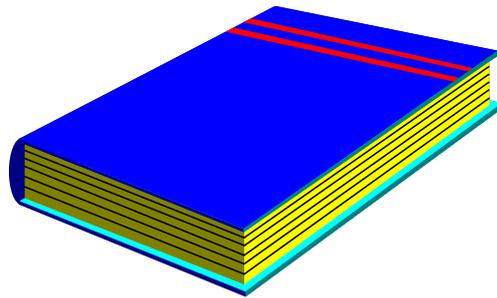


THEWORD

BIBLE TRAINING COURSE FOR LEADERS



FIRM FOUNDATIONS COURSE

PARTTWELVE

THE RESURRECTION OF THE DEAD

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? But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ is not risen. And if Christ is not risen, then our preaching is vain and your faith is also vain. (1Corinthians 15:12-14)

But now Christ is risen from the dead

ETERNAL JUDGMENT

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. "For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. "He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. (John 3:16-18)

The object of this study is

TO DISCOVER AND PROVE: -

A foundation on which to build a sound doctrine of the Resurrection of the Dead and of Eternal Judgment.

On completion of this study you will have: -

- A knowledge of the unfolding of the end time events
- You will understand about the resurrection of both the saints and the unsaved
- Have a clear knowledge of the reality of the final judgment
- No excuse for not sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ with the lost

NOTES

There are four practical aspects to these courses; exercises, Bible reading, learning and questions. The following notes are for your guidance:-

- 1. Exercises** are to be written in your own words and returned to the Course Administrator through whom this course was given to you or returned to the address below.
- 2. Bible reading** is to be done at the point of the course where you are asked to read. Do not just read the passage but meditate upon it before continuing.
- 3. Learning.** These are usually short passages of the Bible for you to learn so that you are able to speak them without reference to the Bible.
- 4. Questions** are listed at the end of each study and are to be answered when you are satisfied that you have completed the study. Your answers can be sent back to your Course Administrator or e-mailed or posted to the address below.

Once you have completed the work you can e-mail it to stangain@btinternet.com for assessment. On successful completion of the whole course a certificate will be sent to you.

If you were given this course by your Course Administrator then return your work only to him. If this course came to you direct from London then please post your work to:-

Stan Gain
The Word Bible Training Course
285 Montrose Avenue
Welling
Kent DA16 2QU
ENGLAND

Time or Eternity

All the studies so far have involved our lives as Christians in our present circumstances. They relate to things that have already happened in history and our response to them. The two topics in this final study concern things yet to come. They are such large subjects that they could take up a whole course of study on their own but in this course we will be simply laying a foundation for our understanding.

To begin to understand them we must change the way that we think about things. It is natural that we think of things in terms of time – minutes, hours, days, months, years and so on. To understand the resurrection of the dead and eternal judgment we must think in terms of eternity. Eternity is where time no longer exists. Many people believe that eternity is a place where time goes on and on and on and on – an immensely long period of time far beyond the power of the mind to understand. This is not so.

The nature of eternity is different from the nature of time.

Read Genesis 1:14-17. Up until this day of creation there was no time. We learn from these verses that: -

- i) God created time
- ii) God gave time to man
- iii) God gave the sun, moon and stars so that man would be able to have order in his life and recognise the hours, days and seasons.
- iv) God is not limited by time. The one who created time must be greater than the thing that He created

The bible teaches clearly that this heaven and earth (creation as we now know it) will pass away. With the passing of creation will pass time as we know it and we will pass into eternity. In the promised new heaven and new earth we will not be governed by the passing of time – time will not exist. We will exist as God exists.

An event is coming when every individual will move out of this time dispensation and will step into eternity – either through death or through being taken at Christ's appearing.

Two Universal and Eternal Appointments

What awaits each departing soul as it steps from time into eternity? Many things have not been revealed to us as yet. For the Christian it will be far beyond anything that we can imagine. "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him." (1 Corinthians 2:9).

However, there are two things that the Bible tells us very clearly about.

- The Resurrection of the Dead
- Eternal Judgment

The Resurrection of the Dead

There is a false teaching and a common misunderstanding that only Christians will be resurrected. However the Bible teaches that all men will be raised for eternity. This revelation is set out very clearly in 1 Corinthians 15:21-22: -

Learn this verse:

‘For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive.’

It is very clearly stated here that in Adam, death came to all men and that in Christ resurrection came to all men. In Christ all men will be made alive. Whether they have accepted Jesus Christ as saviour or not. The only difference is that those who accept Him will be with Him for eternity in their eternal resurrection bodies in Heaven. Those who refuse Him will be apart from Him in their eternal resurrection bodies in Hell.

Exercise 1

This is a long exercise but worth taking time over. Read the whole book of Revelation. Do not be concerned with those parts that you do not understand and do not try to interpret the various events that are not clear. Read it with your mind focussed in two ways as below:

- 1) Read it with rejoicing that if you are saved that you are on the side of the Champion – Jesus Christ. The New Heaven and the New Earth will be yours.
- 2) Read it with tears that countless millions of men, women and children who have not accepted Him will spend eternity in the unquenchable fires of Hell.

It is important that you complete this exercise. As you do so let The Holy Spirit fill you with His joy that you have been saved from condemnation but let Him also give you His heart of compassion for the lost. He will change your life.

A Brief Overview of the Book of Revelation

An important key to understanding the Book of Revelation is to know that it is written in the time order that the future events will take place. Set out below is a list of these events in that order: -

Chapters 1	The giving of the Revelation to John
Chapters 2-3	The current Church age – that is from the time of Christ until the rapture of the saints
Chapters 4-5	The Church in Heaven
Chapters 6-18	The great tribulation on earth

Chapter 19:1-10	The Church in Heaven at the Marriage Feast of the Lamb
Chapter 19:11-16	The Second Coming of Christ with the saints
Chapter 19:17:21	The Battle of Armageddon
Chapter 20:1-3	Satan is bound for 1000 years
Chapter 20:4-6	The 1000 year rule of Jesus with the saints from heaven and the saints from the tribulation
Chapter 20:7-9	The final defeat of satan at the battle of Gog and Magog
Chapter 20:10	Satan is thrown into the lake of fire – Hell
Chapter 20:11-15	The final resurrection and judgment of all the dead at the Great White Throne of Judgment
Chapter 21-22	The ending of this creation and the creation of a new and eternal heaven and earth where the saints will live forever.

In dealing with the two subjects of the resurrection of the dead and eternal judgment together we can now look at the individual destinies of the saved and the lost. In eternity their destinies are totally separate. The resurrection of the saved happens at a different moment in time from the resurrection of the lost as will become clear in this study.

The Resurrection of the Saved

The resurrection of the saved will happen at the time just before the tribulation when Jesus will appear in the clouds and the dead who died in Christ together with those who are living and are trusting Jesus are raptured. We can read about this in the following passage: -

But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus. For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words. (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18)

It is plain that this event is not the same event as the Second Coming of Jesus. This is a clear happening after the Marriage Feast of the Lamb as we read about in Revelation 19. The sequence of events is again very clearly recorded: -

- The Lord Himself will descend from heaven as far as the clouds.
- There will be a shout accompanied by the voice of an archangel and the sounding of a trumpet

- The dead in Christ will rise in their resurrection bodies and rise to meet Jesus in the clouds
- Then Christians who are alive will also be caught up with them in the clouds
- We will be with the Lord for ever

These events will happen at the end of Revelation Chapter 3. After which in Chapter 4 the Church is found in Heaven worshipping in the Throne Room of Heaven.

Exercise 2

Study the passage above – Thessalonians 4:13-18 – together with 1 Corinthians chapter 15. From these passages, what can you learn about: -

- i) the resurrection of Jesus?
- ii) the resurrection of those who died in Christ?
- iii) the resurrection of living Christians at the time of His coming?

The Saints in Heaven

Let it first be understood that all Christians, past present and future are seen in the Bible as saints. The practice of some churches to honour a few chosen people and designate them saints can confuse this truth. All who are born again by the sacrifice of Jesus are called saints in the Bible.

Revelation chapters 4 & 5 give a wonderful picture of the saints worshipping around the Throne of God. Some have raised questions whether the saints are there. Some say that just the twenty-four elders are there. There is a wonderful angelic presence and some amazing creatures, but the saints are there singing this song: -

‘And they sang a new song, saying: "You are worthy to take the scroll, and to open its seals; for You were slain, and have redeemed us to God by Your blood out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, and have made us kings and priests to our God; and we shall reign on the earth." (Revelation 5:9-10)

Again we can see that the saints are in Heaven and not just the twenty-four: -

1. The song that they sang says that Jesus has redeemed them by His blood. Angels have not been redeemed – only men.
2. They sang that they are from every tribe and tongue and people and nation. The twenty-four elders are from the people of Israel.
3. Note that they sing about a future event. “We shall reign on earth”. The saints are in Heaven singing of the time of the Second Coming and Millennial Reign when they too will reign on earth with Jesus.

At this time, while the saints are in Heaven, the tribulation on earth as recorded in Revelation 6-18 is happening. This is not something that will affect the saints of the

church age (from the time of Christ to the Rapture of the saints). During this time in Heaven, three major events will take place for the saints.

1. We will stand before the judgment seat of Christ
2. We will be presented by Jesus to the Father
3. The Marriage Feast of the Lamb

Let us look at these three events.

The Judgment Seat of Christ

Read 2 Corinthians 5:10 and 1Corinthians 3:11-15

The letters to the Corinthians are written to the church and we can, therefore take what is written as applying to all the saints. The judgment seat of Christ is not the same as The Great White Throne of Revelation 20. That judgment will be a judgment for sin at the end of the age. Christians will not be judged for sin since Christ has taken the penalty for our sin. He carried our judgment for our sin on Calvary. If the penalty has been paid we do not have to pay it again.

The judgment seat of Christ is where we will give an account of those things that we have done in service of the Lord. It will not be an easy place to be. We will receive the reward of our labours. If we were backsliders; if we served the world and chased after material things; if we sowed to the flesh; if we served money instead of God; if we were half hearted in our Christian life, our works will be rewarded with wood, hay and straw. Our works will be burned up when it is tested by fire. We will be empty-handed and have nothing to give our Lord and Saviour on that day. We ourselves will be saved but only as those escaping as through fire. It is not that our salvation will be at question but our service to Him on the earth.

However, if in this world, in the body, we are whole hearted in our service of the Lord; if we hear His Word and put it into practice; if we sowed to the Spirit; if we were obedient to the call of God; if we endured difficulties and hardships as a good soldier, we will be rewarded with gold and silver and precious stones. Our works will survive the test of fire and we will have something to give to our dear Lord and Saviour.

(FOR YOUR OWN REFLECTION AND NOT FOR SUBMISSION TO YOUR COURSE ADMINISTRATOR.) As a personal meditation reflect on your own Christian life and service. It is easy for us to see those things that we are doing well, but are there any areas in which you know that you are not serving the Lord with all your heart? Ask The Holy Spirit to show you any areas where your motives may be selfish or impure. It is better to face these areas now so that they may be transformed from wood, hay and straw into gold, silver and precious stones at the judgment seat of Christ.

Exercise 3

From your study and knowledge of the New Testament make a list of those 'works' that you believe will be rewarded with gold, silver and precious stones and a list of those 'works' that will be rewarded with wood, hay and straw. Give Bible references to support each item.

Presented to the Father

There are three scriptures that show us that Jesus will present us to the Father.

1. 'That He might **present** it to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that it should be holy and without blemish.' (Ephesians 5:27)
2. 'Now He has reconciled in the body of His flesh through death, to **present** you holy, and blameless, and irreproachable in His sight.' (Colossians 1:21-22)
3. 'Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to **present** you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy, (Jude 1:24)

This will be as a man **presents** his bride to his own family when a wedding is near. What a wonderful experience that will be. Remember that we will have been transformed at the resurrection with a new body – an eternal resurrection body that is fit for eternity. Until this moment, it is not possible for flesh and blood to stand in the presence of God. But at that time we shall be like the resurrected Jesus. Our bodies in their new form will be sinless – unlike our present body of death. **We will stand before God and see Him face to face.**

The Marriage Feast of The Lamb

Read Before looking at this aspect of our study read Revelation 21 again and note the references to the Bride and the New Jerusalem.

Having been presented to God by Jesus as His soon to be bride, it will not be long before we sit at the table of the marriage of the Lamb. Some have difficulty with this concept. They say that the bride is the New Jerusalem in Revelation 21. This is a later picture of the Bride, now joined as in marriage to Christ taking her eternal place to be with Him for all eternity. The twelve tribes of Israel together with the church represented by the Twelve Apostles – the combined people of God.

The certainty that the Church will be joined as in marriage to Christ is clearly presented in Ephesians 5 22-32. In speaking about how a man and woman become one flesh in marriage, Paul says that in the same way it will be for Christ and the church.

Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Saviour of the body. Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything.

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for it, that He might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, that He might present it to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that it should be holy and without blemish. So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church.

For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones. "For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." **This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church.**

This is very clear. There can be no doubt from this passage that the church shall be joined as in marriage to Jesus. Compare verse 30 with Adam's statement in Genesis 23: - "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man." Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.

At the marriage feast of the Lamb we shall become eternally united with Jesus and will be with Him through the Second Coming, the millennium rule, the Great White Throne and into the new heaven and earth.

The Spirit and the bride say "Come!"

The Resurrection of the Unsaved

In our step by step walk through the book of Revelation we come to one of the most painful subjects of the whole Bible. For this reason it is one that is often ignored. It is the eternal destiny of the unsaved – the lost. We have already seen that 'In Adam all die and in Christ all will be made alive'.

Read and study Revelation 20:11-15.

At this point in history, satan, the beast and the false prophet have been thrown into the lake of fire – Hell. Now comes the final resurrection of the dead when all flesh will rise. Death, having been defeated by Jesus at the cross will give up her dead, together with Hades and the seas.

All of mankind, from Adam to the end of the age who were not a part of the first resurrection will stand before the Great White Throne for judgment. Remember that these

will now be standing in their eternal everlasting bodies. Those whose names are not written in the Lambs Book of Life, who did not accept His salvation however it may have been offered to them, will be cast into the lake of fire in there eternal bodies – **forever!** A painful and sad truth.

The church in these days needs to rediscover the bitterness of this truth and do everything in its power to reach the lost – to snatch others from the flames. This is truly gold in the hands of the saints at the judgment seat of Christ.

Exercise 4

A simple exercise in the light of the above.

Speak as often as you can about Jesus. Do not worry if they reject you and your words. It is not you that they reject but Jesus and His salvation. If you are not called to be an evangelist you are commanded to be a witness.

Remember that the unsaved are going to Hell. Hell is a reality!

The World Stands Condemned Already

We have seen in this Course that ‘In Adam all die’ because in him ‘all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God’. We have seen that ‘the wages of sin is death’. We have seen that ‘God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world’. We have seen that ‘he who does not believe stands condemned already’. We have seen that in Jesus ‘we have a new and living way to God’. We have seen that ‘there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus’ and we have seen that His salvation is ‘by grace alone’.

Exercise 5

In the paragraph above are many scriptures. Each quotation is taken from the New Testament.

Find these verses and write them out in full. If you do not yet know them, learn each of them by heart.

In many of His parables, Jesus describes the destiny of those who do not believe in Him or accept His salvation as a very desperate and serious situation. They stand condemned to a place of ‘weeping and gnashing of teeth’ a place where ‘their worm does not die and the fire is not quenched.

Many people say that if God were a God of love, He would not send anyone to Hell. They are missing the basic fact that it is not God who sends anyone to Hell. Because of his own sin – and all have sinned – man himself has chosen Hell by disobedience to God. God is truly a God of love and has put in His plan to rescue people from the fires of Hell.

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."

God acts to save people from Hell, not to send them to Hell. 'The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.' (2 Peter 3:9).

Jesus = Heaven

No Jesus = Hell

The Nature of Judgment

Because of the character and nature of God we can be sure that all his judgments will be carried out with true justice. In Psalm 89:14 we read

'Justice and judgment are the habitation of thy throne: mercy and truth shall go before thy face.'

Here we are assured that the judgment of God is just and that it will not be without mercy and truth. All His ways are just. In many places in the Old Testament we find Justice linked with righteousness.

Firstly, God's Word is truth. (John 17:17). God's judgment will not be based on anything other than the truth. There will be no lies; no false testimony; no twisting of the truth. We know that whatever God says at the final judgment will be true.

Secondly, he will judge according to the deeds of men. The evidence that is presented will be based on men's own actions. There will be no evidence introduced that will be the testimony of others. Each man will stand or fall according to his own actions. Revelation 20:12 tells us that 'the dead are judged according to their works, by the things that were written in the books'

Thirdly, his judgment will not be biased. He will not show any favouritism. He will not judge according to outward appearances. He will know the truth and the motive of every situation.

Therefore, it is not just for man to say of God that it is unfair that men should go to Hell. God's fairness is in sending Jesus to save men who believe in Him from the fires of Hell.

Do not let this truth be far from you in your ministry as a leader in the church of Jesus Christ. The judgment of God is an awesome thing for those that will face it. The fire of Hell is a reality. Do not be afraid to preach it and to rescue many from its flames.

Go into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature

Questions

Part 12

1. The nature of eternity is different from the nature of time. How?
2. What is the purpose of the sun, moon and stars according to Genesis chapter 1?
3. Complete this verse ; 'For as in Adam all die, even so ...'
4. At the time of the Tribulation in Revelation 6-18, where will the church be?
5. What was different about the body of Jesus before His resurrection and after as we see in the Gospel accounts?
6. Who are the saints?
7. What three major events will take place in Heaven for the saints between the rapture and the Second Coming?
8. How will our works be tested at the judgment seat of Christ and what will be the result of that testing?
9. Complete this verse: 'Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and ...'
10. In Ephesians 5: 22-32 what are the comparisons that Paul makes between a man and wife and Christ and the church?
11. Who will be present at the marriage feast of the Lamb?
12. Who are the first to be thrown into the lake of fire?
13. What is the destiny of those whose names are not written in the Book of Life?
14. From where does the condemnation that is on the lost come from? Themselves or God?
15. What qualities of judgment will God use in bringing His judgment to men?
16. What is the difference between the judgment seat of Christ and The Great White Throne?
17. Are you preaching the Gospel and witnessing?