

# **FUNDAMENTAL FACTS FOR FAITHFUL FOLLOWERS**

## *Lesson Eleven* **RESURRECTION**

*If a man die, shall he live again...?*

**Job 14:14**

The question of a resurrection has troubled mankind for thousands of years.

In fact, the resurrection, for many, is still but a mystery. The Apostle Paul seems to be mightily used of God to reveal to us spiritual mysteries.

*Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,*

**1 Corinthians 15:51**

Paul, the great revealer of secrets, tells us much of the resurrection.

There is a large volume of material on the resurrection, but it seems Paul has been chosen by God to **REVEAL** intricate **DETAILS**.

Let us examine carefully I Corinthians, Chapter 15.

In verses 1 through 8, Paul tells us of the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Verses 12 through 19 reveal to us the **IMPORTANCE** of the resurrection.

*But if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen:*

*And if Christ be not risen, then is our **PREACHING** vain, and your **FAITH** is also vain.*

*And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; **YE ARE YET** in your sins.*

**1 Corinthians 15:13,14,17**

The **CERTAINTY** of the resurrection is dealt with from verses 20 through 22.

*But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the **FIRSTFRUITS** of them that slept.*

*For since **BY MAN** came death, **BY MAN** came also the resurrection of the dead.*

*For as in Adam **ALL DIE**, even so in Christ shall **ALL** be made alive.*

**1 Corinthians 15:20-22**

Paul tells the **ORDER** and **TIME** of the resurrection in verse 23.

*But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming.*

**1 Corinthians 15:23**

In verses 35 through 38, we read of the **METHOD** of resurrection.

*But some man will say, How are the dead raised up? and with what body do they come?*

*Thou fool, that which thou sowest is not quickened, except it die:*

*And that which thou sowest, thou sowest not that body **THAT SHALL BE**, but bare grain, it may chance of wheat, or of some other grain:*

*But God **GIVETH IT** a body as it hath pleased him, and to **EVERY SEED** his own body.*

**1 Corinthians 15:35-38**

And what will be the **NATURE** of the resurrected bodies?

*All flesh is not the same flesh: but there is one kind of flesh of **MEN**, another flesh of **BEASTS**, another of **FISHES**, and another of **BIRDS**.*

*So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in **CORRUPTION**; it is raised in **INCORRUPTION**:*

*It is sown in **DISHONOUR**; 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 15:39, 42-44**

The **NECESSITY** of a resurrection is also given to us in this chapter.

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*And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a **LIVING SOUL**; the last Adam was made a quickening **SPIRIT**.*

*Howbeit that was not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and **AFTERWARD** that which is spiritual.*

*The first man is of the earth, earthy: the **SECOND** man is the **LORD** from heaven.*

*As is the earthy, such are they also that are earthy: and as is the heavenly, such are they also that are heavenly.*

*And as we **HAVE BORNE** the image of the earthy, we shall **ALSO BEAR** the image of the heavenly.*

*Now this I say, brethren, that **FLESH** and **BLOOD** cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption. **1 Corinthians 15:45-50***

And then Paul reveals to us the mystery, that which before had been kept a secret.

*Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed.*

**1 Corinthians 15:51**

What is Paul telling us here? What new truth is this? This is one of the revelations God has chosen Paul to deliver, the times and manner of the resurrection. Not **EVERYONE** will die physically. **SOME** will be given resurrection bodies, or in other words, **CHANGED** from mortality to immortality, from corruptible bodies to incorruptible bodies **IN AN INSTANT**, and that **WITHOUT GOING** the way of death and the grave.

As a class, read I Thessalonians 4:13-18.

As a class, read I Corinthians 15:51-54.

Paul sums up the fifteenth chapter of I Corinthians by giving us a “Therefore,” or, in other words, “Because of this.”

*Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.*

**1 Corinthians 15:58**

Is it true then, that while our bodies are lying in the grave, waiting for the resurrection, our souls are asleep, or unconscious? Paul gives us insight into this matter also.

As a class, read II Corinthians 5:1-8

Such clear teaching wipes away all the doubt on subjects such as “soul-sleep.” It matters not what man or organization preaches, God’s Word and God’s Word alone must be our guide.

To die and be absent from the body means we go to heaven to be with the Lord.

*For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.*

**Philippians 1:21**

As a class read Revelation 6:9-11.

These and other scriptures are given to **CLEARLY SHOW US** that the inner man does not go to the **GRAVE** at death, but to **HEAVEN** if one is righteous. If a person is wicked, he goes **TO HELL** to await the resurrection of his body.

There are organizations which teach that when man dies, he **DIES LIKE** a dog, or other animal. In other words, his **BODY** goes to the ground. He knows nothing more. Those who teach this doctrine erroneously quote from the book of Ecclesiastes in an attempt to prove their point.

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As a class, read Ecclesiastes 3:18-20.

But even here, if they would continue on just one more verse, they would disprove their own false teaching.

*Who knoweth the **SPIRIT** of man that goeth **UPWARD**, and the **SPIRIT** of the **BEAST** that goeth **DOWNWARD** to the earth? **Ecclesiastes 3:21***

Also, there is a **FIRST** resurrection, and a **SECOND** resurrection.

The **first** resurrection is for the **BELIEVERS** who lived a holy life here on earth.

As a class, read Revelation 20:4-6.

The **SECOND** resurrection is to bring the **DEAD** up **FROM HELL** to stand before the great white throne for this final judgment, and then the wicked dead will be cast into the lake of fire that God calls the second death.

As a class, read Revelation 20:11-15.

Let me remind you here that the second death is not talking about annihilation. Some, because of their aversion and great **FEAR** of hell, have **INVENTED** a **DOCTRINE** called annihilation, which teaches that the wicked will **SIMPLY** be **DESTROYED** and **NEVER KNOW ANYTHING** after that destruction.

In their desire to flee, **NOT** from hell, but from **THE TEACHINGS** of hell, they have invented a doctrine to soothe their conscience. However, that doctrine is **TOTALLY FALSE**. We need only to consult divine scripture to debunk that foolish doctrine.

As a class, read Revelation 14:9-11; Mark 9: 43-48; Revelation 14:10; Isaiah 66:22-24.

Some will protest, saying, **HOW CAN WE BE HAPPY** if we know some of our loved ones are in torment? Here is where the great wisdom and power of God proves itself to be sufficient.

The **PURPOSE** of this opening to hell, or the lake of fire, will be to cause coming generations to abhor sin and its consequences. When men **CAN SEE** into hell, it will be a **GREAT WARNING** to them to continue to walk in the ways of God. As horrifying as this thought may seem to us now, let us not **DOUBT THE WISDOM** of God as He prepares His plan to keep eternal generations in line with His laws and commandments.

Again I say, it matters not what men and their organizations teach, God's Word and **GOD'S WORD ALONE** must be our guide.

*As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed. **Galatians 1:9***

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