

Heaven – Our eternal home  
Part 2

The glory of the resurrection

7/18/2010

“And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins... If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are to be pitied more than all men.” 1 Cor. 15:17,19

1. The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the cornerstone of redemption.

- Redemption buys back God’s original design.

“Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us...” Gal 3:13

“We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time.” Romans 8:22

Why is creation “groaning” and in “pain”?

God’s creation is waiting in anticipation for the curse to be removed.

The work of redemption is to buy back everything that was lost when sin entered the cosmos.

When sin entered creation it affected everything from the sub-atomic to the galactic; and everything in between.

“...until the time comes for God to restore everything...” Acts 3:21

2. Christ’s mission is both to redeem what was lost in the Fall and to destroy all competitors to God’s dominion, authority and power.

“For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. But each in his own turn: Christ, the firstfruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him. Then the end will come, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father after he has destroyed all dominion, authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet.” 1 Cor. 15:22-25

A. Everything under Christ’s feet

“And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church...” Eph 1:22

“Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end...” Is 9:7a

B. Fully restored human beings

- Where God rules all and mankind rules as kings under Christ

“And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church...” Eph 1:22

C. (Dwelling on a) Fully restored earth.

At last, all will be as God intended.

“And the glory of the LORD will be revealed, and all mankind together will see it.” Isaiah 40:5

“I saw the glory of the God of Israel coming from the east...and the land was radiant with his glory.” Ezekiel 43:2

“God’s Kingdom and dominion are not about what happens in some remote unearthly place; instead, they are about what happens on the earth, which God created for his glory. God has tied his glory to the earth and everything connected with it: mankind, animals, trees, rivers, everything.” Randy Alcorn

“Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory.” Is 6:3

The Hebrew can translated: “the fullness of the earth is his glory.”

3. There are eternal rewards waiting for those who obey His Word.

I would like to take a moment and share with you a little of what has motivated me to be a Pastor for these past 33 years. Is it the pay? The power? The prestige?

I just believe that serving Christ, and His Bride the Church, is absolutely the best investment of my time, energy and resources.

“And now, a word to you who are elders in the churches. I, too, am an elder and a witness to the sufferings of Christ. And I, too, will share in his glory when he is revealed to the whole world. As a fellow elder, I appeal to you: Care for the flock that God has entrusted to you. Watch over it willingly, not grudgingly—not for what you will get out of it, but because you are eager to serve God. Don’t lord it over the people assigned to your care, but lead them by your own good example. *And when the Great Shepherd appears, you will receive a crown of never-ending glory and honor.*” 1 Peter 5:1-4 (NLT)

A crown of what? ... “never ending glory and honor”.

I did a little word search and found the following synonyms which seems to paint a pretty clear picture:

### **“Glory”**

magnificence  
splendor  
beauty  
wonder  
grandeur  
brilliance

### **“Honor”**

respect  
admiration  
nobility  
privilege  
distinction  
revere  
pay tribute to  
pay homage to

So, even if I were the most famous, wealthy and powerful person on the earth, it would amount to nothing at the end of my lifetime without Christ in my life but living for and serving Christ will produce eternal rewards beyond belief for you and me for all of eternity.

Every time you

Give, serve, help, sacrifice, counsel, encourage, keep you tongue in check, pray, read the Bible, fight off temptation, forgive, remain faithful...your heavenly bank account swells...and He will repay you and you will enjoy it for all of eternity.