presume to think that it could be otherwise? Yet there are those who say, 'believe, decide for Christ, and that is all.' My Bible also use the words 'submit,' 'yield,' 'surrender.' You cannot go into the glory except you are under the sovereignty of One who has won the right of you to enter. It cost Him absolute submission to win you. Dare you give Him anything less in return" Redpath

- I. Jesus was the first person in all redemptive history to receive a resurrected body. As our representative, his death, burial, bodily resurrection and ascension to heaven to sit at the right had of the Father, were absolutely necessary for our bodily resurrection and ascension. The resurrected Jesus offered himself to the Father as the firstfruits of the bodily harvest of believers that will take place at the rapture.

1 Cor. 15:20-23
1 Cor. 7:29-31
1Thess 4:16-17
Lev. 23:9-11
Rom. 5:12
Rom. 5:19
Rom. 5:16-18

***ἀπαρχή** **aparchē** to offer firstlings or firstfruits, to take away the firstfruits of the productions of the earth which was offered to God. The first portion of the dough, from which sacred loaves were to be prepared. Hence term used of persons consecrated to God for all time. Strong's Lexicon*

Romans 6:5 *For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his.*

- II. God's eternal purpose in offering his Son as a sacrifice for our sins was to put in motion the culmination of redemptive history. Christ had to die and be resurrected to bring about the church age of forgiveness and redemption through his blood. His victory over death gave him the legal right to reign supreme over all things, which will eventually bring about the total annihilation of evil and the effect it has on this fallen world. Ultimately, his sovereign will is for "glorified" believers to live in the new heaven and new earth without enemies of any kind.

1 Cor. 15:24-28
Eph. 6:12
Heb. 2:14-16
Rev. 20:1-10
Rev. 21:1,5

Romans 14:8-9,11 *If we live, we live to the Lord' and if we die, we die to the Lord, So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord. For this very reason, Christ died and returned to life so that he might be the Lord of both the dead and living... It is written: "As surely as I live,' says the Lord, 'every knee will bow before me; every tongue will confess to God.'" So then, each of us will an account of himself to God.*

- III. We have been made aware our future resurrection so that we might live lives worthy of the gospel of Jesus Christ. To live otherwise is to live as if we have no purpose beyond the grave. We are admonished to live circumspectly as we watch for the return of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, knowing that the time is short (1 Cor. 7:29).

1 Cor. 15:29-34
Matt. 24:36-42