

## GREAT BIBLE TRUTHS



### 25. The Last Things (2)

#### An Introduction

As believers we have a glorious hope! That is the hope of the resurrection. Christ will come again to take his church to be with him forever. Those who have previously died will be raised first, and then those who are alive at the time, will be caught up to be with him. All believers will be transformed, receiving their new resurrection body. Some believe this will only take place when Christ returns to earth at his second coming, while others believe the rapture will take place earlier. Here are some scriptures that speak about the resurrection: Matthew 24:31, John 14:2-3, 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, 1 Corinthians 15:51-53.

#### 1. GENERAL RESURRECTION

- The Old Testament speaks about the resurrection. Isaiah 26:19, Daniel 12:2
- The New Testament gives proof of the resurrection. John 5:25-29, 1 Corinthians 15
- The Apostle Paul says the resurrection is fundamental to the Gospel. 1 Corinthians 15:12-13, 23
- Those who have done good will be raised to life, while those who have done evil will be raised to judgement. John 5:28-29

#### 2. RESURRECTION OF BELIEVERS TO ETERNAL LIFE

For a believer there are three stages to our lives.

##### a. Present Experience of Life in Christ

We already share in the resurrection life of the Lord Jesus, although we are still subject to physical death. Ephesians 2:5-7, Colossians 3:1-3. Our eternal life began when we were born again and the Spirit of God came to live within us. John 5:24

##### b. State Between Death and Resurrection of the Body

Jesus was crucified between two criminals. One mocked Jesus, but the other asked Jesus to remember him when he went to his Kingdom, and Jesus replied that he would be with him that very day in Paradise. The Apostle Paul also spoke of being absent from the body and present with the Lord. When a believer dies their spirit immediately goes to be with the Lord, while their body is sleeping. Here are some scriptures to look at: Matthew 9:24, Luke 23:43, Acts 7:59-60, Philippians 1:23

##### c. Final State in Heaven

When Christ comes at the rapture, believers who have died will be raised, and all who are alive, will be caught up to be with him and receive a glorified resurrection body.

##### **What will this new body be like?**

- It will be different to our present body. 1 Corinthians 15:35-36
- It will be imperishable, immortal and a spiritual body, raised in glory and power, to bear the image of Christ. 1 Corinthians 15:42-44, 49, 53
- Just as Christ was raised and received a new body, so will we. 1 John 3:2, Philippians 3:21

- There will be a similarity between our present body and our glorified one.
- Immortality belongs to God alone. In his grace he has chosen to give this to those who believe in him. 1 Timothy 1:17, 6:16 cf. 1 Corinthians 15:50-54

### **3. RESURRECTION OF UNBELIEVERS TO ETERNAL PUNISHMENT**

This is spoken about in Daniel 12:3, John 5:29 and Revelation 20:11-13. In our final study we will see what happens to those who have chosen not to believe.

As believers we do not need to fear death. What a tremendous privilege to know Christ! We already have the assurance that we will be with him forever.



*What difference should it make to our lives knowing that one day we will be raised from the dead? 1 Corinthians 15:58*



**Although we do not know the day or the hour when Jesus will come for those who belong to him, we know he will surely come. At that moment, all those who have died in Christ will be raised from the dead, and those who are alive will be caught up to be with him forever. We will receive a new body like his. Let us always live – ready!**