

"THE RESURRECTION: MOST CREDIBLE"

Introduction

1. Life – Death – Life. This is the pattern for all of us.
2. It is similar to the life-cycle of the butterfly.
3. So Paul speaks to these unbelievers.

1. IT IS COMMON FOR PEOPLE TO DENY THAT THERE WILL BE ANY RESURRECTION IN THE END

- 1) This is partly because death is thought to be "the end of everything".

Ideas:

- (i) sleep which is eternal
- (ii) "Farewell forever"
- (iii) The place from which there is no return

- 2) The idea of the resurrection is hard for people to take in:

- (i) the body after death
- (ii) the idea of a corrupt body being restored

- 3) Ignorance of the power of God: See Mark 12:24

Q. Is this not absurd: God is CREATOR!

- 4) Ignorance of the Bible: There are in the OT, as in the NT, clear examples of resurrection:

Examples: The ministries of Elijah and Elisha.

- 5) Unbelief scorns the very thought of any resurrection:

Matthew 9:24, Acts 17:31-32.

OBSERVE: Unbelief blinds people to all the great truths of God's Word.

APPLICATION: Do you believe in the resurrection?

2. THERE MUST BE A BODILY RESURRECTION

- 1) Death is the end of our life on earth; but it is not the end of our existence.

- 2) There is life after death:

- (i) the soul cannot die
- (ii) the body must rise again
- (iii) Intermediate State – Eternal State

- 3) God in many places tells us of a resurrection to come:

Examples:

- Daniel 12:2-3
- Isaiah 24:22
- Especially – 1 Corinthians 15: many verses

- 4) To convince us of this Christ raised persons from the dead:

- (i) Jairus' daughter
- (ii) The widow of Nain's son
- (iii) Lazarus

- 5) We must face the Last Judgement in our Body. The body too will share in our reward/punishment.

APPLICATION: Not a particle of us will be lost in the end.

3. THE FACT OF A FUTURE RESURRECTION SHOULD LEAD US ALL TO GIVE OUR LIVES TO CHRIST

- 1) Consider the 2 different conditions of mankind after the resurrection:

- (i) Daniel 12:2-3
- (ii) John 5:28-29

APPLICATION: Is it not madness to despise Christ?

- 2) Recall the state of a believer at last – wonderfully changed:

1 Cor. 15:42-44.

Four alterations: corruption / dishonour / weakness / a natural body.

3) But how can we be sure of this blessed state at last?

ANSWER: By knowing Christ's power:

- (i) He raised himself from the dead
- (ii) He gives promises to believers which no others have: John 6:39-40; 1 Thes. 4:16-17; John 11: 25-26

4) So the end of the world will be like this: Rev. 20:11-12

CONCLUSION

- 1. How terrible for the wicked! The rich man in hell.
- 2. How comforting for the righteous. "I will raise him up at the last day."

<p>PSALM</p> <p>73: 25 – 29</p> <p>118: 5 – 10</p> <p>118: 17 - 23</p>
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