

**John 11:21ff.**  
February 5, 1988  
**Rome Georgia**  
November 29, 2014

**Subject:** Jesus Christ is the Resurrection and the Life.

**Theme:** Eternal Life through Jesus Christ.

**Proposition:** Are you currently enjoying your eternal life or are you waiting for it to begin?

R E A D **John 18 - 21**

**"Lord, if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died. . ." v. 21.**

An accusation born of anguish, a frustration springing forth from seemingly futile prayers, echoed by many of God's servants when a loved one is taken from them.

- ❖ If there is a loving God – how could he allow my loved one to die?
  - ❖ *"God, where were you when I needed you."*
    - When my loved one was in the valley of the shadow of death, you did not remove the darkness, and now they are gone from our sight

All are common laments when we lose a loved one. We wonder where God is, why has He allowed this tragedy to befall us. We, like **Martha**, know that God is able to do as He wills at any time. We know that He has not acted callously, yet **we still can't help but point out to Him THAT HE HAS IN SOME WAY FAILED OUR EXPECTATIONS OF HIM.**

It is almost ironic that when our life seems to be falling apart **-WE BLAME GOD.**

We often hear of people who are **ANGRY WITH GOD** for allowing a loved one to die, **yet**, how often have you heard of someone who says that they **HATE SATAN** for introducing death into the human race?

After all, **God is the giver of life.** The death and suffering that we must endure in this life are a result of Satan tempting Eve and Adam to sin! Yet, **GOD GETS THE BLAME when we lose a loved one.**

**ITS KIND OF LIKE BLAMING THE DELIVERING OBSTETRICIAN FOR THE DEATH OF AN OCTOGENARIAN!**

**GOD NEVER PROMISED TO KEEP US OUT OF THE VALLEY OF THE SHADOW OF DEATH. OUR COMFORT IS, THAT WHEN WE PASS THROUGH, WE DO NOT GO ALONE . .**

"Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for **THOU ART WITH ME**; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me." **Ps. 23:4.**

**DEATH IS NOT OUR DESTINATION - IT IS BUT A SHADOW THAT FOR A MOMENT OBSCURES OUR SIGHT OF THE SHEPHERD - BUT DOES NOTHING TO ALTER HIS ABIDING PRESENCE.**

**WE WILL NOT PASS FROM LIFE INTO DEATH - BUT RATHER WE HAVE *ALREADY* PASSED FROM DEATH, INTO ETERNAL LIFE - AND OUR JOURNEY HAS BUT **ONE OBSTRUCTION** AND THAT IS **ONLY A SHADOW.****

**THE PROMISE OF ETERNAL LIFE IS NOT A FUTURE PROMISE BUT A PRESENT POSSESSION.**

READ 21-24

**John 11:21** Then said Martha unto Jesus, Lord, if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died.  
**22** But I know, that even now, whatsoever thou wilt ask of God, God will give *it* thee.  
**23** Jesus saith unto her, **Thy brother shall rise again.**  
**24** Martha saith unto him, **I know that he shall rise again in the resurrection at the last day.**

It is **NOT THAT WE WILL "RISE AGAIN AT THE LAST DAY"** but rather, from the moment of our salvation onward, **WE HAVE ETERNAL LIFE - WITHOUT INTERRUPTION.**  
**THOUGH THE WICK OF THIS BODY IS CONSUMED, THE FLAME NEVER DIES.**

Paul did not say, "to be absent from the body, . . . is to be *awaiting* a yet future resurrection and reunion with the Lord, but rather, "to be **absent from the body - is to be PRESENT WITH THE LORD.**"

Eternal life is more than just a never-ending existence, it is **impartation to us** of the **VERY LIFE OF GOD.** The moment we become partakers of the **Divine Nature** (cf. **II Pt. 1:4**) we possess all that we need to sustain us indefinitely for all eternity.

BY NATURE, we are DEAD IN OUR TRESPASSES and sins (**Eph. 2:1**), BUT, because Jesus died and rose again, all who receive Him as their personal Savior partake of His death and His life and enjoy an ABUNDANT LIFE HERE ON EARTH and are assured of enjoying a GLORIFIED EXISTENCE with God throughout eternity.

**John 10:10** ". . . I am come that they might have life, and that they might have *it* more abundantly.

**Romans 6:5** For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, **WE SHALL BE ALSO IN THE LIKENESS OF HIS RESURRECTION:**

**HAS HE DIED? YES?**

**HAS HE BEEN RAISED? YES!**

ARE YOU "IN HIM?"

**Christ died once for all**

**II Corinthians 5:14** For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead: And that he died for all, that **they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again.**

We HAVE BEEN RISEN with Christ. It is through our resurrection with Him that we are able to enter the **New Creation relationship** that we enjoy with the Father.

**John 11:25** Jesus said unto her, **I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live:**

**In 11:25** "Reference was not made by Christ to the truth that He would Himself rise from the dead, or that He would cause the dead to rise in the last day **BUT** to the PRESENT ASPECT OF TRUTH that all who are **IN HIM ARE**, by virtue of their place in His resurrection, **RAISED IN HIM.**" **LSC IV. 96.**

cf. **Jn. 5:21-25 25** Verily, verily, I say unto you, The hour is coming, **and now is**, when the **dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live.**

This fact of our **present resurrection position** is also clearly stated for us by Paul in the books of Eph. and Colossians .

**Eph 2:4-6** But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, **Even when we were dead in sins, HATH QUICKENED US** ("made us alive together with Christ" NKJV) **TOGETHER WITH CHRIST**, (by grace ye are saved;)

And **HATH RAISED US UP TOGETHER**, and made us sit together in heavenly places **IN CHRIST JESUS**: (all this within the context of Eph. 1:20-23)

**Col 2:13** And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he **quickeneth together with him**, having forgiven you all trespasses;

**Col 2:14** Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross;

"To be **IN CHRIST JESUS**, which is the portion of all who are saved, is to partake of all that Christ has done, all that He is, all that He will ever be. It is to have died in His death, to have been buried in His burial, to have been Raised in His resurrection To have ascended in His ascension, AND TO BE SEATED NOW WITH HIM IN GLORY. SUCH IS THE **BELIEVERS PRESENT POSITION IN CHRIST JESUS.**" LSC IV. 97.

... THIS PRESENT, UNALTERABLE FACT OF OUR POSITION IN CHRIST IS OUR GUARANTEE, OUR ASSURANCE, THAT WE YET HAVE THE FUTURE EXPERIENCE OF BODILY RESURRECTION AND HEAVENLY EXALTATION." LSC IV. 97

WE, **LIKE MARTHA 11:27**, HAVE A HABIT OF SEEING ONLY THE **FUTURE RESULTS** OF OUR UNION WITH CHRIST AND NOT THE **REAL AND PRESENT POSITION** THAT WE HAVE "IN CHRIST."

**John 11:27** Martha said to Him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that You are the Christ, the Son of God, who is to come into the world."

IN SO DOING, WE SHORTCHANGE OURSELVES BY **WAITING UNTIL THAT DAY** TO SET OUR AFFECTIONS ON THOSE THINGS WHICH ARE ABOVE. WE LIVE THIS LIFE AS THOUGH IT WERE IN SOME WAY DETACHED FROM OUR LIFE **WITH HIM** IN THE HEAVENLIES. NOTHING IS FURTHER FROM THE TRUTH.

**Co I. 3:1** "IF YE THEN BE RISEN WITH CHRIST, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.

Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. **For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.** When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, THEN SHALL YE ALSO APPEAR **WITH HIM** IN GLORY. "

**I Jn. 2:6** "He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked".

**Romans 6:4** Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also SHOULD WALK IN NEWNESS OF LIFE. **For if we have been planted together in the LIKENESS OF HIS DEATH, we shall be also in the LIKENESS OF HIS RESURRECTION:**

Even with all this truth, more than was ever revealed or understood in the days of the apostles, there are still those who reply, as did Martha, with all banality and without really understanding the truth

". . . **I Know**, (v. 22)

**I Know**, (24)

**I Believe.** (27) . . and so saying, go their way to tell others of Jesus and His abiding presence. . .

(v. 28); And when she had said these things, she went her way and secretly called Mary her sister, saying, "The Teacher has come and is calling for you."

**ACCEPTING the Words, but NOT UNDERSTANDING their meaning.**

REPEATING DOCTRINAL DOGGEREL, but REMAINING ESSENTIALLY UNCHANGED by the truths they accept and repeat, without ever really experiencing their METAMORPHOSING POWER.

To be "IN CHRIST" is to HAVE eternal life.

It is to "BE CRUCIFIED" with Him,

it is to "BE RAISED" with Him.

It is to WALK WITH HIM.

IT IS TO BECOME PARTAKERS OF THE DIVINE NATURE AND IN SO DOING TO "PUT ON IMMORTALITY."

W.B. HINSON a preacher of a bygone generation, knew the truth of this. Upon learning from his doctor that he had but a **short time to live**, he recounted how that he walked out to where he lived near Portland Oregon, and surveyed the countryside before him. And he said,

"I looked across at that **mountain** that I love. I looked at the **river** in which I rejoice, and I looked at the stately **trees** that are always God's own poetry to my soul. Then in the evening I looked up into the great sky where God was lighting His **lamps**, and I said,

"I may not see you many more times, but **Mountain**, I shall be alive when you are gone; and **River**, I shall be alive when you cease running toward the sea; and **Stars**, I shall be alive when you have fallen from your sockets in the great down-pulling of the material universe!" *db 8-6-85.*

Sometimes, it is not until we have **glimpsed the shadow**, that we **see more clearly** the Light. Not till we have smelled the stench of that valley of death do we appreciate the sweet aroma of the Rose of Sharon. And unfortunately for some, **not till we ourselves have passed through the valley of the shadow of death, that we realize that we had the company of the Shepherd on both sides of the pass.**

**I Corinthians 15:55** O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, WHICH GIVETH US THE VICTORY THROUGH OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST.

### ***A Shadow Passed By***

A shadow passed by the other day  
and left a cold chill across my way.

My heart was faint within the shadow's grip  
my faith and my trust began to slip.

All around me, my family and my friends  
Felt that its darkness would never end.

Then through the gloom came a whispered Word  
faintly at first, though clearly 'twas heard

*“It was the Angel of Death that passed your way  
it could merely pass by, it could not stay.”*

And with that Word came a comforting Light  
flooding my soul, dispelling the night.

The Shadow's sting for my loved one could no longer be found  
no victory for the grave as the shadow passed o'er the ground.

Instead, all around me that Victorious Light  
Strengthened my faith by its omnipotent might.

For, in truth, it was not the angel that had taken my friend  
but only his shadow that passed over, and is gone once again.

*EPW* October 9, 1993

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MN: Used this poem in 1988, John 11:21 ff. – but may be a more appropriate use later in John series 2014:

### ***The Death of Death***

The day The Prince of Life was crucified  
the people sneered, as his followers cried.  
The sun grew dark, the nails held fast,  
and Satan thought he'd won at last.

Then came days of silence filled with tears  
the demons laughed, and His friends did fear.  
Then from the tomb the stone was pried,  
For it was not **He** - but death that died!  
*epw 2-6-88.*