

If Ye Be Risen

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Colossians. 3:1 If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.

Romans 6:8-9 Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him: Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him.

I. Death is because of sin, and so death cannot be conquered until sin has been conquered.

Romans 5:12 Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:

Romans 6:22-23 But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life. For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

- A. It seems that many have a concept of salvation as though it were a free debit card or a legal arrangement where we can continue to sin, but its effects and consequences are paid for or voided.
 - B. But... “sin, when it is finished bringeth forth death.” (James 1:15)
 - C. Jesus came and conquered sin and death; not just death, and we do not want to forget that today.
 - D. Many are talking about and celebrating the resurrection of Christ today who continue to live in the bondage of sin.
 - 1. This is hypocrisy and deception; if sin has not been conquered in your soul by the Atonement Christ provided through his death, then you are not resurrected with Christ and have no hope of eternity with God.
 - E. We cannot identify with Him or claim our part in his resurrection unless we also identify with his holy life and his death on the cross.
 - F. To claim one without the other is to deceive ourselves, and it will cost us our soul.
- II. God is not a reality to most people – even those who profess to know Him.
- A. To most people God is, in practice, nothing more than an abstract thought – not actually where they live and move and have their being.
 - B. Most people come to church and get him out and look at him, then put him away again.
 - 1. Then they go out the door to their own life where they are the ruler and king of their own universe.
 - C. Their religion is just an overlay of their life, not the very essence of their life.
 - 1. People use God like they use Google or Youtube now; just to find answers, make money, or seek pleasure.
 - D. It is a plan for living they simply use to accomplish and get what they want out of life.
 - 1. Some want happiness and peace and find it in a measure by practicing some form of religion and/or isolating themselves from the world around them.

2. Many are after pleasure and driven by pride and use religion as a vehicle to satisfy their desires and their ego.

III. True salvation is about KNOWING God and also about God KNOWING you.

- A. This speaks of an intimate personal relationship.
 1. Not a casual acquaintance
 2. Not just a friendly feeling toward God and sympathy toward his cause.
 3. Not just aligning yourself with the people of God and the church.
- B. It is about having an intimate relationship with the TRUE God of the Bible – not making up your own idea of what God is like, or what you would like him to be and worshipping that idolatrous image you set up in your heart.

IV. All of God's creation is made after the same pattern.

- A. The whole creation is designed to show us the true God and the way to find him.

Romans 1:20 For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, *even* his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:

- B. Our physical life is sustained by the death of another life. (ie, all our food)
- C. So obviously, in this sin-cursed world, death PRECEEDS life.

John 12:24 Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit.

John 12:25 He that loveth his life shall lose it; and he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal.

- D. Sin has separated man from God, who is the source of life, and so death reigns.
- E. No one will EVER know God until there is a death of the old life.
- F. There can be no resurrected life until there is a death of the old.

Death – That state of a being, animal or vegetable, but more particularly of an animal, in which there is a total and permanent cessation of all the vital functions, when the organs have not only ceased to act, but have lost the susceptibility of renewed action. Thus the cessation of respiration and circulation in an animal may not be death, for during hybernation some animals become entirely torpid, and some animals and vegetables may be subjected to a fixed state by frost, but being capable of revived activity, they are not dead. – Webster's 1828

- G. Death is NOT self-denial – it is the END of self-rule and self-determination completely.
- H. There must also be a burial of the old self.

Bury – To cover with earth, as seed sown. To forget and forgive; to hide in oblivion. – Webster's 1828

- I. ONLY then can there be a resurrected life – a life where God is a reality and not an abstract idea.

Romans 6:3-7 Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also *in the likeness* of *his* resurrection: Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with *him*, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. For he that is dead is freed from sin.

V. There IS a resurrected life!

Matthew 9:17 Neither do men put new wine into old bottles: else the bottles break, and the wine runneth out, and the bottles perish: but they put new wine into new bottles, and both are preserved.

- A. God doesn't remake the old – He makes ALL THINGS NEW!

Galatians 2:20 I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

- B. Being a child of God is not about death – it is about a resurrected life.
1. "I die daily" is not speaking of the death of the old man, it is about Paul facing death every day of his life at the hands of God's enemies.
2. That is a misrepresentation of God and the gospel that has caused many people to misunderstand and reject God's redemption.
- C. There is a life where you can SEE and UNDERSTAND things that most other people can't.

John 14:21 He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him.

Manifest – Plain, open, clearly visible to the eye or obvious to the understanding; apparent; not obscure or difficult to be seen or understood – *Webster's 1828*

- D. There is a life where God does things for your soul that are real.
1. Personal things that sustain you and nourish your soul
2. Personal things that comfort and strengthen your heart
3. Special things that just let you know that He is there and He is real and He loves you
- E. There is a life where God really moves and He really touches you.
- F. There is a life where there is no doubt whatsoever about God and you can only laugh and wonder at all the infidels and their foolish reasoning against God.
- G. There is a resurrected life where there is strength for every trial, comfort in every distress and provision for every need.

But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.

2 Corinthians 4:7-12 *We are* troubled on every side, yet not distressed; *we are* perplexed, but not in despair; Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed; Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body. For we which live are always delivered unto death for Jesus' sake, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh. So then death worketh in us, but life in you.