

## THE CHRISTIAN'S FIRST RESURRECTION

### Ephesians 2:1-7

**Introduction:** There is coming, without any doubt, the rapture of the saved and later the resurrection of the lost. The first resurrection is total victory in Jesus Christ for those being raised. When the Christian walks the streets of glory, he/she cannot boast "I did it, look what I've done..." It will be by the grace of God that any human being walks those golden streets. Therefore all glory, all honor and all praise will belong to God.

### I. EVERY HUMAN BEING IS ALREADY DEAD IN SIN (vv1-4)

1. Every human being is alike in that everyone is born unregenerate with a fallen nature and corrupt.
  - By nature, all of us are born LOST, separated, not a child of God.
  - The apostle Paul writes that everyone is DEAD - in a sense, born dead.
2. There are no degrees in death. One cannot be just a little bit dead.
  - Remember Jairus' daughter? She was 12 years old but had died, not asleep, but dead.
  - How about Lazarus was he asleep or did he die and was dead?
  - Attend a funeral service and there are flowers, pictures, etc., but the person in the casket is dead, not asleep, not just resting, but dead.
  - God says that a person apart from Him is DEAD.
3. People are different, in that some are fat, short, tall, slim, white, brown, black, yellow, different kind of hair, good, evil, pretty, ugly, muscular, etc., but according to God, ALL ARE DEAD.
  - Everyone is born DEAD to God. Born with the judgment of death already on us.
  - We don't have to do something to become dead, we are born DEAD TO GOD.
4. *Psalm 51* - Everyone is born in sin, we all have sin in our blood.
  - We don't have to teach our children how to lie or be selfish, etc. for they are just like everyone else, even us.
  - All are alike, sin is ever present. There are educated sinners, uneducated sinners, etc., everyone by his/her birth is already dead, fallen from God.
5. The story is told of a country that was flooded and all the wild animals fled to high ground. A man saw a tiger on a high place and killed it. The tiger wasn't harming anything, but the man knew that once the water went down and the tiger returned to its NORMAL way of life, it would be a killer once again. It's nature would cause it to kill.
6. Let no one say that he/she would never do this or that. God reminds us that none of us know the evil we are capable of doing. (v4) There is within us all, a nature that causes us to be capable of committing ANY sin.

## II. THROUGH JESUS CHRIST ONE CAN BE RESURRECTED FROM THE DEAD (vv5-7)

1. Here is seen one of the most dramatic teachings/truths in the Bible:
  - How could a dead person believe? How could he/she repent and be saved?
  - God says that a person cannot! Nobody can save him/herself, nor resurrect him/herself or even repent all by him/herself.
  - How then is anybody ever to see, hear, feel, breath, repent and be saved?
2. The answer: **GOD DOES IT ALL!** We are all dead to God in our hearts and spirits. We can see but we don't see, we can hear, but we don't hear, we can feel, but we don't feel for we are dead.
3. A pastor was pastor of a Church in an area where there were people from many parts of the world and spoke many different languages. In a worship service, there would be translators and the people would sit in groups where they understood each other and a translator was there. The pastor would speak a few sentences and then the translators would translate what the pastor had said into their various languages.
  - Thus it is with the normal, dead human being. God's Word means nothing if that person is dead to God. He/she doesn't hear, feel, know and is not quickened.
4. How then does a dead person save him/herself? All the preaching in the world won't do it. Go to the cemetery, preach God's Word there with tears and emotions and hopes, but nothing happens.
5. The resurrection of the natural dead is a gift of God. God must touch the heart, God must unstop the ears, God must quicken the soul. It is a great miracle when God created human life, us, and it is a great miracle when God "resurrects" one (us) from the born dead to spiritual life in Jesus Christ.
6. It is all God's work. When we (people) are saved, the world is the same, nothing has changed on the outside, but on the inside of those saved, everything was changed, different for God could be then be seen, heard and understood.
7. Think of a baptismal service:
  - God's Word says we were once dead in trespasses and sins. Upon being baptized, we are buried with Christ and then we are raised in Christ's resurrection/likeness.
  - Dead! Buried! Raised! God did it all! This is the grace and mercy of God.
  - **THIS IS THE CHRISTIAN'S FIRST RESURRECTION!**

### CONCLUSION:

1. We are all born "dead," separated from God and live by the old sinful, human nature, unable to hear, see, understand the things of God.
2. We believe in Jesus Christ and we are "born again," and then see, hear and understand the things of God.
3. This is the first resurrection a believer in Jesus Christ undergoes. Have you experienced the first resurrection?

