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The significance of the Resurrection of Christ Pt2 By it we have hope of eternal life in heaven

This is our second study on the significance of the resurrection. In our previous study we established – (1) Jesus is declared the Son of God by His resurrection, (2) We are justified by His resurrection, and (3) baptism saves us by the resurrection. In this study we establish three points –(1) We have a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Our three points established from the scriptures –

1. By one Spirit we are baptized into one body by the resurrection.

“For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit” (1 Cor. 12: 13).

“The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ” (1 Pet.3: 21).

This point is essentially point 3 from our previous teaching. However, in this study we have focused on the verse from 1Cor.12: 13 – “by one Spirit we are all baptized into one body” and used 1Pet.3: 21 to show that our baptism into the body is by the resurrection. In addition – by reiterating this point we have an opportunity to consider material prepared by another brother – see below and attached study.

“The believer

“By the resurrection of Jesus Christ” (when “the Spirit” was “given”) “by faith” and “by grace” a believer is “saved from” God’s “condemnation”, “wrath” and destruction “in hell” when he is “baptized into Jesus Christ” “by one Spirit”, this is “the answer of (“faith and”) a good conscience toward God” and doesn’t require God or us, prior to being saved, to put “away of the filth of the flesh”, (“the ungodly” of the world) as in Noah’s case (that happens when he is “baptized into Jesus Christ” and spiritually “circumcised”).

Remember

The “figure” is only “like” or similar to the real, it is not an exact replication.

Three by itself is just a figure and has no meaning at all (three what?), until you have something real e.g. three apples.

Baptism is just a “figure” of the real : your salvation “into Christ”, his death, burial and resurrection and this is “like” the account of Noah”.

2. We have been begotten by a lively hope by the resurrection.

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead” (1 Pet.1: 3).

According to the context that hope is an inheritance–

* incorruptible and undefiled, that does not fade away

“To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away...” (1 Pet.1: 4).

* reserved in heaven for you

“To an inheritance incorruptible...reserved in heaven for you” (1 Pet.1: 4).

Such an inheritance is affirmed in other scriptures that our lively hope by the resurrection of Christ is our own resurrection. Christ is “the firstfruits of them that slept” (1 Cor.15: 20) and the promise to them “that are Christ's at his coming” (1Cor 15:23).

* The Father will quicken our mortal bodies by HIS Spirit that dwells us!!
“But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you” (Rom.8: 11).

Our resurrection is to –

* everlasting life – Jn 6:40 “And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day”.

* eternal life (Jn.6: 54) in heaven, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens – “For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens” (2 Cor.5: 1).

But our hope is not just that we will be raised to eternal life, but that the unjust will also be raised from the dead – only theirs will be to judgment.
“And have hope toward God, which they themselves also allow, that there shall be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and unjust” (Acts 24:15),

3. The second death has no power over those who are in Christ by His resurrection.

“Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years” (Rev.20: 6), c.f. – “And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death” (Rev.20: 14).

The second death is set at the great white throne judgment (Rev.20: 11) where “the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is [the book] of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works” (verse 12), “And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death” (Rev.20: 14).

Illustration

At funerals of non-believers there is a morbid uncertainty over death, and sense of not knowing where the deceased is, but ignorantly hoping they are in a better place. To most, death is physical cessation of life – the body dies, so is the person.

Question to think about.

Why is the funeral of a Christian so different?

Answer from the scriptures

To those who are baptized into the body of Christ by the resurrection of Christ there is a lively hope by the resurrection. Hope that we will receive a new spiritual body (1Cor 15: 44), being raised “incorruptible, and we shall be changed” *(1Cor.15: 52), be raised to a heavenly inheritance – eternal life, an house not made with hands, in the heavens.

Let us rejoice in the resurrection of Christ, for by it we know that we have no part in the second death and we have a lively hope of our resurrection! Amen!