

“The Truth As We Know It”

The Resurrection

3/15/15

Today I want to continue the thought of what The Apostle Paul called "The Faith of God." Last week we talked about how we came to celebrate Easter instead of the biblical Passover. Easter has its origins in Pagan history and was the old Pagan Fertility god of the spring. It was celebrated by temple prostitutes and sex orgies that were extremely evil and should never have been picked up by the early Christians. But to allow the pagan converts to continue there idolatrous practices and claim Christianity, they compromised true faith and excepted the pagan ones in their place, simply renaming them to Christian sounding names.

The story of the New Testament Passover would not be complete without the Resurrection. Today I want talk about the story of rising from the dead and living forever with a new Glorious body that will never get old or sick. A body similar to the body that Jesus had after He arose from the dead. What a glorious thought! This is the great hope that we all have as believers.

It is the hope of the resurrection that makes all the difference in our lives and helps us to make what ever sacrifice we need to make to serve God. The Apostle Paul tells us in Philippians 3:10-11, "That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death; If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead." And 1Co 15:19, "If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable."

Even Jesus is our great example, In Heb 12:2, "Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of *our* faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God."

What will it be like? Will we know our family and loved ones? These are questions that all of us would like to know more about. The truth is that there is not a great deal said about this subject in the Bible. we do have bits and pieces that we can draw from. In 1 John 3:2 we read, "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." We shall be like Him! So we can take look at what Jesus was like after the resurrection and have an

idea of what we will be enjoying in the resurrection.

Lets look at some things we know from the gospels. Jesus did not look the same as He did before He was crucified. His good friend, Mary, who was a faithful supporter did not recognize Him at the tomb, but thought He was the gardener. The two disciples who walked with Him on the way to Emmaus did not realize it was Jesus until he broke bread with them. When the Brethren went fishing after the resurrection, He had a fire burning and fish ready to eat, but they did not know it was Jesus until He told them where to fish. But in every case He always made Himself known to them. So from that know that we may have a different appearance in our new body and that is probably a good thing for most of us..

We also know that He was not a figment of their imagination, but was flesh and bone. He eat honey and fish. Luk 24:39-43 we read, "Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have. And when he had thus spoken, he showed them *his* hands and *his* feet. And while they yet believed not for joy, and wondered, he said unto them, Have ye here any meat? And they gave him a piece of a broiled fish, and of an honeycomb. And he took *it*, and did eat before them."

We also know that He appeared through locked doors and disappeared at will. During His time on earth before the essention He appeared many time to the believers. Paul tells us He appeared to a gathering of the believers that numbered five hundred. If He had appeared to just a few believers that would have been enough for us to believe the gospel, but He appeared with many infallible proofs. Act 1:3 tells us, "To whom also he showed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days.."

Jesus tells us that we will not be joined to our marriage partner in our new life but will be like the angels. Luke 20:35-36 tells us, "But they which shall be accounted worthy to obtain that world, and the resurrection from the dead, neither marry, nor are given in marriage: Neither can they die any more: for they are equal unto the angels; and are the children of God, being the children of the resurrection." In all honesty, I don't understand why that will be the case, but I believe it!

The Bible tells us that all will get up and stand before God in

Judgment. Jesus tells us in John 5:28-29, "Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation."

All those who have received Jesus all savior well have everlasting life with Him. Some would believe that that is all there is. If they can just make it in by the skin of their, they are satisfied. But the Bible offers much than that for us. Jesus tells us in, Mat 6:19-20 to, "Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:" We lay up treasures in heaven by good works of service that we do for God's people. Those of us that live our lives without a true commitment to serve God with all that is in us will miss out on all that could be ours in eternity. In Mat 19:29 Jesus tells us, "And every one that hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my name's sake, shall receive an hundredfold, and shall inherit everlasting life." So there are differences of rewards in our everlasting life. Some will have responsibilities of ruling with Jesus! Jesus will be King of Kings, and Lord of Lords. So some men of God other than Jesus will also be Kings. Jesus promised that to his twelve in Mat 19:28, " And Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel."

When will this great resurrection take place? There is a lot of confusion about this subject and great arguments have been made by well meaning theologians. In any doctrine that looks to future events, we look through a glass darkly as spoken by Paul the Apostle. But I want to express my view on this as well. In 1Th 4:15-17 we read, "For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent (or precede) them which are asleep. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: then we

which are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. The resurrection will take place at the coming of Jesus."

Also in 1Co 15:51-52 we read, "Behold, I show you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed." Notice that it specifies the last trump which implies there are more than one trump of God. More on that later as this broadcast develops.

Believing in the resurrection is required for us to be saved. Paul tells in Rom 10:9-10, "That if thou shall confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shall believe in your heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shall be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."

What a hope we have in Christ! A wonderfully blessed life now, and everlasting life with Christ though out eternity. What a hope!

Listen again next week.

This we do know, The Bible is God's Word, God's word is true, Jesus Christ is God's son, Jesus died to save us from our sin, Without Jesus we are eternally lost. Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is no other name under heaven given among men, whereby we might be saved. Atheism is a temporary condition for every knee shall bow and every tongue shall confess that Jesus Christ is Lord! Jesus stands ready to save you now, Will you call on Him today?

Until next week, God bless.