

Week 09
055/310

Transforming Daily
“ . . . most pitiable . . . ”
1 Corinthians 15:19

What an unusual statement for Paul to make in relationship to Christ. However, his point is well taken. When one considers the life and times of Jesus Christ and his apostles, failure has to be the conclusion. You might say, “Wait a minute, that’s my Lord you’re talking about, the God of the universe!” Your response would be absolutely right. On the other hand, if there is no resurrection, then He is not Savior, Lord, or God of the universe. That’s what’s behind Paul argument. If Christ was not raised, then no one will be raised. If God couldn’t or didn’t raise Christ, then where is our hope of being raised from the dead?

When you reflect on the fact that Christ came as God, King of kings, and Lord of lords, and we put Him to death, then logically one has to ask where the power and victory are. If His earthly reign is all there is to the gospel message, and if living this life according to the teachings of Christ without any hope of the resurrection, then what is the purpose? That’s Paul’s point, because then death would have consumed Christ, His apostles, and eventually, us.

But of course, the Hope of Glory is Jesus Christ, and the place of glory is heaven. The body will not remain in the ground. The dead in Christ shall rise, and our bodies will be glorified, transformed and reunited with our souls, to live forever in heaven with God. That’s why Paul makes the statement, “in this life only.” He is referring to our heavenly home promised by God through Christ (John 14:1-6).

There is a reason that most of us were taught, and in turn, taught or are now teaching our children good manners and Christian values. It wasn’t and isn’t just for the temporal rewards only. The discipline is to glorify God, honor our parents and other family members as well as demonstrate self-respect. That’s the temporal goal. The eternal goal is to glorify God with our heavenly rewards. For the believer, the life we now live is not our own. It belongs to Christ.

Is this your understanding? Do you believe that we are to live for the pleasures of the day only, or to glorify God, honor our parents, and show self-respect now with eternal prospects and ramifications of rewards after resurrection to be offered in heaven to God? If not, Paul was right that we are most pitiable.