

The Resurrection

Men have long wondered if there is life after death. "If a man dies, shall he live again?" (Job 14:14). The answer was implied in the Old Testament, as Jesus pointed out to the Sadducees--yes there will be a resurrection from the dead (Matthew 22:23-33). When Paul preached the resurrection of Christ at Athens, some mocked in disbelief (Acts 17:32). When Peter and others taught the resurrection from the dead, the Sadducees became angry (Acts 4:1-3). The same things happen today. The atheist mocks, while others become angry. However, the resurrection is a basic Bible doctrine (Hebrews 6:1-2).

The resurrection from the dead is a guarantee. It was guaranteed by the resurrection of Jesus. Paul connected Christ's resurrection with the resurrection of all men (1 Corinthians 15). To deny the resurrection of the dead is to: (1) deny that Christ rose from the dead (15:13); (2) void gospel preaching (15:14); (3) nullify faith (15:14); (4) make the apostles false witnesses (15:15); (5) leave all men in sins (15:17); (6) say that those who have died in Christ are doomed (15:19); (7) make the apostles the most pitiable men ever (15:20). However, since Christ has been raised from the dead, Paul wrote, "For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive" (15:22). All men will physically die, and all men will be raised from the dead--guaranteed.

When will the resurrection take place and what will happen? Jesus said, "Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice and come forth--those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation" (John 5:28-29). Notice, the resurrection of the wicked and righteous will take place at the same hour, but when that hour is, no one knows--it will be like a thief in the night (1 Thessalonians 5:1-2). However, we do know that men will be judged. When Jesus comes back, He will judge men--some will go to heaven, others to hell (Acts 17:30-31).

Are you ready for the resurrection?

Steven F. Deaton