

Resurrection of the Dead 2024 (Part 1)

The first four elementary principles of the doctrine of Christ are the baby steps each born-again Christian must go through in order to see and enter into the Kingdom of God.

There is a powerful, wonderful, liberating hope in the resurrection that needs to be understood and applied today.

To start with, we will notice that, in the 1st century of the apostles there was heresy. Already, word was spreading that the resurrection already took place. This lie has lived for the last 1900+ years and we still hear of this talk today. Today, there are people believing in reincarnation and people believing that there is no life after death. But for those in the kingdom, it says,

*(1Pe 1:3) Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has **begotten us again to a living hope** through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.*

There is a hope that we have because we know that our Savior rose from the dead. If our Savior had not risen from the dead then everything we are doing right now is in vain. There is no reason to believe in God. There is no reason to believe in life after death and there is really no purpose in life. If He didn't rise from the dead, but remained dead and in the grave, then there is really nothing for us to look forward to. As Paul said, we might as well just live out our lives eating, drinking, partying, get fat, grow old, and die.

But there is a lively hope and a reality of something to look forward to – it is a hope that we have now, that will become a reality. In this study I want to talk about the resurrection from the dead, the redemption of our physical bodies, but also the resurrection we walk in now if we have been born-again of the water and of the Spirit.

Paul said in Philippians 3:10, “That I may know Him, and the power of His resurrection...” Since Jesus Christ was resurrected by the Holy Spirit (Romans 8:11) and the Holy Spirit of Jesus now indwells us who have been born-again, what Paul was really saying was that he wants to know Jesus – His Spirit- and walk in the power of His resurrection. Paul separated the power of His resurrection, which is now at present in His corporate body (and individually in every member of the body), and the resurrection of the dead. Paul wanted to know the power of Jesus' resurrection now and to know Him intimately that He might attain to the resurrection of the dead, the translation of his body to his glorified body (Enoch).

However, before getting into that, let's read some examples of resurrections that took place when Jesus was alive. The prelude of John 11:23-26 was that Jesus was ministering with his disciples in another city. While He was ministering there, one of his very dear friends, Lazarus, died. But before he died, Lazarus' sisters sent some servants to go get Him because they wanted Jesus to come and heal him. Jesus surprisingly said, paraphrasing, “No, not right now.” Instead of leaving immediately, He waited 4 full days, just so everyone was sure Lazarus was dead. The Jews knew that after 3 days, a body's corpse would start to decompose. So, when everybody knew Lazarus was really dead, Jesus then returned to where Lazarus had been buried.

Joh 11:23-26 Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." (24) Martha said to Him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day." (25) Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live." (26) And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?"

Martha knew there was a physical resurrection to look forward to. She knew that there was going to be a physical resurrection of all the dead at the last day for she referred to "the last day". But Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever tomorrow. He is not only, the only God of the past, the only God of the future, but more importantly **He is now** the only God there will ever be of the present.

Jesus told her, "**I am** the resurrection". Martha was looking forward to something in the future, but in the present moment Jesus is NOW the Resurrection and the Life. Martha did not realize that what she was looking forward to was standing right before her very eyes. Jesus also said He was "the life". He was talking about right now!

If you want the resurrection and the life, today is the day you can receive it. Today is the day of salvation. He said "I am the resurrection and the life, and He who believes in me (*and this is something that I want you to remember throughout this whole teaching*), **THOUGH HE WERE DEAD, YET SHALL HE LIVE.**" Hopefully by the end of this teaching we will understand and realize that though we were/are dead, yet we live and shall live. Let us go now to verse 38.

Joh 11:38-40 Then Jesus, again groaning in Himself, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it. (39) Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of him who was dead, said to Him, "Lord, by this time there is a stench, for he has been dead four days." (40) Jesus said to her, "Did I not say to you that if you would believe you would see the glory of God?"

Previously, Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life". He now rephrases it by using these words "If thou wouldest believe, thou shouldest see **the glory of God?**" The glory of God is Jesus (II Corinthians 4:6 - *For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.*). But in the context of this passage the glory of God is now tied to Jesus being the resurrection and the life.

Joh 11:41-42 Then they took away the stone from the place where the dead man was lying. And Jesus lifted up His eyes and said, "Father, I thank You that You have heard Me." (42) And I know that You always hear Me, but because of the people who are standing by I said this, **that they may believe that You sent Me.**"

There was no reason for Jesus to be talking out loud to the Father, except for the fact that there were unbelievers all around Him. He did this for the sake of the people so that they would believe that Jesus was sent by God.

Joh 11:43-44 Now when He had said these things, He cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come forth!" (44) And he who had died came out bound hand and foot with graveclothes, and his face was wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Loose him, and let him go."

And so we see an example of what is a resurrection of the dead in the physical sense, but because Jesus is God and He is the God of the living – even now today He is the resurrection and the life for those who are dead **in the spiritual sense.**

Before any of us were born-again, we were all dead in our sins. The resurrection is not something that is only looked forward to (this is not to say that there isn't a hope for those living in Him to look forward to). We are going to get to the understanding of why we can obtain the resurrection and eternal life in the present state that we are in.

Let's look at another example of a resurrection in the physical sense...

Mat 27:50-53 And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice, and yielded up His spirit. (51) Then, behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom; and the earth quaked, and the rocks were split, (52) and the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised; (53) and coming out of the graves after His resurrection, they went into the holy city and appeared to many.

It says here that when Jesus died there was an earthquake, the rocks were moved, graves were opened and after His resurrection – after He rose from the grave – those bodies came out of those graves and they started seeing people in the city. This is another example of a resurrection, in the physical sense.

Peter and Paul, the apostles, were arguing with other people because heresies abounded that the resurrection had already taken place. Probably because they experienced this previous verse in Matthew. People started to believe that the resurrection already passed.

2Ti 2:16-18 But shun profane and idle babblings, for they will increase to more ungodliness. (17) And their message will spread like cancer. Hymenaeus and Philetus are of this sort, (18) who have strayed concerning the truth, saying that the resurrection is already past; and they overthrow the faith of some.

In this little verse you can see that by saying the resurrection is passed already, you take away the hope of the saints. As saints in the Kingdom of God, we have a hope that there is indeed a physical resurrection to look forward to. By taking away that hope with the heresy that the resurrection has already passed, can cause some to lose their faith. Indeed, there is a lively or living hope because of the physical resurrection of Jesus Christ that we all can look forward to! However...

*Heb 11:35 Women received their dead raised to life again. Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, **that they might obtain a better resurrection.***

There is a better resurrection than the physical resurrections we have just read of. There is a better resurrection than just the resurrection of Lazarus from the dead. Lazarus eventually died again. There is a better resurrection than just opening the graves and having the one that was dead come out and meet the people in the city.

These are all types and figures of a greater resurrection, that is the resurrection of the dead. If we

partake of the resurrection of the dead (a.k.a *the resurrection of the just* – Luke 14:14 & Acts 24:15), having been found to be just, then we have obtained the manifest expression of eternal life. This is when we receive a glorified body spoken of in I Thessalonians 4:16,17 – *“For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words.”*

There is one resurrection of the dead. It is in two parts and each is considered a resurrection.

Rev 20:4-6 And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. (5) But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. (6) Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years.

The first part is the resurrection of those who are in Christ. They live and reign for an indeterminate period of time with Christ. The word used in English is “a thousand years”. The greek word for “a thousand” or “thousand” is “chilioi; pronounced khil'-ee-oy”. The Strong’s number is 5507 and is defined as a plural word of uncertain affinity. Therefore, they live and reign with him for an uncertain and unending amount of time.

Rev 20:11-15 Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. (12) And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. (13) The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works. (14) Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. (15) And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.

In the second part of resurrection of the dead is for the rest of the dead, both the small and the great, that are going to be judged according to their works and whoever is not found in the Book of Life will be judged according to their works. They will be cast into the Lake of Fire along with death and hell where the beast, Satan and the false prophet are waiting for them. This is known as the second death. They lived on earth and then died. They were resurrected for their final judgment and died again – hence second death. However, for those in Christ, it says the second death has no power over them and they shall be priests and reign with God for a thousand years, another indeterminate amount of time. We died once, in and with Christ (See Baptisms), never to die again.

2Co 5:14-15 For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died; (15) and He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again.

If we judge that He died for us, then we consider ourselves dead in and with Him in His death. Since this is true, and He rose again, then we have also risen with and in Him and have obtained the resurrection of eternal life.