

December 7, 2022

[1 Corinthians 15:20-28](#)

Everybody Comes Alive In Christ

God, what were you thinking when you spurred me to write on 1 Corinthians 15:20-28? I come back to the text on the day this devotional is due, and the words taste like ancient chewing gum. All flavor is gone.

What am I to do, God? Miriam is waiting for inspiring words.

As I sit still and ponder, I am drawn to switch my computer's Biblegateway.com app to the Message translation. New power is infused.

"If corpses can't be raised, then Christ wasn't, because he was indeed dead," says verse 20. "And if Christ weren't raised, then all you're doing is wandering about in the dark, as lost as ever." As I grope for words, I can totally relate to the experience of wandering about in the dark, as lost as ever. Maybe you are here, God. You meet me in my dead-end moment.

"It's even worse for those who died hoping in Christ and resurrection, because they're already in their graves," the Scripture continues, bringing to my mind all of our loved ones who have died hoping in Christ and the resurrection. "If all we get out of Christ is a little inspiration for a few short years, we're a pretty sorry lot." If all we get out of the baby Jesus is a little inspiration for our few short years on earth, then what happens to us next?

"But the truth is that Christ *has* been raised up, the first in a long legacy of those who are going to leave the cemeteries," God's Word brings us life. "There is a nice symmetry in this: Death initially came by a man, and resurrection from death came by a man. Everybody dies in Adam; everybody comes alive in Christ."

A nice symmetry, I like that dynamic. Balanced. Matching first with last. Connecting our beginning with our end. Everybody comes alive in Christ.

“But we have to wait our turn: Christ is first, then those with him at his Coming, the grand consummation when, after crushing the opposition, he hands over his kingdom to God the Father. He won’t let up until the last enemy is down—and the very last enemy is death!”

We are forced to wait, to wait our turn. Christ blazes our pathway forward, the first in a long legacy of those who will leave their cemeteries. After Christ crushes death, the final opposition, he will hand over his earthly kingdom to the Father of us all.

“When everything and everyone is finally under God’s rule, the Son will step down, taking his place with everyone else, showing that God’s rule is absolutely comprehensive—a perfect ending!” concludes our final verse.

Christ is born on Christmas day so that *everybody* comes alive. Eternity together, for everything and everyone, is God’s perfect ending! What a burst of new flavor for us to chew on today.

Sue Allen