



## Mark 12:18-27 | Resurrected by the Living God

*Written & Preached by John Cole*

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### **Songs:**

Sing The Wondrous Love Of Jesus  
When We See Christ  
On That Day  
Living Hope

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## INTRODUCTION

### **10,000 Sermon Illustrations** Flower Mixup

A young business owner was opening a new branch office, and a friend decided to send a floral arrangement for the grand opening. When the friend arrived at the opening, he was appalled to find that his wreath bore the inscription: “Rest in peace.”

Angry, he complained to the florist. After apologizing, the florist said, “Look at it this way—somewhere a man was buried under a wreath today that said, ‘Good luck in your new location.’”

Bits & Pieces, June 23, 1994, p. 4

**And that is the topic of our text today: *our location after death.***

**Today’s text leads us into a sparing discussion about the resurrection.**

One group claims, “There isn’t one!”

Why would they make such a claim? No resurrection?

**Before we get into their claim, let’s start with our personal conviction and practices in relation to this.**

Do you believe in the resurrection of the dead? Who will be resurrected? What happens after that? Why does it matter?

## **How does the resurrection affect your daily life? Should it?**

I submit that it should. According to scripture, you will be resurrected.

And at the resurrection, we will give account to God.

The good news is that if our names are in the book of life, our accounting has to do with the eternal life we live with God and His people. This is true of all who repent from sin and trust in Christ as Savior and King.

The warning news is that if our names are not in the book of life, our accounting has to do with the eternal death we experience cut off from God in hell. This is true of all who do not repent from sin and trust in Christ as Savior and King.

### **So, the resurrection should prioritize our:**

1. Interest in the Gospel of Jesus
2. Faithfulness to the lordship of Jesus
3. Trust in God's faithfulness

**But this group of Sadducees that come to Jesus strike out in all those priorities.** *I hope no one here follows in these footsteps of these sacred elites who do not know God.*

## **SACRED ELITES**

### **The Sadducees were true politicians.**

They were much more like social aristocrats who used the sacred trust of the priesthood for political power when they could get it.

Their doctrine was void of substance.

They held little esteem for legal and moral matters

They wanted power.

They were very different from their puritan counterparts—the Pharisees.

**Consider some of their history that I will summarize here and then share more in commentary excerpts in my written sermon manuscript:**

### **Baker Encyclopedia of the Bible Sadducees**

Josephus, the Jewish historian who wrote in the closing years of the 1st century AD, adds to the information in the NT about this party. He says that the Sadducees, in contrast to the Pharisees and Essenes, gave no place to the overruling providence of God, but emphasized that all that happens to us is the result of the good or evil that we do (Antiq. 13.5.9; War 2.8.14). Josephus, in a way comparable to the NT, speaks of the Sadducees' rejection of "the immortal duration of the soul, and the punishments and rewards in Hades" (War 2.8.14). "Souls die with the bodies" was what they said (Antiq. 18.1.4).

### **Baker Encyclopedia of the Bible Sadducees**

The other main source of knowledge about the Sadducees is the Mishna, the collection of the teaching of the rabbis put down in writing in the 2nd century AD. The Sadducees opposed many of the detailed regulations that the Pharisees sought to impose on the people (Parah 3.3,7). It also indicates that they had a greater tendency to compromise with the ways of the Gentiles than other Jewish parties (Niddah 4.2).

### **A Dictionary of the Bible: Dealing with Its Language, Literature, and Contents Including the Biblical Theology, Volumes I–V i. Origin and History of the Sadducees**

Taught by experience, this party made no violent attempts to introduce Greek customs; but they were a purely political party: their main interest was in the Jewish State as an independent State, and not, like that of the Pharisees, in the legal purity of the Jews as a religious community.

### **They became a distinct party sometime during the later 2nd century BC.**

### **A Dictionary of the Bible: Dealing with Its Language, Literature, and Contents Including the Biblical Theology, Volumes I–V i. Origin and History of the Sadducees**

From their first appearance in history as a distinct party (during the reign of John Hyrcanus, B.C. 135–105), the Sadducees were the devoted adherents of the Hasmonian princes.

A Dictionary of the Bible: Dealing with Its Language, Literature, and Contents Including the Biblical Theology, Volumes I–V (i. Origin and History of the Sadducees)

When Pompey captured Jerusalem (B.C. 63) he executed many of their leaders, as did also Herod (B.C. 37). Herod further diminished their influence by appointing and removing high priests according to his own pleasure, and by filling the Sanhedrin with his own creatures. When Judaea...came under the direct rule of the Romans, the Sadducees, who now included the families raised to the dignity of the high priesthood by Herod, again attained a measure

of power through their preponderance in the Sanhedrin, to which the Romans committed the internal government of the country...

**So, this group of power-driven social elites who had recently regained power found themselves at odds with Jesus when He began to enter their territory as the King of the Jews.**

This was a threat to their power!

They weren't so concerned with theology or looking for their Messiah.

No, they had what they wanted, and they were not going to let anyone take it from them... even someone coming as the Messiah in a time when they should have been expecting it—if they had even cared to study the Scriptures.

### **Mark 12:18**

Then come unto him the Sadducees, which say there is no resurrection; and they asked him, saying,

**In [Mark 11-12](#), Jesus had arrived as the Messianic King in the Sadducees' turf condemning both their use of the temple and their stewardship of God's people-vinyard.**

By doing so, Jesus put His finger in the eyeball of the sacerdotal and social powers.

They had previously left Him alone as a "harmless fanatic" but now must view Him as a harmful threat to their way of life under Roman rule.

**So they decide to use one of their dogmas against Jesus: *there is no resurrection.***

This flies in the face of popular Jewish belief of their day! *Consider these quotes from one of my commentaries...*

### **The Gospel of Mark 8. The Question Concerning the Resurrection. Ch. 12:18-27**

A firm belief in the resurrection was an integral element in popular Jewish piety as expressed in the second benediction of the Shemoneh 'Esreh ("Blessed be thou, O Lord, who raises the dead") or in the doxology to be pronounced in a cemetery, "He will cause you to arise. Blessed be he who keeps his word and raises the dead!" (Tos. Berachoth VII. 5). The Sadducees, who took their doctrinal stance from the Pentateuch, were notorious for their rejection of this belief as a later innovation, and the provision of M. Sanhedrin X. 1 was directed against them: "Whoever says that the resurrection of the dead cannot be deduced from the Torah has no part in the Age to Come."

**So, let it be clear, Jesus was not speaking with long-standing and faithful students of Scripture, as is often thought about the Sadducees.**

No, Jesus is speaking with proud, power-hungry apostates who seized the priesthood all they could for their own self-interests and national ideals.

They were...

## **FAITHLESS SCOFFERS**

**Just look at what they denied!**

### **The Sadducees denied:**

1. Immortality of the Soul
2. Resurrection of the Body
3. Angels or Spirits
4. God's Providence

How could someone claim to believe Scripture—even if they prioritized the Torah above the rest—and still deny these obvious teachings of Scripture?

*Note:* One or more of these are emphasized in practically every chapter of Mark.

- In [Mark 1-7](#), Jesus cast out many devils—spirits that the Sadducees denied existed.
- In [Mark 1](#) & 4, Jesus spoke of the kingdom of God as being both a present and future reality, which would strongly imply God's providential work in history, lives, and kingdoms.
- In [Mark 5](#), Jesus raised a young girl from the dead.
- In [Mark 8-10](#), Jesus claimed three times in Mark that He would rise from the dead.
- In [Mark 9](#), Jesus spoke of Him coming in the future in power and glory.
- In [Mark 3 & 9](#), Jesus warned of the eternal judgment of hell.
- In [Mark 10](#), Jesus gave assurance that leaving all and following Him in persecutions will be followed by the promised eternal life and age of peace.

- In [Mark 16](#), Jesus is risen from the dead.

So let's get to their scoffer's attempt to argue against Jesus's claims and mission. We won't spend much time in these verses because the point they are trying to make is easily understood.

### **Mark 12:19-23**

<sup>19</sup> Master, Moses wrote unto us, If a man's brother die, and leave *his wife behind him*, and leave no children, that his brother should take his wife, and raise up seed unto his brother. <sup>20</sup> Now there were seven brethren: and the first took a wife, and dying left no seed. <sup>21</sup> And the second took her, and died, neither left he any seed: and the third likewise. <sup>22</sup> And the seven had her, and left no seed: last of all the woman died also. <sup>23</sup> In the resurrection therefore, when they shall rise, whose wife shall she be of them? for the seven had her to wife.

### **These opponents were trying to use the "Levirate Marriage" law against the resurrection.**

No biblical argument here. Just a false dilemma argument. Poor argumentation.

On a side note, theology is not settled by logical argumentation. It is settled by consistent Bible exegesis and interpretation.

### **Bottom line, God ensured that less lines of Abraham's children were broken by prescribing this law for closest kin to take a widow as his wife, have children with her, and name the firstborn son after his deceased kin, granting properties to him as well.**

Jesus's genealogy shows that this law was part of God's way of fulfilling His promise of Christ coming from the line of Judah.

If you want to learn more about levirate marriage, you can read about it in the Scriptures I gave in the bulletin.

Levirate Marriage: [Genesis 38:8; 49:8-12](#); [Deuteronomy 25:5-6](#); [Matthew 1:3-6](#)

### **What was their point? They drew up a hypothetical scenario that they thought would disprove the resurrection.**

Of course, it only scoffed the resurrection and revealed their ignorance.

Sadly, it also showed they had no part in it.

**Q:** How many good arguments against the claims of scripture have you heard that amount to more than scoffing?

As always, I love Jesus's response.

## DECEIVED IMPOSTERS

These Sadducees were wilfully deceived, according to Jesus.

### **Mark 12:24**

<sup>24</sup> And Jesus answering said unto them, Do ye not therefore err, because ye know not the scriptures, neither the power of God?

**They erred and were led astray because they did not know the Scriptures or the power of God.**

As we have made clear previously, they were not so interested in understanding the Scriptures—only in using them for their own political advantages!

Even without saving faith, they could have understood that the scriptures taught the immortality of the soul, the resurrection of the body, the existence of angels and spirits, and the providence of God.

Actually, they had to intentionally try not to see these in scripture!

Consider a few example of OT passages that point to the resurrection.

OT Resurrection: [Psalm 16:11](#); [17:15](#); [Psalm 73:23-24](#); [Job 19:23-27](#); [Isaiah 25:8](#); [26:19](#); [53:10](#); [Ezekiel 37](#); [Daniel 12:2-3](#); [John 5:28-29](#)

### **Psalm 17:15**

<sup>15</sup> As for me, I will behold thy face in righteousness: I shall be satisfied, when I awake, with thy likeness.

**Psalm 73:23–24**

<sup>23</sup> Nevertheless I *am* continually with thee: Thou hast holden *me* by my right hand. <sup>24</sup> Thou shalt guide me with thy counsel, And afterward receive me *to* glory.

**Job 19:25–27**

<sup>25</sup> For I know *that* my redeemer liveth, And *that* he shall stand at the latter *day* upon the earth: <sup>26</sup> And *though* after my skin *worms* destroy this *body*, Yet in my flesh shall I see God: <sup>27</sup> Whom I shall see for myself, And mine eyes shall behold, and not another; *Though* my reins be consumed within me.

**Isaiah 25:8**

<sup>8</sup> He will swallow up death in victory; And the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from off all faces; And the rebuke of his people shall he take away from off all the earth: For the LORD hath spoken *it*.

**Isaiah 26:19**

<sup>19</sup> Thy dead *men* shall live, *Together with* my dead body shall they arise. Awake and sing, ye that dwell in dust: For thy dew *is as* the dew of herbs, And the earth shall cast out the dead.

**Isaiah 53:10**

<sup>10</sup> Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him; he hath put *him* to grief: When thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, He shall see *his* seed, he shall prolong *his* days, And the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand.

**Ezekiel 37:3–5**

<sup>3</sup> And he said unto me, Son of man, can these bones live? And I answered, O Lord GOD, thou knowest. <sup>4</sup> Again he said unto me, Prophesy upon these bones, and say unto them, O ye dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. <sup>5</sup> Thus saith the Lord GOD unto these bones; Behold, I will cause breath to enter into you, and ye shall live:

**Daniel 12:2–3**

<sup>2</sup> 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. <sup>3</sup> And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever.

*And notice how these point right toward what Jesus says in [John 5...](#)*

**John 5:28–29**

<sup>28</sup> Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, <sup>29</sup> 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.



**Knowing both the scriptures and the power of God will convince us of the eternal resurrection of God's redeemed people.**

**Religion without resurrection is only moralism. Resurrection without *true* religion is condemning.**

Both resurrection and true religion are defined in scripture and powerfully accomplished in Christ.

Knowing Scripture matters. That's why we teach it here instead of merely using it as a launching pad for a self-help talk or a twisted tool for legalism.

It takes conversion to begin to really know scripture, but it also takes hearing the gospel taught to be led by the Spirit to conversion.

It is most important for you and I to know is God's word, power, and person.

**Q:** How important to you is studying the scriptures in the power of the Spirit in order to follow the risen Christ?

## **CONTINUITY AND DISCONTINUITY**

**Speaking of marriage, I wonder how many bottom-of-the-toothpaste-tube-squeezers we have here?**

On the top seven of marriage problems, that has to be up there!

Who in there right mind would squeeze the tube in the middle?

**Kids, I wonder if your teach will brush themselves in heaven? Wouldn't that be cool?**

Wake up with angel breath! Yah!

Just when you might always have good breath and never have to fight about the toothpaste again, and then, poof, no more marriage! You're in heaven.

Alright, enough with the joking... let's get back on track here.

**Mark 12:25**

<sup>25</sup> For when they shall rise from the dead, they neither marry, nor are given in marriage; but are as the angels which are in heaven.

**First, Jesus says “when they shall rise from the dead...”**

That's authoritative right there. No question about it.

**But then Jesus gives insight that only one who has been there could give. *We won't be married or get married.***

Does this mean we won't remember and love our spouse as we once knew him or her? Jesus doesn't say that.

The teaching is in direct relationship to how the angels relate in heaven without having a procreation and legal covenant.

That angels are made directly by God without reproducing seems to be what Jesus means.

**While our love ones will still be our love ones in heaven and the new heaven and earth, the only marriage will be between Jesus and His redeemed people.**

Let's address three topics brought up in the Sadducees' scenario and answered by Jesus: marriage, childbirth, and death as they relate to the resurrection.

**In the resurrection...**

God's people will no longer marry because the marriage to which our human marriages now point will be fulfilled in the promised union of Jesus and His ransomed people.

For Further Reading: [Ephesians 5:22-33](#); [Revelation 21-22](#)

God's people will no longer reproduce because the commission to fill the earth will be complete with God's renewed people then filling God's renewed earth and never dying.

**Jesus gives a close connection between the purpose of marriage and life without death. Jesus seems to suggest that since we will live without dying as the angels (as in Luke's account) we also will relate without marriage and multiplying as the angels.**

The marital relationship was given the commission to multiply and fill the earth with image-bearers. Once that has happened, marriage and multiplication are no longer needed for either the perpetuity of life or the purpose of communion with God.

The resurrection swallows up everything—including marriage—into the victory over sin and death in Jesus.

For Further Reading: [1 Corinthians 15:41-57](#)

**1 Corinthians 15:54-57**

<sup>54</sup> So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. <sup>55</sup> O death, where *is* thy sting? O grave, where *is* thy victory? <sup>56</sup> The sting of death *is* sin; and the strength of sin *is* the law. <sup>57</sup> But thanks *be* to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Life without death by its very nature and purpose must be both different and superior to life with death.

**Q: What else existed in the innocence of Eden that will not be a part of life after the resurrection?**

1. Marriage
2. Reproduction
3. Rebellious Spirits
4. Night
5. The Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil
6. Potential Sources of Chaos
7. The Incomplete Commission to Fill and Subdue the Earth

**Q: What about the resurrection motivates how you live today?**

## **THE GOD WHO IS**

### **Mark 12:26-27**

<sup>26</sup> And as touching the dead, that they rise: have ye not read in the book of Moses, how in the bush God spake unto him, saying, I *am* the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob? <sup>27</sup> He is not the God of the dead, but the God of the living: ye therefore do greatly err.

**Jesus's point here is to go to the most authoritative source of scripture that the Sadducees claimed to believe and show them there that the resurrection is central to the person of God, the creation of Israel, and all God's redemptive plans for His people.**

If God could say in the present that He is the God of people who had long been dead and if God is known to be the God of the living, not the dead... then the people He named must still be alive.

Even more, if God based His promise to redeem Israel out of Egypt on the covenant promises He made to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, then they must be able to fully experience His fulfilled promises somehow.

And lastly, God based all that first on the reality of His own self-existence as the “One Who Is” or the “I AM WHO I AM” alongside His covenant-keeping name: YHWH.

What other way would be possible for all this than for God’s people to both live in a disembodied state after death and to live with a resurrected body in the future?

**Jesus’s implied answer? *There is no other way.***

The covenant-keeping YHWH gives eternal life and resurrection to His followers who trust Him to fulfill every promise He makes.

**Mark’s argument by the Spirit has been that Jesus is the fulfillment of all God’s promises—judgment, redemption, salvation, inheritance, resurrection!**

And Jesus’s argument is that the Angel of YHWH and YHWH revealed Himself as this promise-keeping God of the living when He revealed Himself to Moses.

*Let’s read the account in [Exodus 3](#)—at least v1-7.*

OT Allusion & Quotation: [Exodus 3:1-17](#)

**Exodus 3:1-17**

<sup>1</sup> Now Moses kept the flock of Jethro his father in law, the priest of Midian: and he led the flock to the backside of the desert, and came to the mountain of God, *even* to Horeb.

<sup>2</sup> And the angel of the LORD appeared unto him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush: and he looked, and, behold, the bush burned with fire, and the bush *was* not consumed.

<sup>3</sup> And Moses said, I will now turn aside, and see this great sight, why the bush is not burnt.

<sup>4</sup> And when the LORD saw that he turned aside to see, God called unto him out of the midst of the bush, and said, Moses, Moses. And he said, Here *am* I.

<sup>5</sup> And he said, Draw not nigh hither: put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest *is* holy ground.

<sup>6</sup> Moreover he said, I *am* the God of thy father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. And Moses hid his face; for he was afraid to look upon God.

<sup>7</sup> And the LORD said, I have surely seen the affliction of my people which *are* in Egypt, and have heard their cry by reason of their taskmasters; for I know their sorrows;

<sup>8</sup> And I *am* come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up

out of that land unto a good land and a large, unto a land flowing with milk and honey; unto the place of the Canaanites, and the Hittites, and the Amorites, and the Perizzites, and the Hivites, and the Jebusites.

<sup>9</sup> Now therefore, behold, the cry of the children of Israel is come unto me: and I have also seen the oppression wherewith the Egyptians oppress them.

<sup>10</sup> Come now therefore, and I will send thee unto Pharaoh, that thou mayest bring forth my people the children of Israel out of Egypt.

<sup>11</sup> And Moses said unto God, Who *am* I, that I should go unto Pharaoh, and that I should bring forth the children of Israel out of Egypt?

<sup>12</sup> And he said, Certainly I will be with thee; and this *shall be* a token unto thee, that I have sent thee: When thou hast brought forth the people out of Egypt, ye shall serve God upon this mountain.

<sup>13</sup> And Moses said unto God, Behold, *when* I come unto the children of Israel, and shall say unto them, The God of your fathers hath sent me unto you; and they shall say to me, What *is* his name? what shall I say unto them?

<sup>14</sup> And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you.

<sup>15</sup> And God said moreover unto Moses, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, The LORD God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, hath sent me unto you: this *is* my name for ever, and this *is* my memorial unto all generations.

<sup>16</sup> Go, and gather the elders of Israel together, and say unto them, The LORD God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, of Isaac, and of Jacob, appeared unto me, saying, I have surely visited you, and *seen* that which is done to you in Egypt:

<sup>17</sup> And I have said, I will bring you up out of the affliction of Egypt unto the land of the Canaanites, and the Hittites, and the Amorites, and the Perizzites, and the Hivites, and the Jebusites, unto a land flowing with milk and honey.

### **God came down to deliver unworthy people and form them into His own people.**

Those who would repent and trust in Him would be like Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob—eternally living.

God would not only redeem them from Pharaoh, but from every Pharaoh... Beast... sin... Satan.

And Jesus's point was that...

Every promise of God depends on God being Who He has revealed Himself to be in scripture.

**The Sadducees did not know scripture or God's power.**

They didn't know God. Therefore, they didn't believe in the resurrection.

**But... to believe in God is to believe in the resurrection.**

If God is Who He says He is and does what He says He does, then He resurrects His people!

If the LORD God claims to be the eternal Redeemer, Ruler, Provider, Defender, and Lover of His people, then His people must be eternally redeemed, ruled, provided for, defended, and loved.

**There it is. There is no way around it. The resurrection is crucial to everything God has revealed of Himself.**

God of Scripture=Resurrection of Jesus & His people

Therefore,

Not only is the resurrection of the redeemed our sure hope but also, the resurrection of Christ is the greatest evidence for why we should trust the God of the Bible!

After Jesus's resurrection, this beautiful truth get's elaborated on more fully by Christ's Spirit revealing more to Paul...

NT Way of Saying It: [Romans 8:35-39](#)

**Romans 8:35-39**

<sup>35</sup> Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? *shall* tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

<sup>36</sup> As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.

<sup>37</sup> Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.

<sup>38</sup> For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,

<sup>39</sup> Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Sword? Killed all the day long?

More than conquerors in death?!

Neither death... things to come... shall be able to separate us...

**Q: How would you describe death for those whom God calls His people?**

**It doesn't really sound like death, does it?**

**Will you let this be a source of strength for you?**

Unless Christ comes first, you will die... *but you won't!*

If you are saved... if YHWH is your God and you are part of His people... if you are born again... if you are a repenting believing one... if you are a follower of Christ... **you are and will finally be... resurrected!**

**You have no reason to fear.**

Maybe death is near at the door for you.



Maybe it is 5, 10, 15, 80 years out.

You could be in a car accident tomorrow.

A terminal illness could take your believing child.

One of those apocalyptic fear-monger-ors could finally get one right, and we could have some catastrophic disease spread through the populace.

You might have to attend the funeral of your beloved believing spouse.

**If you and your loved ones are in Christ, your death is swallowed up in victory by Christ Jesus!**

In a real sense, death for the believer is the passing of the old and the coming of the new!

The resurrection is much of our biblical hope in the living God, and yet, resurrection does suggest death, doesn't it?

## **THE GOD OF THE LIVING**

### **Mark 12:27**

<sup>27</sup> He is not the God of the dead, but the God of the living: ye therefore do greatly err.

**Jesus's words are good and comforting words to believers.**

But they are warning words for those who err... are deceived... are misled in lies and ignorance of the truth.

The resurrection will mean eternal life for some and eternal death for others.

### **What's this mean for the false teacher?**

- Teachers who do not know the Scriptures or the power of God in regeneration are deceived.
- Deceived teachers deceive their hearers.
- Deceit blinds and binds in unbelief.

As William Lane put it,

It was the failure to appreciate the essential link between God's covenant faithfulness and the resurrection which had led the Sadducees into their grievous error. - NICNT Mk

That meant the Sadducees to whom Jesus spoke were—at least at that time—unbelievers.

### **What's this mean for the unbeliever?**

Those who reject God—as He has revealed Himself in both Scripture and the resurrection of Christ—have chosen to not have God as their God and Redeemer.

The unredeemed will be resurrected for just judgment before the living God and sentenced to varying degrees of punishment with the gods of their choosing.

Ultimately, hell is the place where unbelieving sinners get what they *thought* they wanted.

### **And such eternal separation and judgment from God is clearly seen in the truth of Jesus bearing the cross.**

The cross was Jesus willingly giving Himself as the substitute for sinners.

You don't have to bear the consequences of your own sin.

As Jesus proclaimed,

#### **Mark 1:15**

<sup>15</sup> And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel.

### **What's this means for the believer?**

Believers have a future together with God that is far better than their present, and that remains their present hope.

Though not yet fully resurrected, believers presently have the life of God in them and live according to the Scriptures and power of God.

As the very Resurrection and the Life, Jesus is the fulfillment of all God's promises and OT hopes. The resurrection, new creation, and kingdom of God has come in Christ--and it's still coming.

*Hear this sampling of the good news of the resurrection...*

NT Resurrection: [Colossians 3:1-4](#); [Ephesians 2:4-7](#); [Romans 8](#); [1 Corinthians 15:49](#); [2 Corinthians 3:18](#); [Philippians 3:21](#); [1 John 3:2](#); [John 11:25](#)

#### **Colossians 3:1-4**

<sup>1</sup> If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. <sup>2</sup> Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. <sup>3</sup> For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. <sup>4</sup> When Christ, *who is* our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.

#### **Romans 8:22-23**

<sup>22</sup> For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now. <sup>23</sup> And not only *they*, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, *to wit*, the redemption of our body.

#### **1 Corinthians 15:49**

<sup>49</sup> And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly.

#### **2 Corinthians 3:18**

<sup>18</sup> But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, *even* as by the Spirit of the Lord.

#### **Philippians 3:21**

<sup>21</sup> Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.

#### **1 John 3:2**

<sup>2</sup> Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.

#### **John 11:25**

<sup>25</sup> Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live:

**These verses make clear that—like everything Jesus is accomplishing—our resurrection is *presently* in process according to His active working in us.**

It is both a present reality and a future hope—just like the Kingdom and the new creation.

As we behold Jesus by faith, God is making us more like Jesus day by day.

On the day we behold Jesus fully in person, we will be made like Him to bear the image of the heavenly New Man.

**Understanding this will clarify so much of the Bible and the declared purposes of God.**

Future promises of Scripture are to be seen as present realities being fulfilled.

- Believers are resurrected upon conversion, and yet they will be resurrected at the coming of Christ.
- Believers are new creations at conversion, and yet they will be newly created at the resurrection.
- Believers have been saved at conversion, are being saved in sanctification, and (even those in heaven now) await their full salvation at the resurrection of their bodies and the earth.
- Christ has reconciled all things to the Father at the cross and yet all creation still awaits its own resurrection and renewal.
- Christ has brought the kingdom of God on earth and yet the earth still awaits the physical presence of Christ our King.
- Christ is building his temple of people on earth, and yet we still await the day Christ dwells with His people in the temple of the renewed earth.
- In Christ's resurrection, God began fulfilling all His resurrection promises, and yet we long to experience them in their fulness when we see Jesus face-to-face.
- The first coming of Jesus is the beginning of all OT hopes. The judgment, redemption, resurrection, and reign of God begins in Christ's first coming and culminates in His second coming.

**As followers of Christ, we have the very life of God in us—now and eternally.**

**Even though we have not experienced the bodily resurrection, God is our God, and God is the God of the living, not the dead.**

**Main Argument:** Live now and forever in the eternal life and resurrection of Jesus that is promised in God's Word.

Jesus is the One through Whom God is resurrecting dead, corrupt things and people into life and newness.

**The resurrection is much of our biblical hope in the living God.**

Here is the question that matters:

**Q: Is the living God your God and life?**