

WHAT IS RESURRECTION?

by Joel R. Beeke

TO THE READER: A good learning technique is to answer the following questions BEFORE reading the booklet. After reading, you can refine your answers based on your reading. Then, when your group gathers, each can discuss his or her view and you can either affirm or modify what you wrote.

1. What difference would it make if there is no such thing as life after death? (5)
2. Read 1 Corinthians 15:12-19. List what Paul tells us are the consequences of not believing in the resurrection. (5-10)
3. Now read 1 Corinthians 15:20-27. List the benefits Paul gives us when we do accept the reality of Christ's resurrection. (10-13)
4. What hope can you offer to someone who refuses to accept the truth of Christ's offer of salvation? (13-14)
5. List all of what we have to look forward to at our resurrection. (15-17)
6. What will our resurrection bodies be like? Read 1 Corinthians 15:35-53 and Revelation 21:4. (17-19)

7. What is your understanding of the Bible’s teaching involving the events surrounding the Second Coming of Christ? (19-26)

8. Read 1 Corinthians 15:53. After having thought through all these issues and events surrounding the resurrection, there is only one question that remains: “How, then, shall we live?” What difference will this make in your life today? (26-31)

After going through these questions, read the text and fill in the answers in preparation for class, noting other questions you might have. [By the way, if you do have any other questions about what you read, write them down here so you remember them at class time.]

APPLICATION

1. If you were able to know, with absolute certainty, that Jesus would return tomorrow, what would need to change about the way you live your life right now? Make a plan, right now, to start putting those changes into place.
2. Think of one person you can ask this question: “What meaning is there to life if there is nothing to look forward to after you die?” Make a plan to share this question with that friend. Keep in mind your dependence on the Holy Spirit to prepare that person’s heart to hear and receive this message of hope.

For Further Study

Lifted: Experiencing the Resurrection Life, Sam Allberry. P&R, 2012.

Bringing Heaven Down to Earth: Connecting This Life to the Next, Nathan L.K. Bierma. P&R, 2011.

The Problem of God: When the World Seems Fine Without God, D. Marion Clark. P&R, 2014.

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