

Face-to-Face: Our Ultimate Hope and Comfort

Revelation 22:3-4; 1 Corinthians 13:12

Introduction:

His resurrection is the same hope for us. Did Jesus really resurrect?

- *Jewish Antiquities* by Josephus
- the zeal to preach Christ
- the willingness to die as a martyr than recant their beliefs
- the apostles including Paul had the same message (also Christ's unbelieving brother, James)
- the same zeal was passed to Polycarp (John's disciple), Justin Martyr, tertullian... the rest is history

In 1 Peter 1:3-5, "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, 5 who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time."

Three times Jesus said "I am coming soon" in our passage. Relating this to our hope, the resurrection is the starting point of our future hope and is completed in Christ's return.

Background:

We should ground our hope and comfort only in Christ's work—his death, resurrection, and ultimately in His return. Indeed, in Christ's complete and victorious work—both death and resurrection, we are made alive and share the same hope of resurrection in His day.

Read Matthew 5:8. Other than the roads are gems, crystals and golden surroundings, the greatest privilege of Christians is to see Jesus' face.

Additionally, the mark on forehead signifies one's identity and belongingness.

Main Idea:

Three (3) Promises for our Hope and Comfort

1. Glorification (Phil 2:5-11; Rom 8:29-30) - Christ exalted in v 3

God is holy. (We are called to be holy)

Face to face - Isaiah, Jacob, Moses (burning bush), Joshua, and Paul (blind).

As said, we do share the same experience of Christ by the Spirit's work in us. Hence, we will be able to finally see God's full revelation, his face, because we will have the same glorified body of Christ in and through Christ. I hope this promise excites us to be more eager in meeting our Lord amidst this struggle in life.

2. Partial to Full Revelation (1 Cor 13:12)

Truly, the Bible is the Word of God—inerrant and inspired (2 Timothy 3:16-17). It is the revealed Word, yet we view it dimly and partially hence the need to depend on the Holy Spirit. As he opens our minds and hearts to the richness of the face of Christ.

But in our resurrection, bearing the glorified body, we will now be able to see Him face-to-face. God will fully and truly reveal His face to us and enjoy His presence, love, grace, and mercy.

3. Totally Freed in v 3 (no longer accursed) or *under a curse*

Christ is the ultimate fulfillment of the prophecies of Isaiah. One of that is in Luke 4:17-21 (Read). No longer bound to hell nor shackled by our sin. We have been liberated by Christ

Conclusion:

To see your loved one's face brings peace and comfort to your heart. Likewise, one commentator said, "The vision of God's face will make the service full of joy and strength and spirit, and banish all feeling of toil and drudgery and discontent."

Similar thought that we ought to be eager in meeting face-to-face because we ought to encourage one another and build one another in faith. Just as Paul said in 1 Thess 2:17, that we should have the same eagerness of meeting together in face to face.

Let me end in verse 5 of our passage today, we are called to serve and worship but at the same time we will reign with Christ forever and ever. Does this sound familiar to you? Yes. This co-rulership has been established during the time of Adam—called to rule over creation, yet it was corrupted by sin. But in our resurrection in Christ, we can now fully fulfill our duty with Christ.

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