

45-08-05b-Our Trust in Divine Hope for Human Destiny  
 Creed, death, decay, resurrection, hope, salvation  
 Rom 8:22-25  
 Our Gospel hope is God's promise of complete restoration.

**INTRODUCTION:** (text as the Scripture reading)

–We close the Creed by saying, “*I believe in... the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting.*” It expresses **our trust in divine hope for human destiny**. **Rom 8:22-25** describes that hope in terms of *bodily resurrection*, adding a surprising phrase, “*For in this hope we were saved.*” –[“**Living Strong to the Finish**” was a sermon I preached some time ago, covering 3 things about the hope of Christ's Return: 1) He's coming back bodily; 2) He'll bring divine rule to our out-of-control world, and 3), He'll “transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.” A lady in that service died 3 weeks later, and at her memorial, I spoke again on the “hope” in point #3, but from today's text.] We humans need more than a spiritual salvation. As beings of “spirit, soul and body,” we need a *comprehensive salvation*, and **HOM.idea**.

- I. Creation Waits for the Fulfillment of Our Hope in Christ– Rom 8:19-21**, The creation waits in eager expectation for the sons of God to be revealed... **in hope** that the **creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay** and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God.
- A. *Creation's destiny* is tied to our promise of physical resurrection.
- B. [**People who talk to flowers** *aren't crazy!* Experiments show that encouraging words help plants grow. But if plants could talk back, when we say *how pretty they are*, I think they'd reply, “*Oh, I'm nothing compared to what I'm going to be when the King gets back. Just wait and see!*”] **Resurrection Day** will initiate “a new heaven and a new earth,” and “*creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay.*” All will be forever *dramatically* changed!

**TRANS:** In **John 17:3**, Jesus said, “Now this is **eternal life**: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.” Angels have no physical bodies, but “*the life everlasting*” **we believe in** is *eternal life housed in immortal bodies like the body of our resurrected Savior!* This **Gospel hope of complete restoration** is *good news* for the human race. It means that death **ends neither our story nor our humanness**. Instead, **God's promise of resurrection** will end all the *negatives* of life in this present world and it will far surpass all the positives we could ever imagine. *Creation itself awaits this hope of restoration*. But,

## II. We Await an Even More Comprehensive Restoration

A. In Luke 19:10, Jesus said His mission was “to seek and to save what was lost.” (**Healing** for **lost** and **broken souls** begins now by *walking with Christ* and *yielding to the Holy Spirit*. But in Heaven, God promises a complete restoration of *whatever needs restored*:

1. **Broken dreams**– Life has *disappointments: cherished plans* and *envisioned projects* we thought would materialize, but never did.
  - a. God *dreams big* and He created us in His image to *dream big*.
  - b. All worthy dreams, lost in time, will be found in eternity.
2. **Broken hearts**– *Emotional pain* is most often *relational pain*:
  - a. Damaged feelings can become *bitter* and *brittle*. (*Forgiveness is the only reason* we’ll be in Heaven, and the only way to live in peace on Earth, SO, really, Heaven starts right NOW!)
  - b. Grief from separation at death is perhaps the most painful of the human emotions we know, but *Gospel hope* tells us in Rev 21:4, He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.

B. We **trust in this hope for human destiny** because it’s God hope!

1. His hope eclipses ours– 1 Cor 2:9, “No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him.”
2. His hope [established through Christ’s Cross] is greater than all our sin and is able to restore all that sin has damaged or destroyed.
3. His hope is for all sinners to put their trust in Christ and join us in confessing, “*I believe in... the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting,*” for, as it says in 2 Pet 3:9, He is “not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.”

### CONCLUSION:

–We await *life everlasting... in resurrected bodies... and so much more,*

[I tried to capture this in the *following stanza* from my poem, “Resurrection”:

Treasures far beyond our hopes that fame and fortune could not win,  
See them rise, undreamt-of joys that only Heaven could afford.  
See them come, true love’s embracing, freedom from our self and sin,  
All our buried aspirations, first made holy, then restored.]

–**The Good News of complete restoration is God’s promise** and *our hope*, to *trust in* and *rely upon*. God wants us to draw strength from it for the rest of our own journey, but also to share it with those around us, who desperately need this *divinely promised hope*, which God has guaranteed to all who embrace Jesus Christ as their Savior and Lord.

**Rom 8:22-25 (NIV)** We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. {23} Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. {24} For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what he already has? {25} But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.