

DEATH AND RESURRECTION

Greetings precious people, this week as we approach Easter I would like for us to consider “death and resurrection”, in particular the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ the Lord.

Death is something we are all painfully aware of, it comes to everyone sooner or later. We experience death as those around us pass on from this life. For many, death takes on the appearance as an end of both life and existence. This is only partly true for though life as we know it in the physical realm ceases, it continues in the realm of eternity.

Death came into the world as a result of man’s sin, rebellion against God. In Romans 5:12, “Therefore, just as through one man (Adam) sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned—“ the progression of sin is revealed in James 1:13-15, “Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempts he any man: But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it brings forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, brings forth death.”

The Word of God the Bible speaks of 2 deaths, physical and spiritual. Physical death affects the temporal human body where the spiritual affects the eternal soul of man. God had told Adam while he was in the Garden of Eden that in the day that he would eat of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil (disobey, rebel against the known will of God) he would die. Spiritual death came immediately while physical death began the moment Adam sinned. God proclaimed long ago that the soul that sins must die and because we all sin we all must die that spiritual death.

Jesus’ death upon the cross served as payment for the sentence of death that we are under because of sin. This spiritual death is known as Hell, eternal separation from God. As Jesus was suffering and dying upon the cross He cried out with a loud voice, “My God, My God, why have you forsaken Me.” Though to us it was but a span of 3 hours that dark day, in reality it was for all eternity that Jesus suffered for our sin.

Read what Jesus said to two grieving sisters at the loss of their brother named Lazarus. John 11:20-26 “Then Martha, as soon as she heard that Jesus was coming, went and met Him, but Mary was sitting in the house. Then Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that whatever You ask of God, God will give You.” Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” Martha said to Him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day.” Jesus said to her, **“I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die.** Do you believe this?”

What a wonderful promise! This promise of life eternal is true to all that will take God at His Word. Those precious ones of ours that have passed from this life having faith in Jesus Christ are alive forevermore. Those of us who are alive when Jesus returns for His bride, the Church will never see death.

I want to echo the words of Jesus to you, “Do you believe this?” Your answer will determine where you spend eternity. Look how Martha responded, John 11:27 “Yes, Lord, I believe that You are the Christ, the Son of God, who is to come into the world.”

Dear one, where do you stand on the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ? Next time we will look at the effect the resurrection of Jesus will have upon a person.

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