

“The Grand Prize”

“Blessed and holy is the one who shares in the first resurrection! Over such the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ, and they will reign with him for a thousand years.” (Revelation 20:6)

New Life Now & Later

John 5:25-29 – ²⁵ “Truly, truly, I say to you, an hour is coming, and is now here, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. ²⁶ For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself. ²⁷ And he has given him authority to execute judgment, because he is the Son of Man. ²⁸ Do not marvel at this, for an hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear his voice ²⁹ and come out, those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to the resurrection of judgment.”

John 6:40, 44, 54 – ⁴⁰ “For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. ⁴⁴ ...And I will raise him up on the last day. ⁵⁴ ...and I will raise him up on the last day.”

1 Corinthians 15:51-52 – ⁵¹ “Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, ⁵² in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed.”

Illustration of the Resurrection

John 11:4, 11-13 – ⁴ “But when Jesus heard it he said, ‘This illness does not lead to death. It is for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.’ ¹¹ After saying these things, he said to them, ‘Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I go to awaken him.’ ¹² The disciples said to

him, ‘Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will recover.’¹³ Now Jesus had spoken of his death, but they thought that he meant taking rest in sleep.”

John 11:21-27 – ²¹ “Martha said to Jesus, ‘Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²² But even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you.’²³ Jesus said to her, ‘Your brother will rise again.’²⁴ Martha said to him, ‘I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.’²⁵ **Jesus said to her, ‘I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live,**²⁶ and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?’²⁷ She said to him, ‘Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world.’”

Fiercely Focused on the Prize

Philippians 3:8-16 – ⁸ “Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith—¹⁰ that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death,¹¹ **that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.**¹² Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own.¹³ **Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead,**¹⁴ **I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.**¹⁵ Let those of us who are mature think this way, and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal that also to you.¹⁶ Only let us hold true to what we have attained.”