

The Easy Bible Truth



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Christadelphians

The Resurrection

Many people believe in a life or reward after death. But what does God's Holy Word teach us on this matter?

The Bible teaches us that there will be a resurrection. Resurrection means an arising. This is the message of hope that the Bible shares with us.

This pamphlet will set out to prove that the resurrection is the hope of many that have died, and to show why it is the one true hope of those who follow Christ.

The resurrection of Christ is in itself the perfect example of what does happen to those who die and are buried in the one hope of the resurrection. 1 Corinthians 15:12-21:

"Now if Christ be preached that he rose from the dead, how say some among you that there is no resurrection of the dead? 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. Yea, and we are found false witnesses of God; because we have testified of God that he raised up Christ: whom he raised not up, if so be that the dead rise not. For if the dead rise not, then is not Christ raised: And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins. Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished. If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable. 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."

The Bible states in the passage above that if Christ had not risen, then all of Christianity has no hope. We note in verse 20 the expression "them that slept"; they are sleeping the deep sleep of death and are dead until called to the resurrection. Christ is the firstfruits of all those who believe and who are asleep in the graves. Upon his return they will be raised from the dead to the judgment seat of Christ, and if found worthy, will be rewarded with eternal life. (See Pamphlet 12, Judgment)

We are clearly told in Scripture that only those who have come into contact and have some knowledge of the message of God will be raised. Psalm 49:20

"Man that is in honour, and understandeth not, is like the beasts that perish."

Those that do not have this knowledge of God's plan and purpose will remain in their graves. They are dead forever. They shall not live again. Even their memory has perished. It is as though they never lived.

And 1 Thessalonians 4:13-15 tells us: *"But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep."*

This Resurrection is the Gospel hope - literally the one hope of mankind. Without the hope of the resurrection, it would be a hopeless state of affairs for every human on this earth. It holds hope for the future in an otherwise hopeless age.

Christ tells us in John 6:39

"And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day."

So he will raise those who have known of him when he returns to the earth. The reward or punishment will then be the subject of the Judgment.

The Bible can show us how to learn and have an opportunity to be part of that wonderful future promise of the Kingdom.