

# RAISED WITH CHRIST

## THE LESSON: 1 CORINTHIANS 15

Until Jesus comes again, death is the normal conclusion to each human life. We're born. We live. We die.

So, what makes Christians different? Well, because of Jesus' sacrifice on our behalf, *life* is different. Scripture says that believers have been "buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith" (Colossians 2:12). Being raised with Christ means leaving sin behind and living in a new way. But *death* is different too. Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live" (John 11:25). Death is not the end of the believer's road. For this reason, we "do not grieve as others do who have no hope" (1 Thessalonians 4:13).

The Nicene Creed was written in 325 AD. It is still the most universally accepted statement of what Christians believe across all denominations. We believe that God sent his son Jesus to be born as one of us. He suffered death, rose from the dead, and ascended into heaven. Yet the Creed doesn't just tell us about what *has* happened in the past. It also speaks about what *will* happen in the future:

*"And he [Jesus] shall come again with glory to judge both the quick and the dead:*

*Whose kingdom shall have no end...*

*And I look for the Resurrection of the dead, and the Life of the world to come" (BCP p. 71-72).*

In other words, Christians believe that death is not the end. There's more to come. And for the believer, what comes after is something to anticipate with confident hope and great joy.

## AT-HOME CHALLENGE

Each morning and evening, follow your own rule of prayer.

(IF YOU DON'T HAVE ONE, TRY SAYING THE MORNING AND EVENING PRAYERS FROM THE "FORMS OF PRAYER TO BE USED IN FAMILIES", WHICH BEGINS ON PAGE 728 OF THE BCP. IF YOU DON'T HAVE A COPY, YOU CAN LOOK IT UP HERE: [HTTP://PRAYERBOOK.CA/RESOURCES/BCPONLINE/FAMILY-PRAYER.](http://prayerbook.ca/resources/bcponline/family-prayer))

How do you think about "the end"? Are there superficial concerns that have overshadowed spiritual ones? Has a sense of despair weighed you down? Offer these things to God, and ask him to help you to think of the future through the lens of his Word. Close with the following prayer:

*O Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, who [at this evening hour] didst rest in the sepulchre, and didst thereby sanctify the grave to be a bed of hope to thy people: Make us so to abound in sorrow for our sins, which were the cause of thy passion, that when our bodies lie in the dust, our souls may live with thee; who livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end. Amen.*

(FROM AN ORDER FOR COMPLINE (NIGHT PRAYER), BCP, P. 727)

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## 1 CORINTHIANS 15:

### **THE MYSTERY AND TRIUMPH OF THE RESURRECTION**

<sup>35</sup>But someone will ask, “How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?” <sup>36</sup>You foolish person! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. <sup>37</sup>And what you sow is not the body that is to be, but a bare seed, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. <sup>38</sup>But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body...

<sup>50</sup>I tell you this, brothers: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. <sup>51</sup>Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, <sup>52</sup>in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. <sup>53</sup>For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality. <sup>54</sup>When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: “Death is swallowed up in victory.” <sup>55</sup>“O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?” <sup>56</sup>The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. <sup>57</sup>But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>58</sup>Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labour is not in vain.