

The information in the last issue of *Glad Tidings* on the resurrections apparently inspired interest in previous articles on the same subject. Many have asked for issues 1-4. Therefore we have combined all the articles on the resurrections into a booklet entitled *The Resurrections* to help you study this important subject. To order, use the attached order form.

The resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead made available the resurrection of the just. By his resurrection we have a lively hope which is incorruptible, undefiled, reserved in heaven for us.

I Peter 1:3 and 4

Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you,

Jesus Christ is “the firstborn among many brethren” and “the firstfruits of them that slept.” He is the type or pattern of our sonship and eternal life. As born-again children of God, we have received the holy spirit placing us in a relationship with God as our Father.

Romans 8:15

For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.

The spirit of bondage or slavery results in the

attitude of fear toward God. The spirit of adoption results in the attitude of passionate love for the Father. In that we are the children of God, we are heirs of God.

Verses 16 and 17

The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:

And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with *him*, that we may be also glorified together.

God, Who cannot lie (Titus 1:2), has promised us eternal life. We are guaranteed that in the future we will be glorified. Glorification is the act of God which transforms our present bodies into perfect, sinless, deathless bodies. Today, we must endure suffering, but as we suffer with him, we shall also be glorified together. The suffering compared with the glory is nothing. A grain of sand to Mount Everest is not extreme enough to compare our suffering to eternity. We need to reason out today’s suffering with the glory to come if we want to stay put on God’s Word.

Verse 18

For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time *are* not worthy *to be compared* with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

All of creation, not just humans, suffered when sin came into the world. All of creation “groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now” (Romans 8:22). The world is physically decaying and spiritually infected

with sin, but we are not in utter despair because we are saved by hope. Jesus Christ, the hope of glory, is coming back!

Verses 23-25

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.

For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for?

But if we hope for that we see not, *then* do we with patience wait for *it*.

With patience we wait for that glorious day when our bodies shall be changed. The knowledge of his return is why we never give up. Though our bodies are dying, and we have troubles in the world, we reason them to be light in comparison to the eternal weight of glory that is ours.

II Corinthians 4:16-18

For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward *man* is renewed day by day.

For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding *and* eternal weight of glory;

While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen *are* temporal; but the things which are not seen *are* eternal.

God Almighty has promised us eternal life. He has already made provision for us to have our bodies changed so that we can live together in glory.

II Corinthians 5:1

For we know that if our earthly house of *this* tabernacle [earthly body] were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

The holy spirit within is our absolute guarantee that God has reserved brand-new, everlasting bodies that He will give us at the resurrection. However, now we groan greatly, desiring to put on our new bodies.

II Corinthians 5:2-6

For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be

clothed upon with our house which is from heaven:

If so be that being clothed we shall not be found naked.

For we that are in *this* tabernacle do groan, being burdened: not for that we would be unclothed, but clothed upon, that mortality might be swallowed up of life.

Now he that hath wrought us for the selfsame thing *is* God, who also hath given unto us the earnest of the Spirit.

Therefore *we are* always confident, knowing that, whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord:

Our desire is not to die but to be clothed with our new bodies. This great hope is what we are to look at and have faith in. If we look at the sinful, dying world around us, at the suffering and pain we endure and not the hope, we will faint. We do not walk by what we see but faith in the promise of eternal life.

Verse 7

(For we walk by faith, not by sight:)

When he comes back, he will take our dying, vile bodies and change them to be like his glorious body. We are going to have bodies like Christ's resurrected body.

Philippians 3:20 and 21

For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ:

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.

In light of this knowledge, we are to stand fast.

Philippians 4:1

Therefore, my brethren, dearly beloved and longed for, my joy and crown, so stand fast in the Lord, *my* dearly beloved.

The great patriarchs of the Old Testament stayed on course in their lives because they were persuaded by the promises and embraced them. Moses, for example, deemed the reward of eternal life to be much greater than the power, prestige, and wealth he had as Pharaoh's

adopted grandson.

Hebrews 11:24-26

By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter;

Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season;

Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompense of the reward.

Today, as Christians, we are blessed by so much more than Moses and the Old Testament believers. We have the holy spirit with the nine manifestations and a complete knowledge of God's Word available to us. We have Christ in us making us able to love just as he loved. Although we already have so much more, we still have much, much more to come. The knowledge and power we now have shall vanish away because when we see him face to face we will know even as we are known.

I Corinthians 13:8-12

Charity never faileth: but whether *there be* prophecies, they shall fail; whether *there be* tongues, they shall cease; whether *there be* knowledge, it shall vanish away.

For we know in part, and we prophesy in part.

But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away.

When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things.

For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.

The Church today is one body with Christ as the head. We have one body, one spirit, one hope, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God. Yet with all the oneness we have, the Church still does not live in unity. Much contention and strife are within the Church. However, a time is coming when we will completely manifest the oneness. When we are gathered together, we will enjoy oneness and unity with God, our Lord Jesus Christ, the angels, and each other. This unity will be in love and forever.

Ephesians 1:10

That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in C

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Ephesians 4:13

Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:

We are going to be just like Jesus Christ. We do not understand the greatness of this reality, but when he comes, we will. In the meantime, we endeavor to live

holy lives.

I John 3:2 and 3

Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.

And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.

Our hope is the anchor of the soul. When life becomes difficult, we pull closer to God because we know we have hope.

Hebrews 6:19

Which *hope* we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast, and which entereth into that within the veil;

We know God is faithful, so we hold fast.

Hebrews 10:23

Let us hold fast the profession of *our* faith [hope] without wavering; (for he *is* faithful that promised;)

When we do the Word of God, we can be confident and patient knowing in a little while Christ will come.

Verses 35-39

Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompense of reward.

For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise.

For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry.

Now the just shall live by faith: but if *any man* draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him.

But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul.

The world in which we live is evil because Satan is the god of this world. Part of our promised hope is a new heaven and new earth, and the destruction of Satan and all evil.

II Peter 3:12 and 13

Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt

with fervent heat?

Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.

Isaiah 65:17

For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind.

Revelation 20:10 - 21:5

And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet *are*, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.

And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.

And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is *the book* of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.

And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.

And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.

And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God *is* with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, *and be* their God.

And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful.

Jesus Christ was resurrected from the dead. He shall return to gather his beloved. We shall be together with him and God in uninterrupted, perfect fellowship for eternity. His resurrection is our guarantee of eternal life. Now we patiently wait, living each day to the praise of God's glory.