

GLEANINGS

WE ARE NOT A CAPTIVE ANYMORE

Until Jesus Christ experienced death and then had victory over the one who had the power of death through His resurrection, mankind was a captive of death (please read article GE-30-The First Murder Victim).

"14. Therefore because children have blood and flesh in common, so He (Jesus Christ) in like manner has shared in these; that through death He might destroy him who had the empire of death, that is, the devil; 15, and might deliver them who throughout their life were kept in servitude by the fear of death. " Hebrews 2:14-15 Confraternity–Douay Version (Saint Joseph New Catholic Edition).

What Paul shared in Hebrews 2:14-15 was that Christ took as His captive the thing that (up to that time) had us as it's captive. What had us as its captive? DEATH! Until Christ's resurrection, we had no hope of ever returning from the dead, never to die again. That is what the Holy Spirit meant to convey when He had Paul record this truth in a scripture that is often misapplied today.

"7 But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift. 8 Therefore He says: "When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, and gave gifts to men."9 Now this, "He ascended"—what does it mean but that He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth? 10 He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things." Ephesians 4:7-10 NIV

Jesus Christ took Death as His captive when He was resurrected from the lower parts of the earth. According to the verses of the fourth chapter of the book of Ephesians that follow the passage quoted above, He shared gifts with His local churches in order to perfect the saints, for the work of the ministry and for building up the body of Christ.

You have been reading article GE-31. Did you miss an article? Free reprints of past articles are available by calling Robert Tanner, Bayou Rouge Baptist Church, Evergreen, La., (318) 939-2218. Please specify the article numbers with your request. You may also find them on the World Wide Web at <http://www.bayourouge.net> or you may find us by typing www.bayourouge.net into the box of your search engine.