

Life's Ultimate Issues
Our Bright Future-Resurrection
April 21, 2019

Easter is one of those times on our calendar when people may think about the ultimate issues of life...**where did I come from** (origins—the Marvel Universe is big on making movies about the origins of their superheroes)...**why am I here** (purpose—answering the question what is my life for is the key to answering the question what can I do with my life)...**where am I headed** (destiny—that's such a huge question and it can be answered in such drastically different ways.

Every person here today possess a body and a soul. When we die, our body is buried, but our should continues to live on. **Resurrection is the idea that one day, our bodies and our souls will be reunited** and here's what that does...

Resurrection makes eternity **REAL** in the end!

John 5:25-29 – 25 “Truly, truly, I say to you, an hour is coming, and is now here, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. 26 For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself. 27 And he has given him authority to execute judgment, because he is the Son of Man. 28 Do not marvel at this, for an hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear his voice 29 and come out, those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to the resurrection of judgment.

Our future resurrection is...

1. Guaranteed by the **RESURRECTION OF JESUS**. 1 Corinthians 15:3-8

“[The resurrection of the body] is the Christian's brightest hope. Many believers make a mistake when they long to die and long for Heaven. Those things may be desirable, but they are not the ultimate for the saints. The saints in Heaven are perfectly free from sin and, so far as they are capable of it, are perfectly happy. But a disembodied spirit never can be perfect until it is reunited to its body. God made man not pure spirit but body and spirit, and the spirit alone will never be content until it sees its physical frame raised to its own condition of holiness and glory. Think not that our longings here below are not shared in by the saints in Heaven. They do not groan so far as any pain can be, but they long with greater intensity than you and I for the ‘adoption ... the redemption of our bodies.’— Charles Spurgeon

1 Corinthians 15:3-8 – 3 For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, 4 that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, 5 and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. 6 Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. 7 Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. 8 Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me.

“Thou wilt come to raise my body from the dust, and re-unite it to my soul, by a wonderful work of infinite power and love, greater than that which bounds the ocean's waters, ebbs and flows the tides, keeps the stars in their courses, and gives life to all creatures.”

“Valley of Vision: A Collection of Puritan Prayers and Devotions”

There are apparently different kinds of resurrections and they are...

2. Different based on a person's **RESPONSE TO JESUS**. Revelation 20:4-6, 11-15

Revelation 20:4-6 — *4 Then I saw thrones, and seated on them were those to whom the authority to judge was committed. Also I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for the testimony of Jesus and for the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or its image and had not received its mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. 5 The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended. This is the first resurrection. 6 Blessed and holy is the one who shares in the first resurrection! Over such the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ, and they will reign with him for a thousand years.*

Being a part of the first resurrection is good. If you're a part of this kind of resurrection, you will experience the blessing of God. You are identified as belonging to God and you will love Him, serve Him and enjoy Him forever. That's what John's writing about in these verses. But that's not all he saw...

Revelation 20:11-15 — *11 Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. From his presence earth and sky fled away, and no place was found for them. 12 And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Then another book was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done. 13 And the sea gave up the dead who were in it, Death and Hades gave up the dead who were in them, and they were judged, each one of them, according to what they had done. 14 Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. 15 And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.*

The third statement I want to make this Easter is that the possibility of a resurrection is a...

3. Motivation to **REFLECT THE LIFE OF JESUS**. 1 Corinthians 15:29-34

1 Corinthians 15:29-34 — *29 Otherwise, what do people mean by being baptized on behalf of the dead? If the dead are not raised at all, why are people baptized on their behalf? 30 Why are we in danger every hour? 31 I protest, brothers, by my pride in you, which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die every day! 32 What do I gain if, humanly speaking, I fought with beasts at Ephesus? If the dead are not raised, "Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die." 33 Do not be deceived: "Bad company ruins good morals." 34 Wake up from your drunken stupor, as is right, and do not go on sinning. For some have no knowledge of God. I say this to your shame.*

If our physical death is the end, then enjoying the moment and living for yourself would really be all that matters. But **death is not the end and in the end, we don't go to Heaven, Heaven comes to us. And when we experience our own resurrection, it will make eternity REAL for us.**

I'm so glad you are here for Easter. I'd like to ask you to do a couple of things for me this Easter regardless of where you are in your own faith. **First**, consider the possibility of resurrection and the implications of your body being reunited with your soul for all eternity. And then **second**, contemplate the eternal that is made **REAL** because of the resurrection. You may actually find

confidence for your future, compassion for those still far away from God and courage to face the difficult days in this life.

Let's talk about clearing up misunderstandings...

1. If you believed that your body was going to be reunited to your soul at some point after you died, how would that change the way you are living today?
2. If you believed that Jesus really did come back to life on the third day after He died, what would that mean for the way you live your life today?
3. How does resurrection make eternity real for you?