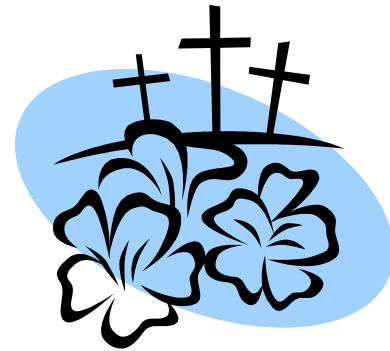


Lesson 7

Resurrection of the Dead and Eternal Judgment



1. WHY IS THE DOCTRINE OF THE RESURRECTION SO IMPORTANT?

As we read the New Testament we see the resurrection of Jesus Christ as the most important event in the life of the believer. Without His resurrection, we have no faith, no salvation and no hope

But if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen: And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain. (I Corinthians 15:13,14).

If we do not believe in the resurrection of Jesus Christ, we do not believe that God accepted His death in payment for our sins.

And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins. (I Corinthians 15:17).

2. DOES THE OLD TESTAMENT SPEAK ABOUT THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS CHRIST?

Yes. The Old Testament prophets speak of Christ's resurrection.

Being therefore a prophet (David), knowing that God had sworn with an oath to Him, that of the fruit of his loins he would set one upon the throne; he foreseeing this spoke of the Resurrection of Christ. (Acts 2:30, 31 ASV).

For further study: See Isaiah 53: 11, 12.

3. WHAT ARE THE RESURRECTIONS MENTIONED IN THE NEW TESTAMENT?

There are three:

A. The first has a past application: the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

He is not here: for He is risen, as he said, come, see the place where the Lord Lay. (Matthew 28:6).

But now is Christ risen from the dead. (I Corinthians 15:20).

B. The second has application to the present:

And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened (made alive) together with Him, having forgiven us all our trespasses. (Colossians 2:13).

We can know resurrection life now through water baptism and receiving and walking in the Holy Spirit.

But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you. (Romans 8:11).

C. Thirdly, it has an application to the future: the ultimate resurrection of everyone.

Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear His voice, 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. (John 5:28, 29)

4. IS IT NECESSARY TO BELIEVE IN THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS CHRIST TO BE SAVED?

Yes. Without believing Christ has been raised, our faith is in vain. If we believe in His resurrection we must testify to it.

If thou shalt confess with thy mouth Jesus as Lord, and shalt believe in thine heart that God raised Him from the dead thou shalt be saved. (Romans 10:9).

5. WHAT DOES THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS CHRIST DECLARE.

- A. Jesus is the Son of God. He demonstrated His divine nature and power in the resurrection. He is now above all principalities and authorities.

...and declared to be the son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead (Romans 1:4).

- B. Death is defeated. The Bible states that Christ died to destroy the works of the devil.

...that through death He might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil. (Hebrews 2:14).

...For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil (1 John 3:8b).

- C. Believers are justified.

Who (Jesus) was delivered for our offenses and was raised again for our justification.

D. There is a new life source for man. The risen Christ within us causes us to be alive in our body, soul and spirit.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. (I Peter 1:3).

E. Because of His resurrection we (who are believers) shall possess new bodies.

Behold, I shew you a mystery; we shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. (I Corinthians 15:51-53).

For further study: Read I Corinthians 15:38-44

6. IN THE RESURRECTION OF THE DEAD, WHO WILL BE JUDGED?

A. Everyone will be judged in the resurrection of the dead.

Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, and shall come forth; they that have done good unto resurrection of life and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation. (John 5:28, 29).

For further Study: Read Romans 14:10; Revelation 20:12

B. Believers shall be saved not by works but by grace, but shall be judged according to their God-inspired works.

Every man's works shall be made manifest...and fire shall try every man's work of what worth it is. If any man's work abide which he had built upon (i.e. the doctrine of Christ must first be laid) he shall be saved; yet as by fire. (I Corinthians 3:13-15).

C. Unbelievers have been judged already because they have refused Jesus Christ as their Lord.

...but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. (John 3:19).

The Word goes on to say that the reason they didn't turn to Jesus is because they loved their own way, their own evil life more than the Light that they could have had.

7. WHO WILL BE OUR JUDGE?

Jesus Christ will be our judge.

For as the Father hath life in Himself, so hath he given to the Son to have life in Himself; and hath given Him authority to execute judgment also, because He is the Son of Man. (John 5:26, 27).

Paul confirms this when he says that we must all appear before Jesus Christ and receive His judgment as to whether or not we will receive or lose a reward, according to the things which we have done while on earth.

8. MORE SPECIFICALLY, WHAT WILL BE THE CRITERIA (THE STANDARDS OR MEASUREMENTS) THE LORD WILL USE TO JUDGE HIS PEOPLE?

A. Faithfulness

Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful. (1 Corinthians 4:2).

Jesus brings home the need for faithfulness to our calling. His parable of the “talents” bears good illustration to this principle . If we neglect to stir up the gift that is within us, and “hide among the stuff” of excuses and fear continually, we will stand under the wrath of God.

(See Matthew 25: 15-30, especially vs. 30.

B. Treatment of the brethren.

And the king shall answer and say unto them, verily I say unto you, inasmuch as ye have done it unto the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me. (Matthew 25:40).

If we are to be great in God's Kingdom, we must become a servant to one another. If we do not learn this, we can be none of His (see Matthew 25a:41-46). Many who call themselves by His name, and still use, cheat, and milk the people of God will find themselves on the outside looking in, their portion with the unbelievers. (See Luke 12:41-48)

For further study: Read John 15:13, Romans 13:8-10

C. Motives

Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come, who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts... (I Corinthians 4:5).

Our safeguard is to love God with all our hearts; this will insure that we are following the Lord, not for personal gain, or to be recognized by man as to our “goodness,” but because we belong to Him.

Jesus said unto him, Thou shall love the Lord they God with all they heart, and with all they soul, and with all they mind. This is the first and great commandment. (Matthew 22:37, 38).

9. SOME SAY THERE IS NO HELL AND THAT ALL MEN WILL EVENTUALLY GO TO HEAVEN. IS THIS TRUE?

No !! There are some who hold to this lie that even the devil will be reconciled to God. This is the doctrine of “Ultimate Reconciliation.” THIS IS FALSE TEACHING.

And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night forever and ever. (Revelation 20:10).

John does not stop there:

But the fearful, and the unbelieving and the abominable (literally, those having become foul), and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death. (Revelation 21:8).

This awaits all who are not made clean by the blood of Jesus. Hell was made originally for the devil and his rebellious angels. The only human beings who will go to hell will be those who reject God's Word, despise the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, and willfully neglect their salvation.

For further study: Read Revelation 3:5; Luke 12:46-48; II Peter 2:20, 21.

10. WHAT SHALL BE THE REWARD OF THOSE WHO ARE FAITHFUL AND WHO ARE PART OF GOD'S KINGDOM?

They will rule and reign with Jesus Christ.

To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in His throne. (Revelation 3:21).

There are many wonderful things that will be given to all who overcome this world through Christ (see Revelation 2:7; 2:10, 100; 2:26, 27; 3:5; 3:12). All these things closely identify the believer with his God.