

1 Corinthians 15:19-26

Christ Reigns as King!

March 27, 2016

Christ reigns now in heaven and upon this earth. Christ reigns now in the Church. Christ reigns now as much as our sinful souls allow Him to reign in our lives because He gives us the freedom to rebel against Him. In time He will put everything under His authority as He destroys the sinful flesh, the sinful world and the devil and all his followers. He will even destroy death and there will be no more death. This all happens when Christ comes again on Judgment Day.

How can we trust that this will happen? The Father promised a land for His people to live in. We call that land Israel. The Father took that land from them when they crucified the Son of God, Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ was the Promised Savior and He saved us by giving His earthly life that our sins would be paid for and the doors opened for us to heaven. The Father sealed that promise by raising His Son from the death and taking Him to heaven. We believe in the resurrection of Christ and that assures us that He will come again and raise us from the dead.

Easter is the day of Christ's resurrection from the dead. He is called the first fruits of all who follow Him. How sad it is that some don't believe in the hope of the resurrection. How sad it is that some only believe in Christ as a Prophet and reject Him as the Priest and King. It is sad because they think that they have to live

the good life to get to heaven. It is sad because they wonder if they have been good enough. It is sad because they wonder if they have to do anything more to get to heaven. Sadly some even wonder if there is a heaven and reject the thought of hell. They are to be pitied because their hope is based upon nothing.

Our hope is based upon Christ paying our way to heaven. We don't have to do anything to go to heaven because Christ has done it all. More, Christ has called us to be His in the waters of our baptism. Likewise we don't have to live in guilt because Christ took our punishment for us on the Cross at Calvary. Instead we are given the freedom to express our faith, our thanksgiving and our praise in any way we wish to express it.

Today we are given the opportunity to take the Lord's Supper. We can chose to take it or we can chose to pass it by. We can chose to study God's Word and worship Him regularly or we can chose not to be regular in worship and the study of God's Word. There are consequences to expressing the freedom of our faith in the way we chose. Some of us will be strengthened by taking the Lord's Supper, studying God's Word and being regular in worship. Some of us will be weakened because we did not take the Lord's Supper regularly, do not engage in the study of God's Word and worship regularly. We have the freedom to strengthen our faith or weaken it.

Likewise we have the freedom to listen to those who reject our God and His Word. There are many reasons for rejecting God and His Word. Some don't want to humble themselves to anyone. Some want to live a life that does not glorify God like those who lie to get their way or avoid the punishment that might come from admitting failure. Some want to control and bully others because they feel a sense of control. Whenever we make anything the focus of our lives rather than our Savior Jesus Christ, we make them into a god. There is no god but the Triune God who proved that He is God by creating all. The world tries hard to displace Him by destroying the idea that God is the Creator. We chose to see Him as the Creator and that encourages and strengthens our faith.

The choices we make in life are an expression of the strength or the weakness of our faith. Christ remains the same yesterday, today and tomorrow. Christ is giving us the opportunity to make our choices that strengthen or weaken or even destroy our faith. Meanwhile He is waiting to destroy sin, death and the devil in one exciting moment. He began His work on the Cross at Calvary when He gave us the freedom to share eternity with Him. He completes His work on Judgment Day and then our text tells us that He will turn everything back over to the Father. Our God is God and we rejoice this day for the hope He brings us through the Cross at Calvary. Amen.