

The Victory of the Resurrection

1 Corinthians 15:20-28

Victory of:

1. Life over death

By way of this metaphor Paul underlines the link between our fate and the fate of Christ; Christ's resurrection is not an isolated event but guarantees something even more stupendous. Theologically it suggests that our resurrection is not wholly separate from Christ's resurrection, but earlier and later parts of the same event, with the earlier part serving as a promise and guarantee of that which is yet to come. "[T]he whole point of Paul's argument ... is that in the destiny of Jesus Christ, the one 'raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep' (1 Cor 15:20), is our destiny."

-Roy E. Ciampa and Brian S. Rosner, The First Letter to the Corinthians, The Pillar New Testament Commentary, (Grand Rapids, MI; Cambridge, U.K.: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2010), 761.

2. Hope over despair

There is a compelling divine necessity about Paul's must. He is speaking about what God has determined and therefore there is no shadow of doubt about it. No matter how strong the powers of earth and hell may seem, no matter how much the Christian may fear that the wicked will triumph, at the climax of history it is Christ and none other who reigns and must reign.

-Leon Morris, 1 Corinthians: An Introduction and Commentary, Tyndale New Testament Commentaries, (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1985), 7:207.

3. Purpose over futility