

# Our Hero, the Resurrected Christ

## 1 Corinthians 15:1-8

Introduction:

- A. Everyone likes victory. We like stories and movies where there are villains and heroes.
- B. In Genesis 3 we read about the villain (Satan) and the hero (the Son of God).
  - 1. The villain wanted to destroy any hope of eternal happiness that man would have.
  - 2. He achieved this by deceiving man.
  - 3. The prophecy said that the conflict would be between the descendants of the serpent (Luke 10:19) and the descendants of the woman. True that the original audience probably did not think of the Messiah, but Christians have read the back of the book and understand the hero to be Christ.
- C. However, the fact that Christ would be the hero does not mean that there would be no suffering.
  - I. Mankind and nature suffered
    - A. **Romans 8:22** - "For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now."
    - B. Sickness, depression, despair, anxiety, hatred, greed, murder, lying, theft, deception...are all part of the fallen world suffering because of the villain's efforts to destroy and maintain a grip on mankind.
    - C. The guilty, mankind, and the innocent, animals, all suffer, and all suffered more without hope of a hero.
    - D. "Until now" indicates that the pain of the curse was constant from Eden up to the very moment of Paul's writing. As the context shows, it will continue without relief until a very special day-OUR resurrection.
      - 1. But there could not be a general resection of the dead without a hero being the deliverer.
  - II. Mankind eagerly waited for a deliverer, a hero, someone stronger than the villain.
    - A. And not only this, but also we ourselves, having the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our body. (**Romans 8:23**)
    - B. Even Christians, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan within ourselves.
      - 1. We have received the promise of salvation, while on this earth we enjoy a relationship with God, we know we have been redeemed, but we are not immune to the consequences of sin.

2. We, even with the promises still suffer the pangs of pain when disease invades our bodies, we weep for the dead, we feel the frustrations of sin's curse.
- III. There was a plan from eternity to save us from sin and to free us from the curse of sin!
- A. **Romans 8:28**; "And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to *His* purpose. For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to become* conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren; and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified. What then shall we say to these things? If God *is* for us, who *is* against us?"
  - B. Then the Hero came, but who would have thought He was the hero?
    1. Born of a virgin, in Bethlehem and into a carpenter's family.
    2. This did not scream royalty. This did not shout power and might. This did not display victory.
  - C. **Romans 8:32**; "He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things?"
  - D. The Son of God died on the cross as mankind's Savior, as mankind's hero.
    1. We all know why He is the Savior, because He saves and frees us from the fear of death, gives us the promise of eternal life.
    2. But why is He our Hero?
    3. Because He conquered death through the resurrection and proved to us that we too can conquer death through our own resurrection.
  - E. Thus we can join our "amens" to the words of Paul in **Romans 8:32-39**; "Who will bring a charge against God's elect? God is the one who justifies; who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? Just as it is written, "For Your sake we are being put to death all day long; We were considered as sheep to be slaughtered." But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Conclusion:

- A. Every Sunday is resurrection day! Christian all over the world celebrate Resurrection Day every Sunday.
- B. To Christ be the glory that He suffered and successfully brought salvation down with His resurrection and being seated at the right hand of God!

C. On this Resurrection Day meditate on the Messiah, His sufferings on His body and the shedding of His blood for our deliverance.