



CLASS FOUR: RESURRECTION

Resurrection of the Dead

Man was created to live forever. Death came upon man as a result of disobedience to the command of God in the garden.

If a man dies, will he live again? All the days of my hard service I will wait for my renewal to come. **[Job 14:14]**.

The above question is a question many continue to ask even today. What happens when we die? Is there another life after death? Are we going to live as ghosts? Are we going to have bodies in the next life? The life of Jesus and his resurrection answers these questions. Christ lived on the earth, He died and was resurrected. No other religion attests to the resurrection. Mohammed died and is still dead. Buddha died and is still in the grave. Jesus died and was raised again.

Central Theme of Christianity

The central theme for the doctrine of the resurrection of the dead lies in the fact that Jesus died, was buried and was raised again.

"But if it is preached that Christ has been raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? 13 If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. 14 And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. 15 More than that, we are then found to be false witnesses about God, for we have testified about God that He raised Christ from the dead. But He did not raise Him if in fact the dead are not raised. 16 For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either. 17 And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. 18 Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost. 19 If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are to be pitied more than all men" **[1 Corinthians 15:12–19]**.

If Christ did not rise, then;

- a. The preaching or message of the apostles is in vain. Their message is not true.
- b. Our faith is useless.
- c. We are still guilty of our sins. We will remain unforgiven. We are bound to hell. A believer has no hope if Christ did not rise.
- d. Those who have died believing in Christ are eternally lost. Then there will be no hope for all our family and friends who believed in Christ before they died.
- e. Christians are more to be pitied than anyone in the world.

The Gospel is Based on the Resurrection

The gospel is not complete if Christ did not resurrect. The gospel is not that Christ died, but that he rose triumphant, defeating death, hell and the grave! There is no Christianity if Christ did not rise.

"Now, brothers, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. 2 By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain. 3 For what I received I passed on to you as



of first importance a: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 that He was buried, that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures," [1 Corinthians 15:1–4].

The gospel is that Christ died, He was buried and was raised again. The gospel won't be good news if it ended with the death of Jesus. The founders of all other religions died and are still dead. Christ predicted He was going to die and be raised and He did. He continuous to live now.

What does the Resurrection Mean to the Believer?

Because Christ was raised, we have the same hope that we would be raised when we die. We will not just remain in the ground as beasts of the earth remain in the ground after they die.

Because he was raised, we would also be raised. Death to a believer is a period of his sleep, a necessary phase to allow him/her to be with the One who loves him/her unconditionally and gave up His life (Jesus).

What Happens at Resurrection?

The empty tomb of Jesus is the ultimate proof that Christ's resurrected body was the same body that died on the cross. If resurrection meant the creation of a new body, Christ's original body would have remained in the tomb.

"Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have." [Luke 24:39].

Jesus walked in His resurrected body on the earth for 40 days.

"In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach 2 until the day He was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles He had chosen. 3 After His suffering, He showed himself to these men and gave many convincing proofs that He was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God" [Acts 1:1–3].

He was recognized by his disciples and all who knew Him. We would have similar bodies when we resurrect, just that our bodies would be raised to greater perfection.

"Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when He appears," [1 John 3:2].

"But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, 21 who, by the power that enables Him to bring everything under His control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like His glorious body" [Philippians 3:20–21].

"And just as we have borne the likeness of the earthly man, so shall we f bear the likeness of the man from heaven" [1 Corinthians 15:49].

We will not walk as ghosts when we resurrect. We will not be floating people in the new heavens and the new earth.