

San Juan Church of Christ

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What does God's Word Say About...

Life Beyond the Grave

The principle doctrine of Christianity is the teaching of Jesus about life after death. Most religions have some kind of "hope" about life after death. Only Christianity has evidence of life after death through the resurrection of Jesus. The apostles were eye-witnesses of the resurrection of Jesus after "He was buried, and He was raised on the third day according to the scriptures" (1 Cor. 15:4-8). Because of this eye-witness account the apostles were willing to give up their lives to preach the truth of Jesus' resurrection from the grave.

Jesus not only taught of the resurrection, but He prophesied of it and then demonstrated it. If you take away the resurrection of Jesus, Christianity will crumble into nothing. The apostle Paul wrote of Christ's resurrection which is our hope as disciples of Jesus. "But if there is no resurrection of the dead, not even Christ has been raised; and if Christ has not been raised, then our [apostles] preaching is in vain, your faith also is in vain...For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised; and if Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins" (1 Cor. 15:13-19).

The worldly minded person lives primarily for this life and indulges in all fleshly desires. He attempts to fulfill all the temporal appetites of this physical and material world. Such a person measures success in what he can "lay up" for himself on earth. Their thought is that you have only one life to live so get all you can out of it.

The Christian has a different attitude, realizing that life is short and eternity is sure. James wrote "you do not know what your life will be like tomorrow. You are just a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away" (James 4:14). Jesus said, "For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?" (Matt. 16:26).

Some day all faithful and obedient Christians will follow the glory of Christ when we rise from the dead to the resurrection of an eternal life in heaven. As Paul wrote: "Oh death, where is your victory? Oh death, where is your sting? The sting of death is sin and the power of sin is the law; but thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Cor. 15:55-57).

Just before Jesus was crucified He told the twelve disciples: "Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. If I go to prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also" (John 14:1-3).

When we live as the word of God directs, we have His assurance that we will live with Him forever in that place called "heaven" (Hebrews 6:19,20).

Please send any comments, questions, or requests for a Bible study to:
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