



Shepherd's Path

A Shepherd's Personal Devotions

Jesus Now... Series, Lesson 49

Lesson Title: Jesus Is Lord of Life

Take Home Point: Jesus is Lord of Life – we will live eternally.

Warm-Up:

Picture yourself in a courtroom. The defendant has been declared guilty, and now the judge is about to announce a penalty, which is expected to be a very large fine. The room is silent. The judge clears his throat and says, "I sentence you to a fine of \$10 million dollars. However, your fine has already been paid by someone else. Your debt to society has been satisfied. You are free to go; no further action on your part is required. Court dismissed." How do you think the offender would react? What if he responded with, "That's great! But it seems too good to be true. I need to do something. Even though it's already paid, I want to pay part of it, too." Sounds kind of silly, doesn't it? More likely he would be thrilled to be free of his debt!

Read: 1 Corinthians 15:2-6, 20-26, 42-43

Observation (What happened?):

What two events in the life of Jesus form the core of Paul's teaching in these verses?

What do we have to look forward to because Jesus was raised from death to life?

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

What does it mean that Paul records Jesus as appearing to over 500 people during the 40 days between his resurrection and his ascension?

What does it mean that the last enemy to be destroyed will be death itself?

Insight:

It seems straightforward enough, but for Jesus to come alive again, he had to have died in the first place. Unfortunately, there are many man-made ideas to attempt to explain what happened without Jesus dying on the cross. One is that Jesus swooned on the cross and was buried alive only to revive in the coolness of the tomb. Another is that it wasn't really Jesus on the cross but a clever substitute, so that Jesus could show himself as alive after the crucifixion. But all of these are Satan-driven denials of hard spiritual realities. The wages of our sin is death. If Jesus didn't die, that penalty is not paid and we are still doomed. But that is only part of what we need. While his death paid the price for our sins, it was his resurrection that destroyed the power of death and frees us to live a life of confidence that we will be alive with God forever in heaven. Both his death and resurrection were required in real physical and spiritual terms to complete the redemptive work that Jesus came to earth to accomplish. And because of his work on our behalf, we have the glory of eternity with God to look forward to!

Application (What does it mean to me?):

How are you living now to demonstrate that you are alive in Jesus and he lives in you?

Take some time to thank God for his promise of a new body and a place with him forever.

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