

Eleutheros Newsletter

August 2019

News of Interest

God willing, Eleutheros Books will begin a Christian blog radio ministry soon. Look for more details in future newsletters.

Please pray for another ministry of Eleutheros Books: three online courses have been developed for a seminary in Liberia. Students there will be able to take classes on Sotriology (salvation), I and II Corinthians, and Life of Christ.

Continued Thoughts on the Resurrection of Jesus Christ

[Romans 6:9-11](#). *Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over Him. For in that He died, He died unto sin once: but in that He liveth, He liveth unto God. Likewise reckon yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

When Jesus died on the cross, He completed the work of redemption.

In the Graeco-Roman world of the first century A.D. virtually every city of any size had what was commonly called an *agora* (the Greek verb “to redeem” is *agorazo*). The agora was “a place of assembly, a market place.” The common activity in a city’s agora was the purchasing of property or goods.

The Biblical picture is quite vivid. In our natural state “We are all as an unclean thing, and all righteousnesses are as filthy rags ([Isaiah 64:6](#)).

In addition to our unclean condition, we are in a slave market of sin, and even though filthy in every aspect, Christ redeemed us!

We were standing on a raised platform with filthy clothes and looking helpless. We were “on sale” as slaves, and Jesus came along and determined to redeem us! The price that He was willing to pay was His sinless blood!

He paid that awful price only once. “For this He did *once*, when He offered up Himself” ([Hebrews 7:27](#)). This is why Paul wrote, “Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more” ([Romans 5:9](#)).

This is significant. From His standpoint, He does not have to go back to the cross and die an agonizing death every time a sinner repents and believes in Him for eternal life (see [Acts 20:21](#)). He surely gave His all for us! From our standpoint (thank God!), we do not have to *wait awhile* for Jesus to die again in order to be saved! The payment has been made already!

Further, “death hath no more dominion over Him” ([Romans 5:9](#)). He is alive forever ([Ephesians 3:21](#)) and we who are saved will live forever!

Not only does His death and resurrection give us assurance of eternal life, but they also give us hope to get victory over sin in this life. “Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof” ([Romans 6:12](#)). This is a consistent theme in the Pauline epistles.

[Romans 8:10-12](#). *And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. But if the Spirit of Him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, He that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by His Spirit that dwelleth in you. Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh.* [Romans 5:12](#) declares, “Wherefore, as by one-man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so, death passed upon all men.” In Adam the entire human race fell into sin, resulting in death.

[Romans 8:10-12](#) indicates that Christ and His resurrection are God’s solution to man’s ultimate problem.

These verses indicate that the resurrection actually *quicken*s (“makes alive”) our mortal bodies. There are two ways to explain this truth, both having Biblical merit.

First, as Paul says in verse 12, “We are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh.” We who have been born again are surely different creatures and because of resurrection power do not have to live under sin’s dominion in this life.

Second, the Scriptures teach a doctrine of glorification in heaven. Glorification involves a total change in the bodies of believers.

“For our conversation is in heaven: from whence we look for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ: *Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto His glorious body*, according to the working whereby He is able to subdue all things unto Himself.” We will not be God, but we will have bodies similar to our Savior’s!

“Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when He shall appear, *we shall be like Him*, for we shall see Him as He is” ([1 John 3:2](#)). The amazing transformation will take place when our bodies are resurrected from the grave (“when He shall appear”). In this world no man has seen God in all His glory, but then we will be able to “see Him as He is”!

“Whereby are given unto us exceedingly great and precious promises: that by these ye *might be partakers of the divine nature...*” ([II Peter 1:4](#)).

“Whereunto He called you by our Gospel, *to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ* ([II Thessalonians 2:14](#)).

“That He might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the Word, that *He might present it to Himself a glorious church*, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing: but that it should be holy and without blemish” ([Ephesians 5:26-27](#)).

In the omniscient mind of God, “For whom He did foreknow, He did predestinate to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover, whom He did predestinate, them He also called: and whom He called, them He also justified, *and whom He justified, them He also glorified* ([Romans 8:29-30](#)).

“The Spirit of Him that raised up Jesus from the dead” does (and will) accomplish these wonderful things forever! Resurrection power is eternal!

[Romans 8:19-23](#). *For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God. For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of Him Who hath subjected the same in hope. Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now. And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body.* Although the word “resurrection” is not found in these verses, it is clear that Paul is speaking about the resurrection of the bodies of believers.

Notice the phrase “earnest expectation.” Certainly, it aptly describes the attitude of believers who are weary of this world and its ways! What older saint is there who is not thrilled with the Biblically held conviction that he is heaven-bound where pain and sickness will never exist?! That same brother also longs to be reunited with Christian family and friends who are already with our Lord! Paul certainly reached this point: “For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better: Nevertheless to abide in the flesh is more needful for you ([Philippians 1:23-24](#)).

Paul speaks about the “bondage of corruption.” This, of course, is the decay that takes place because of death and the sorrow it causes. He recognized the great truth of [John 8:36](#): “If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.”

The decay and destruction that sin causes extends even to God’s creation (=the entire universe). “The whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now” ([Romans 8:22](#)).

Satan’s sin was instrumental in causing many angels to fall. Adam’s sin brought about the depravity of the human race. These two events caused the earth to be cursed: “And unto Adam He said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life. Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat of the herb of the field” ([Genesis 3:17-18](#)).

These verses in Romans 8 indicate that sin has had devastating intergalactic consequences. This is why Peter was able to describe what will happen as God ushers in the final state: “But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night: in the which

the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works

that are therein shall be burned up. Seeing that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness, Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat? Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness” ([II Peter 3:10-13](#)).

We learn more from the Apostle John: “And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire. And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband” ([Revelation 20:15-21:2](#)).

Sin will be punished forever; God will create a new heaven, a new earth, and a new Jerusalem where believers will live forever.

Paul speaks of “the first fruits of the Spirit” in [Romans 8:23](#). When we combine this phrase with “the redemption of the body” in the same verse, the conclusions should be obvious. Sin caused man to fall, but we are saved by the death and resurrection of Jesus, Who is the “first fruits.” Because He rose from the grave we will rise also!

Just as Jesus rose triumphantly and lives in holiness forever, He will create a new universe “wherein dwelleth righteousness” ([II Peter 3:13](#)). We wait for the “redemption of the body” ([Romans 8:23](#)). We can be sure of that blessing because of the reality and the power of the resurrection of Jesus Christ!

We will continue these thoughts in next month’s newsletter.