

Conforming to the Resurrected Christ

1. This Life Has a Purpose—Conformity to Christ’s Resurrection (12-14).

2. Christ Has Laid Hold of Us So That We May Lay Hold of Him (12).

3. We Are to Press Onward to the Goal of Christ-Likeness (13-14).

CONCLUSION: All who are in Christ by faith in His death for us are to be living now in light of His resurrection. It is to that perfected, glorified state that we are headed in the New Heavens and New Earth. Jesus has laid hold of us to make us like Him in eternal life forever. We are not called to wait until He returns to start living that way, but called to start living now. Let us joyfully press on to that glorious privilege together.

First Timothy 6:12-16

¹¹ But as for you, O man of God, flee these things. Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness. ¹² Fight the good fight of the faith. *Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called* and about which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. ¹³ I charge you in the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who in his testimony before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, ¹⁴ *to keep the commandment unstained and free from reproach until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ*, ¹⁵ which he will display at the proper time—he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords, ¹⁶ who alone has immortality, who dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see. To him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen.

First Corinthians 9:23-27

²³ I do it all for the sake of the gospel, *that I may share with them in its blessings*. ²⁴ Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it. ²⁵ Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. ²⁶ So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air. ²⁷ But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.

First Timothy 1:5, 18-19

⁵ The aim of our charge is love that issues from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith. ... ¹⁸ This charge I entrust to you, Timothy, my child, in accordance with the prophecies previously made about you, that by them you may wage the good warfare, ¹⁹ holding faith and a good conscience. By rejecting this, some have made shipwreck of their faith ...

Revelation 21:1-8

Then I saw a *new heaven and a new earth*, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ² And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, *prepared as a bride adorned for her husband*. ³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. ⁴ He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, *for the former things have passed away.*”

⁵ And he who was seated on the throne said, “Behold, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.” ⁶ And he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment. ⁷ The one who conquers will have this heritage, and *I will be his God and he will be my son.* ⁸ But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death.”