

Do you believe that? – 11/02/2018

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies, ²⁶ and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die. Do you believe this?" ²⁷ She *said to Him, "Yes, Lord; I have believed that You are the Christ, the Son of God, even He who comes into the world." Jn.11:25-27

Beloved in the Lord,

Last Sunday I was over in Perth, and before the service started I was chatting with a member of the congregation. She was telling me all about her problems, and she certainly has her fair share of them. Then she began to reminisce about her younger days back in Latvia, and what life was like back then. After a considerable amount of listening I said to her "Do you realise that the best times lie ahead, they are yet to come?" She responded "Do you really believe that?" I told her that I do believe that with all my heart and soul. And further more I also know that this is the truth because God has promised that in His Word, and God never lies.

This conversation made me begin to wonder how many people who come to Church, who profess to be Christians, really know and believe what God has promised. How about you? Do you know and believe what Jesus has promised you? Do you believe that the best is yet to come?

If this is not the case; if the best has already been, or this right now is as good as it gets, then one wonders what we are doing here today. Paul put it this way:

"Now if Christ is preached, that He has been raised from the dead, how do some among you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? ¹³ But if there is no resurrection of the dead, not even Christ has been raised; ¹⁴ and if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is vain, your faith also is vain. ¹⁵ Moreover we are even found to be false witnesses of God, because we testified against God that He raised Christ, whom He did not raise, if in fact the dead are not raised. ¹⁶ For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised; ¹⁷ and if Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins. ¹⁸ Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. ¹⁹ If we have hoped in Christ in this life only, we are of all men most to be pitied. ²⁰ But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who are asleep. " ! Cor.15:12-20

Paul is making it very clear: If there is no resurrection, no eternal life, no Heaven, then our faith is totally in vain. If Jesus has not been raised from the dead, then our sins are not forgiven and we have no hope. If that is the case Paul says: ***"If the dead are not raised, let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die."* 1 Cor.15:32**

Paul is saying, if there is no afterlife, then we may as well live by the lusts of our flesh, do whatever we want, because we will soon die. Sadly this is how a great number of people in the world today live and think. Many believe that this is all there is and at the end of it we just cease to exist. That is not the truth. No-one just ceases to exist. We are created to live forever. Only our flesh is mortal, our soul and spirit are immortal.

Every person that is ever born will eventually die physically. At death only the body dies, but the soul and spirit live forever. At God's appointed time all will experience a resurrection. The soul and spirit will receive a new body that will never die. It will no longer be a physical body, but a spiritual body. Every person will spend eternity in this new body either in Heaven or in Hell.

Where a person will spend eternity is dependent entirely upon whether that individual believed in The Lord Jesus Christ. The one who has accepted Christ and believed on Him, will live with Him forever in The Father's House. The one who rejects Christ will have a dark, lonely Christless eternity.

The Cross is the division in the road. This is why Jesus asked Martha : "Do you believe this?" This is the most important question that Jesus asks each one of us as well. This is a very personal question, that demands an answer.

Jesus died on the Cross of Calvary, He shed His blood for all people, but only those who believe in Him receive the blessing. When we believe, then our names are written in the book of Life, with the Blood of Jesus. Our place in Heaven is sure. We should never entertain any doubts and fears in this regard. Once a child of God, always a child of God.

It is completely normal to have doubts from time to time, but we must not let our doubts take up residence in our heart and mind. A doubt is like an unwanted guest. When doubt knocks on the door we should slam it shut in its face and tell it that it is not welcome here.

Faith drives away doubt. When doubt comes, we need to remind ourselves of what God has said, and not listen to doubt. We need to remind ourselves of the Gospel message: ***"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. " John 3:16.***

The one who believes on Jesus will not perish but has eternal life. We also need to remind ourselves that Jesus said: ***"My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; ²⁸ and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand."***
Jn.10:27-28

We need to feed and strengthen our faith with The Word of God. It is so important that we know what the Bible says and that we think upon it often. This is why I constantly remind you that you need to read the Bible everyday. Without regular feeding, our faith grows weak and it becomes harder to slam the door in the face of doubt and fear, when they come knocking.

The best is yet to come. Do you believe that? I believe that because God has promised it in His Word. The very last Book of the Bible gives us a small look inside Heaven . I love to read these verses regularly and I love to meditate upon them, because they help me to cope with life. If our focus is on this life alone then we can easily get depressed. If your mind is filled with what the world has to offer, then you are headed for trouble. The news is rarely uplifting and good.

John wrote down what God revealed to him:

“ Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and there is no longer any sea. ² And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, “Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them, ⁴ and He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be any death; there will no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away.”

⁵ And He who sits on the throne said, “Behold, I am making all things new.” And He *said, “Write, for these words are faithful and true.” ⁶ Then He said to me, “It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give to the one who thirsts from the spring of the water of life without cost. ⁷ He who overcomes will inherit these things, and I will be his God and he will be My son.” Rev.21:1-7

Praise God. The day is coming when this old world will be destroyed by fire and there will be a New Heaven and a New Earth. There will be no more death. There will be no more pain and suffering. There will be no more cancer. There will be no more arthritis. There will be no more war. There will be no more evil. There will be no more loneliness. There will be no more famine. There will be no more need. There will be no more hospitals or cemeteries and I repeat the best one - no more death.

We will no longer have to live in faith for we will see Jesus just as He is.

Do you believe that?

If you do, then hold fast to this belief and never let it go.

If you don't, are not sure – then come to Jesus right here and now. Surrender to the Good Shepherd and He will give you life. He gave Himself for you, time for you to give yourself to Him.

Amen.

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