

II Corinthians 5; Lord's Day 17

FAITH IN JESUS' RESURRECTION

- I. For our justification.
 - A. Jesus' resurrection from the dead was unique.
 - 1. It begins with the fact that His death was unique.
 - 2. This made His resurrection out of this death unique!
 - B. Jesus arose, but also God raised Him from the dead.
 - 1. Christ raised Himself (I Cor. 15:3; Acts 17:3; Rom. 8:34).
 - 2. And God raised Him (Acts 3:15; 5:31; 13:30).
 - C. God raised Jesus from the dead on account of our justification (Rom. 4:25).
 - 1. By raising Jesus God declared Him to be free from the debt of sin, not worthy of death, but worthy of eternal life.
 - 2. Even more, justification is a partaking of perfect righteousness.
- II. Also the Messiah makes us partakers of the spiritual life He purchased.
 - A. We are spiritually risen unto new life: regeneration (I Peter 1:3).
 - 1. The power and life of Christ's resurrection is what regenerates every elect.
 - 2. We live, because Christ lives in us (Gal. 2:20), giving us newness of life (Rom. 6:4b) which never dies (I Peter 1:5,9).
 - B. The life is communion and fellowship with God.
 - 1. This life is evidenced in the ability to believe (John 5:24,25), a walking with God.
 - 2. His righteousness in us makes us hunger and thirst after righteousness.
 - 3. His life in us makes us pilgrims and strangers in this world. We are in the world, but not of it.
- III. His resurrection is a pledge of our bodily resurrection, a hope of everlasting life in a body which will never grow old or die.
 - A. Christ was raised from the dead to glory and immortality (II Tim. 1:10).
 - 1. He came through the grave changed.
 - 2. As such He is the first-begotten of the dead and the first-fruits of the resurrection (I Cor. 15:20-23).
 - B. His resurrection promises that we also will partake of His physical resurrection.
 - 1. He Who is the resurrection and the life (John 11:25) raised Lazarus to show His power over death.
 - 2. We shall receive a body in which we will be able to glorify and praise God forever completely free from sin!
 - C. Nothing demonstrates God's power for His people more than His raising Jesus (Eph. 1:19,20; Phil. 3:10; I Cor. 6:14).