

THE RESURRECTION

“Now if Christ is preached that He has been raised from the dead, how do some among you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ is not risen. And if Christ is not risen, then our preaching [is] empty and your faith [is] also empty. Yes, and we are found false witnesses of God, because we have testified of God that He raised up Christ, whom He did not raise up— if in fact the dead do not rise. For if [the] dead do not rise, then Christ is not risen. And if Christ is not risen, your faith [is] futile; you are still in your sins! Then also those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable.” (1 Corinthians 15:12-19 NKJV)

Paul reminds us today that we will not be annihilated at death, the error of some cults. Rather, we will be raised from the dead. That is, not as spirit only but in a spiritual body.

“But someone will say, “How are the dead raised up? And with what body do they come?” Foolish one, what you sow is not made alive unless it dies. And what you sow, you do not sow that body that shall be, but mere grain— perhaps wheat or some other [grain]. But God gives it a body as He pleases, and to each seed its own body. All flesh [is] not the same flesh, but [there is] one [kind of] flesh of men, another flesh of animals, another of fish, [and] another of birds. [There are] also celestial bodies and terrestrial bodies; but the glory of the celestial [is] one, and the [glory] of the terrestrial [is] another. [There is] one glory of the sun, another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for [one] star differs from [another] star in glory. So also [is] the resurrection of the dead. [The body] is sown in corruption, it is raised in incorruption. It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. It is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body.” (1 Corinthians 15:35-44 NKJV)

Paul’s point is not that we will not have a body. He is not saying that the body will be turned into spirit only, but that the natural body will be turned into a spiritual body. Like a seed sown into the ground grows into something greater than the seed.

This is important because if there is no resurrection then Christ is not raised and if Christ is not raised then your faith is empty.

It would be utter foolishness to live the Christian life if this life is all to which we have to look forward. Why deny yourself the pleasures of this life, why strive against sin, and why suffer persecution if this life is the end? If there are no consequences and no rewards, get all you can from this life. I speak in human terms for even selfish restraint may better a society. However, there are consequences and rewards.

What a glorious hope we have. Have you thought about that time when you will be able to stand before Christ and look upon Him without shame? Now we live in constant confession of sins, then we will stand with a spiritual body incorruptible. We cannot possibly understand fully the glory of that day. However, we can catch a glimpse, a shadow of it when we contemplate the Scriptures.

“And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.” Then He who sat on the throne said, “Behold, I make all things new.” And He said to me, “Write, for these words are true and faithful.” And He said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts. “He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son.” (Revelation 21:4-7 NKJV)

May God richly bless you as you remember the resurrection, and look forward to yours!