

We Perish for Lack of Knowledge:  
Laying on of Hands  
Resurrection of the Dead  
October 21, 2018

I **SLIDE** Hebrews 6:1-2 (NIV) <sup>1</sup> Therefore let us leave the elementary teachings about Christ and go on to maturity, not laying again the foundation of repentance from acts that lead to death, and of faith in God, <sup>2</sup> instruction about baptisms, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment.

II **SLIDE** Laying on of hands

A) Laying on of hands was used as a means of imparting or identifying with someone else

- 1) Blessing
- 2) Set into place
- 3) Healing the sick

B) **SLIDE** Impartation

- 1) **2 Timothy 1:6 ( NIV )** <sup>6</sup>For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands.
- 2) **1 Timothy 4:14 (NIV)** [Paul told Timothy,] Do not neglect your gift, which was given you through prophecy when the body of elders laid their hands on you.
- 3) **SLIDE Numbers 27:18, 20, 22-23 (NIV)** <sup>18</sup> So the LORD said to Moses, "Take Joshua son of Nun, a man in whom is the spirit, and lay your hand on him. <sup>20</sup> Give him some of your authority so the whole Israelite community will obey him. <sup>22</sup> Moses did as the LORD commanded him. He took Joshua and had him stand before Eleazar the priest and the whole assembly. <sup>23</sup> Then he laid his hands on him and commissioned him, as the LORD instructed through Moses.

a) Setting into place and impartation

- 4) **SLIDE Deuteronomy 34:9 (NIV)** <sup>9</sup> Now Joshua son of Nun was filled with the spirit of wisdom because Moses had laid his hands on him. So the Israelites listened to him and did what the LORD had commanded Moses.

### III **SLIDE** Why is the laying on of hands so important?

#### A) I believe it is still fundamental to our faith

- 1) First, Jesus did it
- 2) Second, Paul says it is
- 3) Third, the apostles practiced it
- 4) Where would we be without blessings or setting people into place or healings or impartation?
- 5) What would be the condition of the church if we had nothing to give to one another?
- 6) Yet, I believe there is a simpler, more profound reason that the laying on of hands is so important
- 7) That reason: It brings us together

B) There is a legend told of an ancient kingdom whose sovereign had just died, and whose ambassadors were sent to choose a successor from twin infants. They found the little fellows fast asleep, and looking at them carefully, agreed that it was difficult to decide, until they happened to notice one curious small difference between them. As they lay, one infant had his tiny fists closed tight; the other slept with his little hands wide open. Instantly they made their selection of the latter. The legend very properly concludes with the record that, as he grew up in his station, he came to be known as the King with the Open Hand. We could say the same thing of our God. His hand is always open to give. Bible Illustrations

### IV Resurrection of the Dead

#### A) Another important belief

- 1) Some do not believe in the resurrection of the dead
- 2) They consider it a novel idea, but an idea only

- 3) And this concept can be found in the church as well
- 4) A woman wrote J. Vernon McGee: "Our preacher said that on Easter Jesus just swooned on the cross and that the disciples nursed him back to health. What do you think?"

McGee replied, "Dear Sister, beat your preacher with a leather whip for thirty-nine heavy strokes. Nail him to a cross. Hang him in the sun for six hours. Run a spear through his heart. Embalm him. Put him in an airless tomb for three days. Then see what happens."

- 5) **SLIDE** Resurrection of the dead is not an idea; it is a truth
  - 6) This belief or disbelief guides our present actions
  - 7) Resurrection of the dead is one of the elementary truths because it demonstrates that this life is a PREPARATION for the next
  - 8) It is the basis of our faith
  - 9) **1 Corinthians 15:13-14 ( NIV )** <sup>13</sup>If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. <sup>14</sup>And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith.
  - 10) However, I have discovered that for most, the resurrection is an Easter story instead of a truth that underlies all life and faith
- B) For people who do not believe, then this life is all there is
- 1) For them, faith is useless
  - 2) If that is the case, then truly, the one with the most toys or money does win
  - 3) Actions in this life are finite and carry no eternal consequences
  - 4) How one treats people is not a concern as long as one gets ahead
  - 5) A person can live any way he or she wants because this is all there is
  - 6) People will grab honor, money, positions, glory because they have their belief in the NOW
  - 7) People will lie, cheat, demean, abuse, and malign others
  - 8) However, without this truth, then one will not accept the last truth, eternal judgment

C) However, Paul tells us that our Christian faith depends upon this truth

- 1) It is far more than an Easter story; it is the basis of our faith
- 2) We all must understand that what makes each of us unique creations will never die
- 3) No one will escape this truth
- 4) Justice goes far beyond this life
- 5) Our actions will impact our eternal futures

## V Proof

### A) Exodus

- 1) **SLIDE Exodus 2:23-25 ( NIV )** <sup>23</sup>During that long period, the king of Egypt died. The Israelites groaned in their slavery and cried out, and their cry for help because of their slavery went up to God. <sup>24</sup>God heard their groaning and he remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac and with Jacob. <sup>25</sup>So God looked on the Israelites and was concerned about them.
  - a) God remembered His covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob long after they had died
  - b) If there were no resurrection, then why would God remember this covenant?
- 2) **SLIDE Exodus 3:5-6 ( NIV )** <sup>5</sup>"Do not come any closer," God said. "Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground." <sup>6</sup>Then he said, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob." At this, Moses hid his face, because he was afraid to look at God.
  - a) Then, God tells Moses, "I AM the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob."
  - b) He does not say He WAS
  - c) He is not the God of the dead, but the God of the living
  - d) God's covenant with them began in this life and extended into the next

e) The way Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob lived affected not only them but generations because God is still their God

B) **SLIDE Isaiah 26:19 ( NIV )** <sup>19</sup> But your dead will live; their bodies will rise. You who dwell in the dust, wake up and shout for joy. Your dew is like the dew of the morning; the earth will give birth to her dead.

C) **SLIDE Matthew 22:29-32 ( NIV )** <sup>29</sup>Jesus replied, "You are in error because you do not know the Scriptures or the power of God. <sup>30</sup>At the resurrection people will neither marry nor be given in marriage; they will be like the angels in heaven. <sup>31</sup>But about the resurrection of the dead—have you not read what God said to you, <sup>32</sup>'I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob' ? He is not the God of the dead but of the living."

D) **SLIDE Matthew 17:1-3 ( NIV )** <sup>1</sup>After six days Jesus took with him Peter, James and John the brother of James, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. <sup>2</sup>There he was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as the light. <sup>3</sup>Just then there appeared before them Moses and Elijah, talking with Jesus.

1) If there is no resurrection, then how could Moses and Elijah return

2) Moses, who could not enter the promised land with Israel, now stands in the promised land speaking with Jesus

E) **SLIDE Matthew 27:50-53 (NIV)** <sup>50</sup> And when Jesus had cried out again in a loud voice, he gave up his spirit. <sup>51</sup> At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook and the rocks split. <sup>52</sup> The tombs broke open and the bodies of many holy people who had died were raised to life. <sup>53</sup> They came out of the tombs, and after Jesus' resurrection they went into the holy city and appeared to many people.

## VI **SLIDE** Meaning for us

### A) We are made in the image of God

- 1) That which makes you, you, will never die
- 2) What we do in this life will impact the life to come
- 3) Nothing goes unnoticed by God
- 4) Nothing is forgotten
- 5) Nothing is of no importance

### B) **SLIDE** What difference does it make?

- 1) What difference does it make how we treat others?
- 2) What difference does it make if we cheat a little?
- 3) What difference does it make if we indulge our desires?
- 4) Why should we deny ourselves when everyone else seems to be doing what they want?
- 5) Why should we tell our children "no" when other parents are letting their children run around?
- 6) Why should we put up with the persecution now?
- 7) Why should we turn the other cheek when people ridicule us?
- 8) Why should we not wait to become a Christian?

### C) **SLIDE** Because

- 1) **Acts 24:15 (NIV)** <sup>15</sup> and I have the same hope in God as these men, that there will be a resurrection of both the righteous and the wicked.
- 2) **John 5:28-29 (NIV)** [Jesus said,] <sup>28</sup> "Do not be amazed at this, for a time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice <sup>29</sup> and come out--those who have done good will rise to live, and those who have done evil will rise to be condemned.
- 3) **SLIDE 1 Peter 1:3-4 ( NIV )** <sup>3</sup>Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, <sup>4</sup>and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade—kept in heaven for you,

- a) I am not talking about a legalistic approach to our future where we try to score points in this life to "purchase" a better future in the next
- b) Every person - everyone - will be resurrected
- c) No one blinks out like a candle
- d) The breath of life God breathed into each person will never die
- e) I am talking about preparing for our inheritance now
- f) How we live our lives today makes a big difference because we have already entered eternity