



For Further Study

Read and meditate on the passage below:

21 For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. 22 For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. 23 But each in turn: Christ, the firstfruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him. (1 Corinthians 15:21-23)

In this passage, Paul speaks of Adam and Jesus. Through Adam, death and all the destructive consequences of evil, entered into our world. However, death was defeated by the actions of one other man, who we call Jesus. Jesus is the archetype of our type of human beings. Jesus is the “new Adam,” or a human being that shows us how to become new.

Jesus defeated death and provides us power over it, which we call the “resurrection.” Jesus died and rose again. We will die and rise again, just like he did. So, all human beings die; it is a natural part of life. Note that Paul says that all are made alive in Christ (v. 22).

Jesus is described by Paul as the firstfruits of what is to come. The first fruits that come on the tree help you to know what kind of fruit will be produced by that tree. Jesus shows us what we can expect when we encounter death. He models for us how to die and what life will be like after death.

Yet, Jesus also is the firstfruits of how we are to live. He taught and modeled for us how to best live for God and experience abundant and fulfilling life. Through our relationship with Jesus, we learn both how to die and how to live. Right now, as we continue through life, we can experience the salvation of God through living rightly and anticipating our coming death in the right way.

Consider how you might live for God in light of his victory over death and the grave.

PRACTICE:

Thank God for the victory over death we have in Jesus.

