

Life after Death Part 7

Christ Second Coming

The Resurrection of the Dead and the Rapture

Christ will return at the appointed time of God. We cannot predict the time and it is not for us to know the time for that. The disciples asked Jesus about that but He denied them the privilege to let them know which time He will come as we read here: ***“6 When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel? 7 And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power.” (Acts 1:6-7 KJV)***

Apostle Paul described to us about Christ second coming and His descend from Heaven and how those who are dead in Christ shall accompany His descent and then later on, we who are still alive will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. ***“13 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. 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. 15 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. 16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: 17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. 18 Wherefore comfort one another with these words.” (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 KJV)*** So when Christ will descend, first the dead in Christ will rise from the dead with their resurrected spiritual bodies, then we who are still alive will be changed to spiritual bodies and will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air and be forever with Him.

About the non believers (the wicked) who are dead they will not be resurrected at this time of His second coming. They will be still remaining in hell till the time of the final judgment when they will stand in front of the great white throne of God for judgment to be condemned and forever.

Paul spoke more about the resurrection of the dead: ***“39 All flesh is not the same flesh: but there is one kind of flesh of men, another flesh of beasts, another of fishes, and another of birds. 40 There are also celestial bodies, and bodies terrestrial: but the glory of the celestial is one, and the glory of the terrestrial is another.*** (There are Heavenly spiritual bodies (whom he called them celestial bodies) and there are earthly natural bodies (whom he called terrestrial bodies). We are born and die with earthly natural bodies, but when we rise up, we will raise up with spiritual Heavenly bodies). ***41 There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars: for one star differeth from another star in glory. 42 So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption: 43 It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power: 44 It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body.*** (The earthly natural bodies are weak corruptible, are in dishonor, and need to be care off,

fed, bathed, teeth brushed, and treated from sickness. But the Heavenly spiritual bodies are strong, incorruptible, are in glory, and do not need care). ***45 And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit.*** (The natural earthly bodies we got from Adam through our parents, but the spiritual Heavenly bodies we got them through our faith in Christ). ***46 Howbeit that was not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterward that which is spiritual.*** (First we are born by the natural earthly bodies, then we die with natural earthly bodies, but when we will be resurrected we will be resurrected with the glorious incorruptible strong and everlasting Heavenly spiritual bodies). ***47 The first man is of the earth, earthy; the second man is the Lord from heaven. 48 As is the earthy, such are they also that are earthy: and as is the heavenly, such are they also that are heavenly. 49 And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly. 50 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption. 51 Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,*** (This here Paul was speaking about us, we who are still alive at the second coming of the Lord). ***52 In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.*** (At the descending of Christ and at the last trumpet call of God when the righteous dead will raise up from the dead with their Heavenly spiritual bodies, when their soul will unite again with their bodies, then we after them, who are still alive, will be changed in a moment, in a twinkle of eye, we shall be changed from earthly natural bodies to Heavenly spiritual bodies, and meeting with them the Lord in the air). ***53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. 54 So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.*** (When this will take place being having put on the incorruption and the immortal, then death is swallowed up). ***(1 Corinthians 15:39-54 KJV)*** And that also what Paul described in Romans, when He spoke that we are waiting earnestly for the redemption of our bodies; to loss the earthy natural body and to put on the Heavenly spiritual body, ***“22 For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now. 23 And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body.” (Romans 8:22-23 KJV)***

In Philippians Apostle Paul said, ***“10 That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death; 11 If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead.” (Philippians 3:10-11 KJV)*** In verse 10 Paul was longing to pass the experience of the resurrection of the body and put forward his readiness to pass through the suffering of Christ even to the point of death, so he can pass through the experience of the resurrection of the body. In verse 11 Paul had set his heart upon Heaven as his happiness: ***“If by any means I might attain to the resurrection of the dead.”*** He wanted to pass through suffering and death in order to attain the resurrection of the dead through Christ Jesus our Lord. The happiness to be in Heaven is called here the resurrection of the dead, because, though the souls of the righteous, when they depart, are immediately with Christ, yet their bliss will not be complete till the general resurrection of the bodies of the dead at His second coming, when soul and body shall be united and glorified together.

There will be also in another time the resurrection of the unjust, who shall resurrected later on, but to shame and everlasting contempt; and our care must be to escape that: **We should repent of all our sins and depart from evil and wickedness to escape the condemnation of God to the wicked.** But the joyful and glorious resurrection of the saints is called the resurrection of life, as Christ's resurrection back to life, who is our head and first-fruits.

But the wicked shall rise only by the power of Christ, as their judge and for judgment. To the saints it will be indeed a resurrection, a return to bliss, and life, and glory; while the resurrection of the wicked is a rising from the grave, but a return to a second death. For the righteous or the just the resurrection is called the resurrection of life, in contrary to the resurrection of damnation to the wicked as we read here, ***"And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation."* (John 5:29 KJV)** The righteous are counted worthy to obtain that eternal world and the resurrection from the dead, ***"But they which shall be accounted worthy to obtain that world, and the resurrection from the dead, neither marry, nor are given in marriage."* (Luke 20:35 KJV)** This joyful resurrection the apostle was pressed towards to attain. He was willing to do anything, or suffer anything, that he might attain that resurrection. The hope and prospect of it carried him with so much steadfastness and faithfulness to attain it inspite of all the difficulties he met with in his life and ministry unto Christ. Paul spoke about that resurrection as if he was in danger of missing it, and coming short of it, for he was so earnest to attain it.

Observe here, that Paul care to be found in Christ in order for him to attain the resurrection of life. ***"10 That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death; 11 If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead."* (Philippians 3:10-11 KJV)** Paul himself did not hope to attain it through his own merit and righteousness, but through the merit and righteousness of Jesus Christ. As if Paul was saying: ***"Let me be found in Christ, let me be found as a believer in Him, interested in Him by faith and in his suffering, even to the point of death, that I may attain the resurrection of life,"*** **A holy fear of coming short of attaining the resurrection of life was an excellent means of perseverance for Paul, and that is the strategy that we should adopt in our life and ministry in order to secure the resurrection of life.**

"12 Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus."* (Philippians 3:12 KJV)** Apostle Paul actions were under this conviction that he had not already attained nor apprehended nor grasped the resurrection of life, therefore he pressed forward when he said, ***"I follow after", which is in Greek is 'dioko', which means I pursue with vigour, or to run swiftly to catch a person as one following after in the racing game. As if he was saying ***'I endeavour to get more grace to do better, and never think I have done enough, so that I may capture that for which also I am held by Christ Jesus.'***

***"13 Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before."* (Philippians 3:13 KJV)** This one thing I do (this was Paul great care and concern), forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth to those

things which are ahead of him. There is a sinful forgetting of past sins and past mercies, which ought to be remembered for the exercise of constant repentance and thankfulness to God. **We need to forget to take advantage of the grace of God and to forget to abuse the mercies of God that is why we need to be in continuous state of repentance and in continuous state of thankfulness for the mercies of God.** Paul forgot the things which were behind so not to be content with all what he achieved in the past. But he was looking forward to achieve further and to reach forward to the goals that are set before him that he not yet achieved. He was still having more and more things to do which were ahead of him. So he reached forth, and stretched himself forward as he said, ***"14 I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."* (Philippians 3:14 KJV)**

Paul pressed towards the mark of the end of the race, and was still moving forwards as fast as he can; as those who have Heaven in their eye, and we among them, must still be pressing forward to it in holy desires and hopes, and constant endeavors and preparations. Even you are with much troubles and limitation do your assignments well and do as much as your maximum allowing you to do, and continue to serve Christ and as much as you can and live your life for Him.

***"15 Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded: and if in any thing ye be otherwise minded, God shall reveal even this unto you."* (Philippians 3:15 KJV)** The apostle, having proposed himself as an perfect example, urges the Philippians to follow it. **Dear Brethren, let the same mind be in us which was in blessed Paul. We see here how he was perfect; therefore let us be like-minded, and set our hearts upon Christ and Heaven, as he did.**

***"16 Nevertheless, whereto we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us mind the same thing."* (Philippians 3:16 KJV)** **Let us agree to press towards the mark of the end, to Heaven, and make Heaven our end. Whatever difficulties and pain those are putting on us, let us make Heaven our goal and bear till we reach there.**

***"17 Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an ensample."* (Philippians 3:17 KJV)** Paul set himself and his brethren for an example, in opposition to these evil examples. **In the same way we need to do our best to go along people who had set Heaven as a goal to reach. For many who are evil doers and we should avoid them. *"(For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ."* (Philippians 3:18 KJV)** Paul warned them against following the examples of seducers and evil teachers, ***"Whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things.)"* (Philippians 3:19 KJV)** Who are after the things of this world that are pleasure, treasure and fame. **I warn you my brethren and my sisters to be aware and avoid those whose God is their belly and had set their minds on pleasure, treasure and fame, and do not let them deceive you and deviate you from pressing forward to reach Heaven.**

"20 For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ."* (Philippians 3:20 KJV)** Paul explained himself by their regard to Christ and Heaven when he said, ***"For our conversation is in heaven". **Observe: Good Christians even while they are here on earth, have their conversation in Heaven; their citizenship is there, and we among them. Our conversation is in Heaven; waiting for the second coming of**

Christ to come from Heaven and take us. Because at the second coming of Christ we expect is to be happy and glorified there. Therefore there is good reason to have our conversation in Heaven, not only because Christ is now there, but because we hope to be there shortly.

“21 Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.” (Philippians 3:21 KJV) Who shall change our vile bodies, that we may be fashioned like unto His glorious body. There is a glory reserved for the bodies of the saints, which they will be instated in at the resurrection. The body is now at the best a vile body. It has its rise and origin from the earth, it is supported out of the earth, (food drink, cloth, shoes and bed) and is subject to many diseases and to death at last. Besides, it is often the occasion and instrument of much sin, which is called the body of this death as we read here, ***“24 O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?” (Romans 7:24 KJV)*** Or it may be understood of its vileness when it lies in the grave; at the death of it will be found a vile body, resolved into rottenness and dust; the dust will return to the earth as it was, ***“7 Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it.” (Ecclesiastes 12:7 KJV)*** But at its resurrection will be made a glorious body; and not only raised again to life, but raised to great advantage. Observe that the sample of this change is the glorious body of Christ; when He was transfigured upon the mount, His face did shine as the sun, and His raiment was white as the light, ***“2 And was transfigured before them: and his face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light.” (Matthew 17:2 KJV)*** He went to Heaven clothed with a body, that He might take possession of the inheritance in our nature, and be not only the first-born from the dead, but the first-born of the children of the resurrection. We shall be conformed to the image of His Son, that He may be the first-born among many brethren, ***“29 For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.” (Romans 8:29 KJV)*** The power by which this change will be wrought is by His power: According to the working whereby He is able even to subdue all things unto Himself. There is an efficacy of power, an exceeding greatness of power, and the working of mighty power as we read here, ***“19 And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power” (Ephesians 1:19 KJV)*** It is a matter of comfort to us that He can subdue all things to Himself, and sooner or later will bring over all into His interest. And the resurrection will be wrought by this power as He said, ***“44 No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.” (John 6:44 KJV)*** ***Let this confirm our faith of the resurrection, that we not only have the Scriptures, which assure us it shall be, but we know the power of God, which can do it as we can read here, “29 Jesus answered and said unto them, Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God.” (Matthew 22:29 KJV)*** As Christ’s resurrection was a glorious instance of the divine power, and therefore He is declared to be the Son of God with power, by the resurrection from the dead as we read here, ***“4 And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead.” (Romans 1:4 KJV)*** So and in the same way will our resurrection be: and His resurrection is a standing evidence, as well as pattern, of ours. And then all the enemies of the Redeemer’s Kingdom will be completely conquered. Not only he who had the power of death, that is, the devil as we read here, ***“14 Forasmuch then as the children are***

partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil.” (Hebrews 2:14 KJV), but the last enemy, shall be destroyed, that is, death as we read here, ***“26 The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death.” (1 Corinthians 15:26 KJV)*** Death shall be swallowed up in victory as we read here, ***“54 So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.” (1 Corinthians 15:54 KJV)***

As Christ would come and take up His church, and we among them, then the period of tribulation will start on earth. God will start to send His wrath to punish the wicked. Satan will also be more active because he knew his time is near to end. During the period of tribulation, the Holy Spirit will also be working, and there will be also opportunity for repentance and for salvation for those who are willing to suffer the persecution that would be heavy at this period and will end up most of them with death to prove their belongings to Christ.

There are different views about the tribulation in regard to the rapture. Some they think that the rapture will take place after the tribulation. But if we believe in such it means we believe that both the righteous and the wicked will pass through the tribulation and in such situation the righteous and their obedience to Christ will not be rewarded, for the righteous and the wicked are allowed to pass through the same tribulation.

But as we described above that after the Lord would return and catch the saint who are still alive, and we among them, and meeting us in the air the tribulation would come. That is a just and fair view in the light of the Scriptures in which the righteous will be rewarded for his obedience by being spared from the period of the tribulation. ***That is why we teach the disciples to live in holiness, in obedience to Christ and to His Word, so when He will come they will be taken with us meeting the Lord in the air and spared the tribulation period.*** And those who are non believing and those who are not willing to repent and mend their ways they will be left behind and face the troublesome period in which God would send His wrath and in which Satan will multiply his works with all deceptions in order to deceive as much as he can to bring them with him to eternal fire.

My dear and beloved: Let us put into practice what we had studied in this message and apply in our lives. ***Let us repent of all our sins and depart from evil and wickedness to escape the condemnation of God to the wicked.***

Let us not take advantage of the grace of God and His mercies and to continue into the state of repentance and in continuous state of thankfulness for the mercies of God.

We who have Heaven in our eyes must still be pressing forward to it in holy desires and hopes, and constant endeavors and preparations. Even we are with much troubles and limitation we need to do our assignments well and as much as we can, and to continue to serve Christ and as much as we can and live our lives for Him.

Let us agree to press towards the mark of the end, to Heaven, and make Heaven our end. Whatever difficulties and pain those are putting on us, let us make Heaven our goal and bear till we reach there.

Let us do our best to go along people who had set Heaven as a goal to reach. For many who are evil doers and we should avoid them. I warn you my brethren and my sisters to be aware and avoid those whose God is their belly and had set their minds on pleasure, treasure and fame, and do not let them deceive you and deviate you from pressing forward to reach Heaven.

Our conversation in Heaven; waiting for the second coming of Christ to come from Heaven and take us. Because at the second coming of Christ we expect is to be happy and glorified there. Therefore there is good reason to have our conversation in Heaven, not only because Christ is now there, but because we hope to be there shortly.

Let this message that we receive confirm our faith of the resurrection of life that when Christ will come will change our bodies to Heavenly bodies and we will meet him in the air. Let the Scriptures that we receive today and the power of God assure us that this will take place as we press on forward as set our hearts upon Christ and Heaven, ***“20 For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ.” (Philippians 3:20 KJV)***

My prayer: Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins to give me eternal life. Lord thank you for your encouraging Word that lifted me up and set up my heart and mind with you Jesus and in Heaven.

Let us confess and renounce our sins, so that we will be ready when Christ will come to take us with Him to Heaven. Renounce, worldliness, love of material things, pleasure and fame. Renounce discouragements, doubts, lack of faith, yoked with non believers, setting bad examples to others, and non willingness to serve God.

Lord forgive me the following sins _____.

Lord I commit myself to forget what is behind and all what I had achieved for you and into your service. Lord I press forward toward Heaven to achieve further the goals that are set before me. Lord I commit myself to persevere inspite of all the suffering, the oppositions and the struggles that are set before me. Lord I commit myself to reproduce more fruit of the Holy Spirit, love, peace, joy, gentleness, kindness, patience, long-suffering, self-control that people will see Jesus in my life.

Lord thank you for my Brethren and Sisters who committed their lives to live for you. Lord fill them with the Holy Spirit and give them the spiritual gifts that they need in their lives to go on and serve you. Lord protect them and provide all their needs so they continue to serve you.

Lord bless us as a church and prepare us and perfect us so we will be ready for your coming to meet with you in the clouds. Lord enable us and open new doors for us to evangelize and to go with your power and make new disciples. Lord help us to impart

your Word and faith in you and bring revival to those who are weary to set their minds and heart in you and in Heaven. Lord lead us to train new workers and to plant new Bible studies and new congregations for the church. Lord bless us, enlarge our territory let your hand be with us and free us from harm so that we will not feel pain. The grace of the Lord Jesus and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus name, Amen.

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