



## LESSON NINE - THE RESURRECTION OF THE DEAD

**W**hat is the great end result of a Christian life? Why be a Christian? Being a child of God has it's reward, or as the scripture states there is something *given* to us because we are God's children:

*Verily, verily I say unto you, He that believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation: but is passed from death unto life. Verily, verily, I say unto you, the hour is coming and now is when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God; and they that hear shall live. (John 5:24-25)*

*I am come that they (any man v.9) might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly (John 10:10)*

*For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ, our Lord. (Romans 6:23)*

To live is man's greatest instinct. Millions are spent each year in medical research to *prolong life*. Millions are spent in military and civil defense to *protect life*. Men will die to obtain what they must have to live. For example 2 Kings 6:24-29 gives an account of the extremes men will go through to survive famine and starvation. The people were eating the heads of donkeys, the dung of doves, and even their own children.

### What happens to a man when he dies?

The outward man is flesh (Job 14:22) that was created from the dust (Genesis 3:14), and is daily perishing (2 Corinthians 4:16). As a result, the body is corruptible and when it goes to the grave it returns to the dust (Eccl 3:20, Gen. 3:19). The Bible says that the skin worms will destroy this fleshly body in the grave (Job 19:26). Prior to death, the body grows old. One of the most inter-

esting allegories for death as the body ages is written by Solomon in Ecclesiastes 12: 3-7:

*3 In the day when the keepers of the house (the arms of the body) shall tremble, and the strong men shall bow themselves (the knees), and the grinders (teeth) cease because they are few, and those that look out of the windows (eyes) be darkened,*

*4 And the doors shall be shut (mouth and ears) in the streets, when the sound of the grinding (the gums) is low, and he shall rise up at the voice of the bird, and all the daughters of musick shall be brought low;*

*5 Also when they shall be afraid of that which is high (the fear of meeting God), and fears shall be in the way, and the almond tree (the gray hairs) shall flourish, and the grasshopper (a man's strength begins to fail) shall be a burden, and desire shall fail (sexual and other appetites begin to fade): because man goeth to his long home, and the mourners go about the streets:*

*6 Or ever the silver cord (the spinal cord) be loosed, or the golden bowl (the head or skull) be broken, or the pitcher (the heart) be broken at the fountain, or the wheel (the heart as a pump) broken at the cistern.*

*7 Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it.*

The inward man, on the other hand is the soul and spirit of a man. Hebrews 4:12 and 1 Thessalonians 5:23, teaches that the soul and spirit are distinct parts of a man that are the "eternal" part of man. Man was created (or born) as an eternal being. The body is all that is actually temporary and is to be changed into incorruptible and immortality



by the resurrection. The inward man of soul and spirit represent the emotional part of man (soul) and the intellectual part of man (spirit). The spirit is that part of man which is the seat of understanding and knowledge. In 1 Corinthians 2:11 we read that no man can “know” the things of man, but the spirit of man. On the other hand, the soul is the seat of emotion. David for example speaks of his soul desiring (panteth) and thirsting for God. (Psalms 42). Although there are many scriptures that speak of the soul, it seems to be that part of man that was innate, intimate, God given – the spirit on the other hand, though also being a part of inner man, and given by God, seems to be that which must grow and increase with our life on earth.

## Where does the inward man go?

When a righteous or saved person dies, the soul and spirit of that person returns to God to await the first resurrection. (Eccl. 12:7). He will be in a place *with Christ*, which is called Paradise. The thief on the cross was told that he would be with Jesus in Paradise (Luke 23:39-43) and Paul speaks of a man that went to Paradise (2 Corinthians 12:4), which was possibly alluding to himself. Paul, teaches plainly that to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord (1 Corinthians 5:3-9 and Philippians 1:21-23)

The unrighteous or wicked on the other hand have a place of waiting until the second resurrection (at the white throne judgment) (Rev 20:5-6). This is a place of torment that is described as a place of everlasting fire where the worm dies not. This horrible place is mentioned in Matthew 18:8, Matthew 25:41-46, Mark 9:43-46, and Luke 16:19-31. The story of the rich man and Lazarus tells of the horrors of this place, and yet it is not the eternal lake of fire.

## There are Two Resurrections

Actually there are more resurrections possible, since there are many who have been resurrected from the dead to continue life on earth. There were many who were resurrected with Jesus and came out of the graves and appeared to men. They eventually died again. There was Dorcas, Lazarus, and others both in the Old and the New Testaments who were brought back to life. Yet these resurrections are not those that are spoken of when the Bible speaks of the “First Resurrection” and then the “Resurrection of the damned”. Both good and bad await in their respective places for their “change” to come. Job knew about the resurrection (Job 14:14) and Isaiah 26:19 speaks of the resurrection of those who came out of the grave with Jesus’ resurrection. There are those who teach a false doctrine of “soul sleep”, that after death there is no awareness. Consider however, that the Bible teaches that all men are to be resurrected:

*Daniel 12:2 And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.*

*John 5:29 And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.*

The first resurrection is often called the “rapture” and takes place at the coming of Jesus Christ for his saints. (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18). This resurrection is unto “everlasting life” (Daniel 12:2) and those that are resurrected will not face the second death (Revelation 20:5-6) of eternal judgment. It is a resurrection of the body (Daniel 12:2 and Job 19:25-26) compared to 1 Corinthians 15:51-57.

Then there is the resurrection of the damned (Daniel 12:2-3 and John 5:29) which takes place at the white throne judgment (Revelation 20:11-15).



All men will be resurrected to receive an eternal destiny. For the saved, this resurrection is our hope. It is then when our fleshly body will no longer be our bondage or despair; we will put off the body of sin, sickness, disease, and death. These will no longer be a part of our existence. Instead there will be a glorious body that is not subject to the pangs of death. It will be a glorified and glorious eternal body with which we will inhabit a place of joy and glory with God forever.

## **QUOTES ABOUT THE RESURRECTION**

“A dead Christ I must do everything for; a living Christ does everything for me.”

— Andrew Murray, Jesus Himself

“Life [had] replaced logic.”

— Fyodor Dostoyevsky, Crime and Punishment

“I don't care to inquire why they cannot believe an earthly body can be in heaven, while the whole earth is suspended on nothing.”

— Augustine of Hippo, City of God

“Never let anything so fill you with sorrow as to make you forget the joy of Christ risen.”

— Mother Teresa

Our Lord has written the promise of resurrection, not in books alone, but in every leaf in springtime.

— Martin Luther