

Christ's Resurrection, Our Sure Hope

by St. Cyril of Alexandria

Through Christ's resurrection, we have gained a new life, free from the corruptibility of the flesh and the sovereignty of death, and have been reconciled to God.

Scripture: John 14:6, Romans 6:9, 2 Corinthians 5:16-17

Topics: "Resurrection Power", "Justification By Faith"

Description

St. Cyril of Alexandria preaches about the transformation believers experience through Christ, moving from a life controlled by sin and corruption to a new life in the Spirit. He emphasizes that through Christ's death and resurrection, believers have been justified by faith, breaking the power of death and allowing them to worship the true God in spirit and truth. St. Cyril highlights the reconciliation accomplished by God through Christ, granting believers access to the Father and the ministry of reconciliation.

Transcript

Those who have a sure hope, guaranteed by the Spirit, that they will rise again lay hold of what lies in the future as though it were already present.

They say: "Outward appearances will no longer be our standard in judging other men. Our lives are all controlled by the Spirit now, and are not confined to this physical world that is subject to corruption. The light of the Only-begotten has shone on us, and we have been transformed into the Word, the source of all life. While sin was still our master, the bonds of death had a firm hold on us, but now that the righteousness of Christ has found a place in our hearts we have freed ourselves from our former condition of corruptibility".

This means that none of us lives in the flesh anymore, at least not in so far as living in the flesh means being subject to the weaknesses of the flesh, which include corruptibility. Once we thought of Christ as being in the flesh, but we do not do so any longer, says Saint Paul [2 Corinthians 5:16]. By this he meant that the Word became flesh and dwelt among us; he suffered death in the flesh in order to give all men life.

It was in this flesh that we knew him before, but we do so no longer. Even though he remains in the flesh, since he came to life again on the third day and is now with his Father in heaven, we know that he has passed beyond the life of the flesh; for having died once, he will never die again, death has no power over him any more. His death was a death to sin, which he died once for all; his life is life with God [Romans 6:9].

Since Christ has in this way become the source of life for us, we who follow in his footsteps must not think of ourselves as living in the flesh any longer, but as having passed beyond it. Saint Paul's saying is absolutely true that when anyone is in Christ he becomes a completely different person: his old life is over and a new life has begun [2 Cor. 5:17].

We have been justified by our faith in Christ and the power of the curse has been broken. Christ's coming to life again for our sake has put an end to the sovereignty of death. We have come to know the true God and to worship him in spirit and in truth, through the Son, our mediator, who sends down upon the world the Father's blessings.

And so Saint Paul shows deep insight when he says: This is all God's doing: it is he who has reconciled us to himself through Christ. For the mystery of the incarnation and the renewal it accomplished could not have taken place without the Father's will. Through Christ we have gained access to the Father, for as Christ himself says, no one comes to the Father except through him. This is all God's doing, then. It is he who has reconciled us to himself through Christ, and who has given us the ministry of reconciliation.

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