

THE RESURRECTION OF THE DEAD

C. Stephen David | Ekklesia Evangelical Fellowship | April, 2022

Joy's illustration: When brother Yesanna passed away (August, 2012), I shared the news with my family. I told my sons (Joe 6, Joy 8) that brother Yesanna is not dead but he is asleep. On the same day, we went to my elder brother's family for a visit. I saw that there were no fish in the aquarium. When I asked, my brother's family said they were all dead. Immediately, Joy said, "No no no no, the fish are not dead; they are asleep."

Three facts of the Holy Bible:

1. **LIFE IS SHORT** (live for a few years)
 - ❖ **Psalm 90:10**, The years of our life are seventy, or even by reason of strength eighty; yet their span is but toil and trouble; they are soon gone, and we fly away.
2. **DEATH IS INEVITABLE** (naked you came and naked you leave)
 - ❖ **Ecclesiastes 8:8**, No man has power to retain the spirit, or power over the day of death.
 - ❖ **Ecclesiastes 5:15**, As he came from his mother's womb he shall go again, naked as he came, and shall take nothing for his toil that he may carry away in his hand.
3. **ETERNITY IS REAL**
 - ❖ **Daniel 12:2**, And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.

Who will rise to everlasting life and who will rise to everlasting contempt?

- ❖ **John 5:24**, Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life. *[resurrection from the dead]*

Peter and John at the Temple: Acts 4:2, And as they were speaking to the people, the priests and the captain of the temple and the Sadducees came

upon them, greatly annoyed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus **the resurrection from the dead**.

Paul's Preaching in Athens: Acts 17:32, Now when they heard of **the resurrection of the dead**, some mocked. But others said, "We will hear you again about this."

Paul Before the Council: Acts 23:6, Now when Paul perceived that one part were Sadducees and the other Pharisees, he cried out in the council, "Brothers, I am a Pharisee, a son of Pharisees. It is with respect to the hope and **the resurrection of the dead** that I am on trial."

1. The resurrection of the dead is based on the fact that Christ historically rose from the dead according to the Scripture.

❖ **I Corinthians 15:3-4**, For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins **in accordance with the Scriptures**, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day **in accordance with the Scriptures...**

Note: Paul begins with the testimony of the Scripture because there is no greater reliability than the Word of God.

2. The resurrection of the dead is based on the fact that Christ physically appeared to people after rising from the dead.

❖ **I Corinthians 15:5-8**, And that **he appeared to Cephas**, then to the **twelve**. Then he **appeared to more than five hundred brothers** at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. Then **he appeared to James, then to all the apostles**. Last of all, as to one untimely born, **he appeared also to me**.

3. If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised from the dead.

❖ **I Corinthians 15:12-13**, Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? But **if there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised**.

❖ **I Corinthians 15:16**, For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised.

Note: Our resurrection from the dead is as real as Christ's resurrection from the dead.

4. If there is no resurrection of the dead, then preaching of the gospel and believing in the gospel is in vain.

❖ **I Corinthians 15:14**, And if Christ has not been raised, then **our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain.**

❖ **I Corinthians 15:17**, And if Christ has not been raised, **your faith is futile** and you are still in your sins.

❖ **Romans 10:9**, “if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that **God raised him from the dead**, you will be saved.”

5. If there is no resurrection of the dead, then God is misrepresented as a liar.

❖ **I Corinthians 15:15**, We are even found to be **misrepresenting God**, because **we testified about God that he raised Christ**, whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised.

❖ **Luke 18:32-33**, For he will be delivered over to the Gentiles and will be mocked and shamefully treated and spit upon. And after flogging him, they will kill him, and **on the third day he will rise.** [PREDICTION OF HIS RESURRECTION]

❖ **John 11:25-26**, “I am the resurrection and the life. **Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live**, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?” [PREDICTION OF OUR RESURRECTION]

Tim Keller (pastor and author): If Jesus rose from the dead, then you have to accept all that he said; if he didn't rise from the dead, then why worry about any of what he said? The issue on which everything hangs is not whether or not you like his teaching but whether or not he rose from the dead.

6. If there is no resurrection of the dead, then believers of all are most to be pitied.

I Corinthians 15:18-19. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied.

- Resist sinful pleasures and pursue holiness
- Endure suffering with hope of eternal life
- Face persecution for the gospel

7. Our resurrected body will be in some way like Christ's resurrected body.

- ❖ **Philippians 3:20-21**, But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.
- ❖ **I Corinthians 15:42-49**, ⁴² So is it with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable; what is raised is imperishable. ⁴³ It is sown in dishonor; it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness; it is raised in power. ⁴⁴ It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body. ⁴⁵ Thus it is written, "The first man Adam became a living being";^[a] the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. ⁴⁶ But it is not the spiritual that is first but the natural, and then the spiritual. ⁴⁷ The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. ⁴⁸ As was the man of dust, so also are those who are of the dust, and as is the man of heaven, so also are those who are of heaven. ⁴⁹ Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven.

Application (both these Scriptures written to all believers in the church):

- ❖ **I Corinthians 15:58**, Therefore [conclusion of the resurrection], my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in **the work of the Lord**, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.
- ❖ **I Corinthians 16:10**, When Timothy comes, see that you put him at ease among you, for he is doing **the work of the Lord**, as I am.
- ❖ **Romans 12:11**, Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, **serve the Lord**.

What is the work of the Lord? Anything that you do for the **GLORY** of God, for the **GOOD** for His church, and for the spread of the **GOSPEL** of Christ, is the **WORK OF THE LORD**. All Christians must be abounding (exceeding) in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain. You either labor for the Lord, which will not go in vain, or not labor for the Lord, and let your life go in vain.

ILLUSTRATION:

The famous **French infidel VOLTAIRE** (died in 1778) said to his doctor, “I will give you half of what I am worth if you will give me six months’ life.”¹ The physician told him he could not live six weeks. His cries were desperate when his time was gone.

MARTYN LLOYD-JONES, two days before his death, in 1981, he wrote with a trembling hand a note to his wife and children: **“Do not pray for healing. Do not hold me back from the glory.”** The next Sunday, on March 1, he died peacefully in his sleep and entered into glory to meet the God whom he so cherished.²

What’s the difference between Voltaire and Lloyd-Jones. The former had no hope and the latter had hope.

ABU BAKR (one of the first converts to Islam, close companion and father-in-law of Muhammad and first successor of him), for example, was a prince among men, of sterling character and a true Muslim. Yet it is said of him that he was so fearful of the future and labored so much under distress that his breath was often as of a roasted liver. According to two traditions he is supposed to have said to Aisha on the day of his death, “Oh my daughter, this is the day of my release and of obtaining of my desert:—if gladness it will be lasting; if sorrow it will never cease.”

Now see what **D.L. MOODY** said: “Some day you will read in the papers that D. L. Moody, of East Northfield, is dead. Don’t you believe a word of it! At that moment I shall be more alive than I am now. I shall have gone up higher, that is all; out of this old clay tenement into a house that is immortal—a body that death cannot touch; that sin cannot taint; a body fashioned like unto his

¹ Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life, Donald Whitney, pg. 138

² Excerpt From: Lawson, Steven J. “The Passionate Preaching of Martyn Lloyd-Jones (Long Line of Godly Men Profile).” Apple Books.

glorious body. I was born of the flesh in 1837. I was born of the Spirit in 1856. That which is born of the flesh may die. That which is born of the Spirit will live forever.”