

A Better Resurrection

Hebrews 11:35

Which do you value more, the state and condition of your temporal affairs or your eternal affairs? Which gets more thought, care and attention? Jesus said, "What good is there in gaining the whole world, but forfeiting the soul" (Mark 8:36). Solomon said, "Buy truth and do not sell it" (Prov. 23:23). The truth is there is coming a day when this life will end, and we will enter "the city with foundations."

There are two groups of people mentioned in this verse:

1. Those who through faith received back from the dead their loved ones (figuratively and literally).
2. Those who were tortured and refused release so that they might obtain *a better resurrection*.

Those being tortured were offered a "resurrection" of their own on the condition that they deny Christ. They were offered to move from reproach to honor, from poverty to riches, from pain to pleasure. Some of us wonder what we would do if ever put in the position of refusing to renounce Christ as King of all. These folks refused to deny Christ because they had their eye on something better than temporal gain. The question being asked this morning is, "What is required for me to hope in a better resurrection?"

I. I must intentionally remember that I am passing through this life.

This is what the Bible calls being "*strangers and sojourners*" (Hebrews 11:13). We have no roots here. In sickness I am calm, because I am in transition. In sorrow I am peaceful, because I am in transition. In trial and affliction I am at ease, because I live with an eye toward heaven. In bereavement I am confident, because I live in hope of this better resurrection. I die with confidence and assurance. The Lord Jesus Christ is the resurrection and the life of all who trust him; and all who trust him shall in the last day be resurrected. All who trust Christ shall *obtain a better resurrection!*

II. I must continually remind myself that I am rich with God's grace in Christ.

"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 together with Christ, (for by grace we are saved); And he has raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus" (Ephesians 2:4-6).

- A. His obedience to the law is our obedience (Romans 5:12, 18-21).
- B. His reward for obedience to God is our reward (Romans 8:17).
- C. His death as a penal sacrifice for sin is our death (Romans 6:6-7, 9-11; 7:4).
- D. His resurrection to life guarantees my resurrection to life (John 5:25; 11:25-26; Ephesians 2:1-4).

III. I must actively place my emphasis in life on those things which are eternal.

To the extent you live here (emotionally, spiritually, physically) in Kingdom awareness, you live well! Paul says, "We will meet the Lord in the air; and *so we shall always be with the Lord*" (I Thess. 4:17). The very next verse says, "Comfort one another with these words" (v. 4:18). Comfort one another. The word *comfort* means to *come alongside and give strength*, with words of the Lord's coming.

- A. On those occasions you do not sense the presence of the Lord, ask Him for grace; He is here.
- B. On those occasions you do not sense the power of the Lord, ask Him for grace; He will move.
- C. On those occasions you do not sense the purpose of the Lord, ask Him for grace; He shall give.