

SUNDAY SCHOOL MATERIALS FOR ADULTS

LESSON 13



A SUPERNATURAL RESURRECTION

Scripture Texts: John 6:38-40; 1 Corinthians 15:19-23, 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 1 Corinthians 15:42-56; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18.

We have been studying of the good things Jesus prepared in this world for His people. Today we look at some of the things He has prepared for His people in the next world. They are all supernatural. After a person has finished a saved life here in this world, what then? Jesus promised that He was going to the Father, to Heaven, where He had been in the beginning. He said He was going back to the Father, and that each saint could go also. He prayed that those given Him would be with Him in His glory (**John 17**).

No one can reach Heaven by natural power or goodness. Only the life of God within a person takes him to Heaven. Heaven is a condition as well as a place. Wherever the location of Heaven, it will be where Jesus is and under His love and protection. To really know Jesus, to have Him living within, is the only way to Heaven.

MEMORY VERSE: *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.*

—John 6:40

DAILY READINGS:

- Mon.—**1 Corinthians 15:16-34** Certainty of the Resurrection.
- Tue.—**1 Corinthians 15:35-58** Explanation of Resurrection.
- Wed.—**2 Corinthians 5:1-10** Blessings of Heaven are real.
- Thu.—**1 Thessalonians 5:1-11** Watching for Christ's coming.
- Fri.—**1 Peter 1:1-9** Hope of Heaven by Christ's Resurrection.

Devotional Reading: Philippians 3:8-21 Our bodies to be like His.

Resurrection Promised

John 6:38-40 That of all which he hath given me . . . All must come to Jesus Christ through the Father . . . **may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.** This promise from Jesus is that all the saved will have a supernatural passage to Heaven. Salvation transforms a person from the first death to new spiritual life in the first resurrection. There is no transformation of the spirit after the second death. Eternal life is not obtained at death; it is received and begun in this life and continues on after death in Heaven. We must have forgiveness of sin, or we perish eternally. The life of the lost will also go on forever; that is what makes it so terrible. But the destiny of the lost is not what the Bible refers to as everlasting life. Everlasting life speaks better of its quality than of its duration.

The Glory of the Resurrection

1 Corinthians 15:19-23 Now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept. Jesus was our example in all things, so we will rise from the dead as He did. **Afterward they that are Christ's at his coming.**

1 Corinthians 15:35-38 Here in these verses we are told that the glory of planting a seed compares to the Resurrection. One does not expect to get back only the seed planted, but the seed planted must die and be quickened to come forth in a glorious manner. One seed is planted, and it dies and comes forth a more glorious body, bearing the same grain, but with greater glory than that which was planted. How? **But God giveth it a**

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LESSON 13

body . . . The soul was made for God, and only God and His Spirit can satisfy it and prepare it to come forth in glory.

The Triumph of the Resurrection

1 Corinthians 15:42-56 The dead is sown in corruption—a mortal body. It is raised in incorruption—an immortal body. It is sown in dishonor—it goes back to the dust from which it came. It is raised in glory—never to die again, but to go back to God Who gave it. The **natural** man was first, then the **spiritual** man. As transformed man had an earthly body's image, so also will he have a heavenly body's image. **We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed.** Here Paul attempts to explain the supernatural phase of the Resurrection. **In a moment**—very quickly—**at the last trump**—no more preaching or time for preparation—**for the trumpet shall sound**—awakening all that are dead, wherever their graves are. **And the dead shall be raised incorruptible**—every grave will bring forth an incorruptible body and **shall be changed.**

After the Funeral, What Then?

1 Thessalonians 4:13-14 All of us experience death. We sorrow for departed ones. But some sorrow with hope, some without hope. The difference is that some die in Christ, some outside of Him. **If we believe . . .** As surely as Christ's death and resurrection are true facts, so also the resurrection of God's people is true. Because He lives, we shall live also (**John 14:19**). Physical death is called a **sleep**, a sleep of the body. It is not the end of existence. Nothing is destroyed. Death is a change, a separation of soul and body. But one thing does not change at death—one's spiritual relationship. Those who live in Christ **sleep in Jesus**. Just as truly, those who live without Him die without Him, and so without hope. By what means will God raise His people to eternal life? **Shall raise up us also by Jesus**—by his Spirit **that dwelleth in you**. (Read **2 Corinthians 4:14** and **Romans 8:11**.) In the same way that He raised Jesus, by the presence of God dwelling in them. **Them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him**. Those who died having the Spirit of Christ will go to be with Jesus. Then Jesus will bring their spirits to be reunited with their resurrected bodies.

In these modern times some try to cover death with a screen of beauty. Some try to ignore it with pain-killing, sleep-inducing drugs before death, flowers, music, and poetry afterward. But death remains real and universal. God calls it an enemy in **1 Corinthians 15:26** and refers to death in **Hebrews 9:27**. Words of friends, sympathy cards, and funeral sermons largely imply that the departed one will go to Heaven. But it requires something more, something from each individual, if one is to be with God.

The Manner of the Resurrection

1 Thessalonians 4:15-18 Paul spoke **by the word of the Lord**. This is God's Word, not Paul's. (1) **We which are alive and remain . . . shall not prevent them which are asleep**. Notice the only people spoken of here are saints, those who have died, and those still alive at Christ's coming. Those who died in sin are not addressed here. (2) **The Lord himself shall descend**—He will be seen. **With a shout**—He will be heard. **With the trump of God**—all will be awakened. (3) **The dead in Christ shall rise first**. The dead saints will be resurrected first. **Then we which are alive**—saints who have not yet died—**shall be caught up together with them in the clouds**. Those souls who have died without Christ will not be in this supernatural reunion. The dead in Christ from all ages shall come forth from the graves with new immortal bodies, along with those still living. (4) Where will all go? **To meet the Lord in the air**, and to **ever be with the Lord**, eternally, time without end, never again separated from Him. Paul was giving hope to the brethren of all ages. The wicked will be resurrected at the same time, but to a sadly different destiny (**John 5:28-29**).

From our studies we learn that supernaturally saved people will be supernaturally resurrected, supernaturally changed to be immortal, caught up by supernatural power to meet the supernatural Lord, and taken to dwell in a

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LESSON 13

supernaturally prepared place. We can never take ourselves to Heaven, but Jesus can, all because of His supernatural resurrection.