

Mastering the Basics
Lesson 14

The Doctrine of Christ: Resurrection of the Dead

“The most startling characteristic of the first Christian preaching is its emphasis on the resurrection. The first preachers were sure that Christ had risen, and sure, in consequence, that believers would in due course rise also. This set them off from all the other teachers of the ancient world. Clearly the resurrection is of the very first importance for the Christian faith.” [The New Bible Dictionary. P.1086].

What does the doctrine of the resurrection have to do with me? – everything! Jesus states, “The hour is coming, in 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). The point is that an hour is coming – that is, it will be future – in which all people that are in the graves will be resurrected bodily. The power to bring forth this resurrection will be the voice of the Son of God, and all people will come forth. Those that have done good – that is, those who have repented, turned to God, gone a new direction- will have a resurrection to eternal life. But those that have done evil, who have refused to repent, will be raised unto a resurrection of damnation – that is, they will perish.

For those who are raised unto the resurrection of eternal life, the Scriptures say that their bodies will be raised and changed into spiritual bodies (1 Cor. 15:44). Their earthly, flesh and bone bodies will be raised and changed into heavenly bodies (1 Cor. 15:49). The body of corruption – that is, subject to perishing and dying – will put on incorruption (i.e., it can no longer die or perish – 1 Cor. 15:42,53-54). Their bodies of dishonor, shame, or disgrace will be raised into glorious bodies (1 Cor. 15:43). The body of weakness, subject to feebleness or infirmity, will be raised in power (1 Cor. 15:43). The mortal body – that is subject to death – will be raised into immortality – that is, everlasting life. The vile body – that is, the body of humiliation – will be changed and fashioned into a glorious body (Phil. 3:21).

For those who will be raised into a resurrection of damnation, this resurrection will be followed by eternal judgment. The end result will be that they perish.

“The plainest statement on the resurrection [in the Old Testament] of the individual is undoubtedly that in Daniel 12:2, ‘many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.’ This clearly envisages a resurrection both of the righteous and of the wicked, and it sees also eternal consequences of men’s action” (Ibid., p. 1086).

“Jesus speaks of ‘the resurrection of life’ but also of ‘the resurrection of damnation (i.e. judgment)’ (John 5:29). The plain New Testament teaching is that all will rise, but that those who have rejected Christ will find the resurrection a serious matter indeed. For believers the fact that their resurrection is connected with that of the Lord transforms the

situation. In the light of His atoning work for them they face resurrection with calmness and joy” (Ibid., p.1088).

For Christians, the body is to be raised and transformed so to be suitable for the life of the age to come, His future manifested kingdom and eternal life (Matthew 13:36-43; 47-51; 25:34,46; 1 Cor. 15:50-53).

Questions

1. Read John 5:28-29. What resurrection(s) does Jesus speak of? a. the resurrection of life [or unto eternal life]. b. the resurrection of damnation [or unto eternal punishment]. c. both a. & b.
2. Read Daniel 12:2. What resurrection(s) does Daniel 12:2 describe? a. a resurrection unto everlasting life. b. a resurrection to shame, disgrace, dishonor and everlasting contempt. c. both a. & b.
3. Read 1 Corinthians 15:44. Through the resurrection the believers natural body will be raised and changed into: a. an animal's body. b. a body of water. c. a spiritual body.
4. Read 1 Corinthians 15:42. The body we have now is said to be: a. beautiful. b. powerful. c. corruptible, that is, subject to decay, ruin or destruction.
5. Read 1 Corinthians 15:42. The believer, through the resurrection shall rise in: a. weakness. b. corruption. c. incorruption, that is, unending existence and immortality.
6. Read 1 Corinthians 15:43. The physical body is likened to planting a seed. It is planted in: a. dishonour. b. weakness. c. both a. & b. It springs up and rises in: a. glory. b. power. c. both a. & b.
7. Read Romans 8:23; Ephesians 1:13-14. For the true believer in Christ the mortal body will be raised (1 Cor. 15:44), put on (1 Cor. 15:53-54), be changed (1 Cor. 15:51 & Phil. 3:21), be fashioned (Phil. 3:21), be quickened (Rom. 8:11), be redeemed (Rom. 8:23), and will manifest all that it means to be a child of God (Rom. 8:19,23). This “change” is referred to as: a. the redemption of the body. b. the redemption of the purchased possession. c. both a. & b.
8. Read Revelation 20:12-15. The resurrection-body of the wicked is not described in scripture. They will be judged according to what they have done (Rom. 2:5-11) and cast into the lake of fire. This is referred to as: a. a bad situation. b. enjoying all my old friends. c. the second death.
9. Read 1 Corinthians 15:53; 2 Corinthians 5:4. The true child of God will through the resurrection put on: a. incorruption. b. immortality, that is, deathlessness & life. c. both a. & b.

Scriptures to use with Questions

1. **Read John 5:28-29.** [28] Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, [29] 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.
2. **Read Daniel 12:2.** [2] 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.
3. **Read 1 Corinthians 15:44.** [44] It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body.
4. **Read 1 Corinthians 15:42.** [42] So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption:
5. **Read 1 Corinthians 15:42.** [42] So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption:
6. **Read 1 Corinthians 15:43.** [43] It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power:
7. **Read Romans 8:23; Ephesians 1:13-14. Romans 8:** [23] 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. **Ephesians 1:** [13] In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, [14] Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.
8. **Read Revelation 20:12-15.** [12] And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. [13] And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. [14] And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. [15] And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.
9. **Read 1 Corinthians 15:53; 2 Corinthians 5:4. 1 Corinthians 15:** [53] For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. **2 Corinthians 5:** [4] For we that are in this tabernacle do groan, being burdened: not for that we would be unclothed, but clothed upon, that mortality might be swallowed up of life.

Answer Key – Lesson 14 The Doctrine of Christ: Resurrection of the Dead

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