

Communion Meditation 10/24/10 **Benefits at the Resurrection, part 1**

**Question 38: What benefits do believers receive from Christ at the resurrection?**

**Answer 38 of the WSC: At the resurrection, believers being raised up in glory, shall be openly acknowledged and acquitted in the day of judgment, and made perfectly blessed in the full enjoying of God to all eternity.**

Last week we were reminded that our bodies are united to Christ, and so they are His, and that after we die, they will some day be reunited with our spirit. This reunion will take place at the resurrection, or the last day. And at that time there is also a day of judgment.

In the first part of the answer to Q 38, we are told that “believers, being raised up in glory, shall be **openly acknowledged** and **acquitted** in the day of judgment;

First of all, **we will be openly acknowledged**. To be acknowledged means that Jesus Christ will declare, for all to hear, that those He has redeemed, are His.

Earlier in the Reading of the Gospel, Jordon read the words of the Lord from Isa 43.1, “I have redeemed you! I have called you by your name! You are Mine!” He bought us with His blood, and we are not our own, we are His, body and soul.

So no one can bring any accusation against His children. Satan the accuser can't, other people can't, the law can't, and you yourself can't. We have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.

Jesus said in Mt 10.32, after telling us not to fear because we are of more value than many sparrows, “Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father in heaven.”

If we confess that He is our Savior, He will confess and acknowledge that we are His special possession, part of His body. And what will we feel when we hear these words, from His mouth?! And how should we worship Him, even today, now, knowing this? Of course, we can know this truth now, and we are His now, we know this by faith, in our hearts, but He will declare at that time for all to hear that we are His!

We have just witnessed one way that we confess the Lord, as we heard the Watsons make a covenant with us, and declared before us all, and before the Lord, that they believe in Jesus Christ as their Savior.

Another part of this acknowledgment is that Jesus will say, “Well done, good and faithful servant, enter into the joy of your lord”. Mt 25.23

Everyone of us knows what it feels like to be acknowledged openly, publically - **by our parents** (at graduation when they said, "That's my little girl" and embarrassed our kids), or by **our coach** when he said "good job!"), **our teachers** (for those of us who went to government schools) when they gave us a smiley face sticker or even told the class that we did really well, although that could get you in trouble with the other kids, so you weren't sure it was a blessing!). But most of the time, being acknowledged makes our day! We felt like we were special, like our uniqueness was recognized.

And praise God that some day we will be openly acknowledged and recognized as children of the King of kings by the King of kings, before the throne of God. And it's important for us to hear this, and be reminded of this even now – that you who have trusted Jesus for your salvation from the penalty of your sins, that you are acceptable to Him and to the Father. And it is all because of His grace, not our efforts. Even the faith to believe was through His Holy Spirit in enlightening our darkened hearts.

"For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God... " So we can't take any credit when we hear His acknowledgement, but we sure can rejoice in it!

The answer also says that we will be **acquitted**. This legal term mean that our sins, our crimes of disobedience against the law of God, are wiped away because they have been paid for. There can be no accusation because there is no crime against us! We are now considered righteous because of the righteousness of Christ imputed to us, and because our sins were put on Him and paid for by His sacrifice.

Col. 2.13, 14 "And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He (God) has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses, having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us (our death warrant), which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross." Our death sentence was nailed to the cross, and our Lord hung there and died to free us.

Brothers and sisters in Christ, when we come to this table of the Lord, we come as those acquitted because we believe that His body was broken for us and His blood was shed for us. And we look forward to His return and also to the resurrection, when we will be openly acknowledged, and our sins declared acquitted, by our Lord and Savior!

Father in heaven, thank you for acquitting us of our crimes by accepting the work of Jesus Christ our Lord on the cross. We are humbled that you have forgiven us, and at the resurrection, on the day of judgment, our Lord Jesus will openly acknowledge us as His forgiven children, those for whom he has paid. We bow before you, our Lord and Master, and seek to come to this table with humble and penitent hearts. We do this by Your power and your grace, and through the merits of Jesus Christ alone. Amen.