

## Searching the Scriptures / 10 / Christ’s Resurrection / Part 5

The Resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ is the cornerstone of the Christian faith. Acts 17:32 paints this universal response not only to the Resurrection, but to the Bible as a whole: *“And when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked: and others said, We will hear thee again of this matter. Howbeit certain men clave unto him, and believed.”*

Indeed, the Resurrection guarantees that all true Christians will be eternally saved, as we see in Rom 9:33, *“As it is written, Behold, I lay in Sion a stumblingstone and rock of offence: and whosoever believeth on him [Christ] shall not be ashamed.”* On the other hand, those who do not have a Savior will be “ashamed” – that is, eternally damned – as we also find in 1 Pet 2:8, *“And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, even to them which stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed.”*

In our time together we want to consider the following points:

- 1. The Necessity of the Resurrection.**
- 2. The Promise of the Resurrection to Christ.**
- 3. The Hope of the Resurrection for the Christian.**

### The Necessity of the Resurrection

Let’s first look at the necessity of the Resurrection. We read in 1 Cor 15:21, *“For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead.”* God used man to introduce two gigantic biblical themes into this world – death and life (or the resurrection from the dead).

In what way was man responsible for catapulting this world into death? It was the fall into sin by Adam and Eve that resulted in death. Rom 5:12 states, *“Wherefore, as by one man [Adam] sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned.”* The “death” that God is talking about in this verse is far worse than physical death. He is speaking about the second death, which is eternal spiritual death in Hell, as described in Rev. 21:8, *“But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.”*

The enormous problem of sin, and its infinitely painful consequences of paying for one’s sins in eternal Hell are, without a shadow of a doubt, the greatest dilemma that anyone can face. The reason this problem is so overwhelming is that man is incapable of finding the solution on his own, although many people spend their lives vainly attempting to satisfy a Holy God by their own “works”, or religious efforts.

I mentioned this earlier, but it bears repeating: God used man to introduce two gigantic biblical themes into this world – death and life (or the resurrection from the dead). Since the first man’s sin resulted in death for the whole human race, which Man was therefore responsible for the resurrection from the dead? Again, we learn from the Bible that it was the Second Man (or the “Last Adam”). 1 Cor 15:47 informs us of Who that is: *“The first man is of the earth, earthy: the second man is the Lord from heaven.”* The “second man” is none other than the Lord Jesus Christ.

Furthermore, Rom 1:4 emphasizes the supreme importance of the resurrection from the dead: *“And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead.”*

1 Cor 15:13-17 further explains the necessity of the Resurrection: *“But if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen: And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain. Yea, and we are found false witnesses of God; because we have testified of God that he raised up Christ: whom he raised not up, if so be that the dead rise not. For if the dead rise not, then is not Christ raised: And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins.”*

### **The Promise of the Resurrection to Christ**

Next, we want to focus our attention on the promise of the Resurrection. First and foremost, this promise was made by God the Father to God the Son. In John 11:25 the Lord Jesus declares: *“I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live.”* He is not only the embodiment of Eternal Life, but He is also the Resurrection – it’s one of His names!

But when and where was this promise made between God the Father and God the Son? In principle it was accomplished before the foundation of the world. 1 Pet 1:18-21 says, *“Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you, Who by him do believe in God, that raised him up from the dead, and gave him glory; that your faith and hope might be in God.”*

In actuality, this promise was fulfilled as Christ endured the unspeakable agony of eternal Hell for those He came to save. We find in Acts 2:27 (which is quoting Psa 16:10), *“Because thou wilt not leave my soul in Hell, neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption.”* This same idea can be dramatically seen in Jon 2:6 when the prophet Jonah, typifying the Lord Jesus Christ, wrote: *“I cried by reason of mine affliction unto the LORD, and he heard me; out of the belly of hell cried I, and thou heardest my voice.”*

### **The Hope of the Resurrection for the Christian**

How does this affect you and me? We find these words of comfort, which reflect the hope of the Resurrection in Isa 25:8, *“He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from off all faces; and the rebuke of his people shall he take away from off all the earth: for the LORD hath spoken it.”* 1 Pet 1:3 also states, *“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively [living] hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.”* The hope of the Resurrection for the true Christian is based upon the absolute integrity and dependability of the Bible, of which the Divine Author is a Perfect, Holy God.

May God give us spiritual understanding of the true nature and importance of the Resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ.