

## Resurrection Sunday

April 4, 2010

*1 Corinthians 15:56-58*

I must remember that sin is ultimately a self-centered approach, effort, and attempt to find joy, purpose, and satisfaction apart from God. It is rebellion against the only One who can fulfill my ultimate desires. At its core is a perpetually deceived lack of trust that God can meet my ultimate needs and desires (remember Genesis 3 and 1 John 2:16).

The truth that I could live my life all the way to the grave and still not find joy, purpose and satisfaction even though I have tried with all my might is ***the sting of death***...literally an empty effort (remember Romans 6:23 and the Rich Man and Lazarus in Luke 16:19ff.).

*Nothing originally meant to bring satisfaction into our lives will ever do so apart from the rescuing, reconciling and redeeming work of God through His resurrected Son, Jesus Christ (Romans 8:18-25).*

The ***power of sin*** is that it deceives me into believing that I can find joy, purpose and satisfaction and God's acceptance by human effort and religion (remember Romans 3:20 and the Rich Young Ruler in Mark 10:17-31).

The hope of Jesus is that I can escape this vanity and actually live in victory and that this reality, and hope, is proven only by the resurrection of Jesus Christ (15:58 and Romans 8:31-39 and Philippians 3:17-21).

A few responses towards this message of hope and meaning...

1. Reject it, each and every day I am allowed to breathe - *Choose this day (Joshua 24:14-15)*
2. Pursue it, each and every day I am allowed to breathe - *Thomas (John 11:16 and John 20:24-29)*
3. Receive it, right now, once and for all - *Romans 10:9-10*
4. Keep going in it, every day I am allowed to breathe because it is not in vain - *1 Corinthians 15:58*