

Messiah
Final Victory

1 Corinthians 15:20-28

20 But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. 21 For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead. 22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive. 23 But each one in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those who are Christ's at His coming. 24 Then comes the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power. 25 For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet. 26 The last enemy that will be destroyed is death. 27 For "He has put all things under His feet." But when He says "all things are put under Him," it is evident that He who put all things under Him is excepted. 28 Now when all things are made subject to Him, then the Son Himself will also be subject to Him who put all things under Him, that God may be all in all.

Review

As we've said in this series, this is what Messiahs do – they free us from enemies. We've talked about *our* enemies in this series. Here we will see *His* enemies.

What are the 'enemies put under His feet'?

24 Then comes the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power. 25 For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet.

- "All rule, authority, and power" - governments & leaders
- These become His enemies because of *the arrogance of power*.
- **Psalms 2:1-4**

- *1 Why do the nations rage, And the people plot a vain thing? 2 The kings of the earth set themselves, And the rulers take counsel together, Against the LORD and against His Anointed, saying, 3 "Let us break Their bonds in pieces And cast away Their cords from us."*
- It happens also in large corporations, universities, science, media. All influential organizations outside of the church.
- The Bible also says there are **ideas** that are His enemies:

2 Corinthians 10:4-5

*4 For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, 5 casting down arguments and every high thing that **exalts itself against the knowledge of God**, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ,*

- Atheism (where all unbelief ultimately leads)
- Evolution
- Communism/socialism
- Islam
- Hedonism
- **People become His enemies**
 - **Luke 19:27** - *But bring here those enemies of mine, who did not want me to reign over them, and slay them before me.'*
 - **Matthew 12:30** - *He who is not with Me **is against Me**, and he who does not gather with Me scatters abroad.*
 - Here Jesus tells us it is impossible to be neutral concerning Him.
- **Pain** is an enemy, maybe not of God, but certainly of us. It will be destroyed some day.

- **Rev. 21:4** - *And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. **There shall be no more pain**, for the former things have passed away."*
- The presence of pain indicates that there is a perfect God, and that we were created for perfection.
- The best of earthly relationships can occasionally bring us pain
- Pain will be removed because all things that cause pain will be removed – sickness, abuse, abandonment, rejection, ignorance and transgression.
- One of the great tragedies of this life is that some will allow pain to separate them from God, instead of push them toward Him.
- **Death is the last enemy**
 - This is one way we know there will be no transgression in heaven. No more sorrow.

Response

- Let's determine to not let His enemies - culture, unbelief, people, or pain separate us from Him, but rather let us live in His victory, both now and forever!
- [STAND]

Reflection/Discussion

- Do you think there any enemies of Jesus that you are allowing to come between you and Him in any way at this time?
- What do you think is your next step to deal with those issues and begin living in greater victory?
- For the believer, how do you think the knowledge that the ultimate enemy death has already been defeated should impact the way that we live right now?