**Scripture Reading:** 1 Corinthians 15:1-19

**Singing:** 347:1-4 **–** 29:1-3 –126:1, 2, 5 – 280:1-4

Opening Thoughts to ponder

* How amazing what Job spoke about the resurrection! (Job 19:25)
* How beautiful is the type of the resurrection in Daniel! (Dan. 6)
* How vital is the truth of the resurrection to the Christian faith!

**There is Hope even if you are Dead (1)**

I. Because Jesus wasn’t consumed by death

II. Because Jesus conquers death

I. There is hope for the dead because Jesus wasn’t consumed by death

A. Who am I speaking about – which dead?

 1. Many who are in the grave right now!

2. But how can we Christians maintain this *hope of resurrection*?

B. New Testament story records us the *physical resurrection of Jesus Christ*

 1. Hundreds of witnesses have *seen Him alive* (1 Cor. 15:6)

 a. they all were reliable and capable witnesses

 b. they saw Him, He eat after the resurrection

 2. That truth is ***so*** *encouraging for then death doesn’t speak last word!*

 a. for us ‘death is **the end** of all hope b/c life is cut off’

b. but Scripture doesn’t speak like that: Job 19:25; John 11:25-26

 c. All four Gospel records this *real resurrection of Jesus Christ*

 • Jesus has the keys of ‘hell and death’ (Rev. 1:18)

 3. Why does He have that right or what assurances do we have that He

has these keys of death and hell and the right to use them?

 a. because His Father raised Him: Eph. 1:19-20 & Phil 2:8-9

 • what is Father telling by doing that?

 b. this act of the Father granted Jesus the *legal* right to use the keys

**Final Reflections**

A. Can you see then *there is hope for* ***all who died in faith in the LORD?***

1. Paul exhorts: *Don’t sorrow for them who are asleep in Jesus, as if*

*there is no hope for them!*

 2. Pau is honest: *If he didn’t have this hope for after this life, he would*

*be of all men the most miserable*

a. why would he and all true Christians be the most miserable?

 (1) for they would have no real future

 (2) for in their present life would be unnecessarily miserable

 • consider the details of Paul’s (other Christian’s) life

 (1) how does the (religious) world act toward him?

 (2) what struggles does he wage in his own heart?

 b. don’t conclude for a moment that *Christian life is unhappy life*

B. Do you know who are the *most miserable men?*

C. Are you asking *“What must I do – how can I escape this terrible state?”*

 1. Humble yourself in the sight of the Lord, and He shall lift you up!

 2. Confess that He is perfectly righteous if He pass you by forever

 3. Believe that God *so loved* such a wretched world that He gave His

only begotten Son to die for sinners

 a. that truth should encourage you to *return to Him who calls you!*

b. how must we express this belief?

Blessed are all they that put their trust in Him (Ps. 2:12)

I am the resurrection and the life:

he that believeth in Me though he were dead, yet shall he live;

and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die