

DEATH AND RESURRECTION (part 2)

Greetings precious people, this week we will once again examine the subjects of “death and resurrection”, in particular the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ the Lord.

Last week we looked at how death comes to everyone and that there are two types of death, physical and spiritual. Both deaths are a result of sin, rebellion against a Holy God. Jesus’ death upon the Cross of Calvary paid the penalty for man’s sin so that whosoever would believe on Him would not experience the second death (which is Hell) but have everlasting life.

This week I would like for us to consider that which followed the death of Jesus namely the resurrection. The word of God the Bible tells us that everyone will experience the resurrection. And just as there are two deaths there are also two resurrections, one for those who place their trust in Jesus Christ and one for those who do not.

In Daniel 12:2-3, “And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, some to shame and everlasting contempt. Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the firmament, and those who turn many to righteousness like the stars forever and ever.” 1 Corinthians 15:50-54, “Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption. Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed-- in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory." And Revelation 20:5-6, “But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. 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.”

As the death of Jesus paid the penalty for sin the resurrection of Jesus breaks the power of sin for all that place their trust in Him. Sin has a strength that no human can overcome by their own power. How many times have you said, “I will never do that or say or think something ever again only to find yourself doing it? We all fail miserably no matter how sincere our good intentions may be, we just don’t have the power within us to conquer sin.

In Romans 6:14-18, “For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace. What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? Certainly not! Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one’s slaves whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness? But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered. And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.”

Many who profess to be Christians are living only on the one side of the cross (the penalty for sin side) and are failing to realize the power that is theirs in Christ to overcome temptation and sin (going to Heaven but living in bondage to sin).

This power over sin can only be realized through an absolutely surrendered life to Jesus Christ. As one surrenders him or herself completely to Jesus then the power of the

resurrected Christ begins to do a marvelous work enabling one to throw off the old works of darkness and the flesh.

So the question is: on what side of the cross are you living? Have you; are you dying daily to the old way of life and living recklessly abandoned to Jesus Christ?

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