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Not too long ago a comedian told a joke. He said "People say money cannot buy you happiness, but it can buy you a jetski... have you ever seen someone unhappy on a jetski?" It's funny, but we know another cliché that often rings true: "Pleasure is but for a moment and pain lasts a lifetime." A jetski, car, motorcycle, a house, a large bank account doesn't take away the pain we face in life. It numbs it only for a moment.

Today our culture encourages you and me to look inward. In other words, we need to give our lives meaning, by taking a look in the mirror and asking ourselves, "What do I want?" "What will make me happy?" The world we live in encourages an unprecedented level of self-centeredness. But Jesus in John 11:25-26 gives us a very different perspective. He tells us that we must look outside of ourselves if we want to have hope, peace, purpose.

The late Scottish preacher, Alexander Whyte, observed that we all tend to hang heavy weights on the thinnest wires. He meant that we hang our happiness on fragile things that easily and quickly can be taken from us: health, mates, children, jobs, homes, or possessions. These are all good blessings from the Lord. But they're inadequate as a foundation for lasting joy, because they're all so uncertain and transitory.

Jesus gave an Easter Message in John 11:25-26 which is a message of true hope, peace, and purpose for life: “Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?”

Our two main verses for this Easter are found within the story of Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead. The story is pretty familiar but it’s easy to forget some of the details surrounding it. I want to focus on some parts of John 11 to introduce the passage to us. These are just some introductory lessons we learn about death.

➤ The Lord’s sovereignty over the deceased

John 11:1-4:

“Now a certain *man* was sick, *named* Lazarus, of Bethany, the town of Mary and her sister Martha. (It was *that* Mary which anointed the Lord with ointment, and wiped his feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was sick.) Therefore his sisters sent unto him, saying, Lord, behold, he whom thou lovest is sick. When Jesus heard [that], he said, This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God might be glorified thereby.”

Jesus taught that Lazarus died to bring about God’s purpose which was to glorify Himself. This reminds us that all disease and death are somehow in the hand of God’s providence and sovereignty. Death is not an accident – it’s a divine appointment.”

Tony Evans once said:

“Everything in the universe is either caused by God or allowed by God, and there is no third category.”

There is no such thing as chance, luck, or fate. Nothing ever just happens. The tragedies of life, including death, are not accidents.

➤ The Lord’s sorrow over the deceased

John 11:33 -36

When Jesus therefore saw her weeping, and the Jews also weeping which came with her, he groaned in the spirit, and was troubled, And said, Where have ye laid

him? They said unto him, Lord, come and see. Jesus wept. Then said the Jews, Behold how he loved him!

Jesus wept! The point we all need to understand is that there is nothing unspiritual about feeling deep sorrow and grief at a time of loss. True, our grief is different than that of the world, in that we have ultimate hope in Christ (1 Thess. 4:13). And yet, we still grieve. Isaiah 53:3 describes our Lord Jesus as “a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief.”

The deeper that we have loved, the deeper our sorrow will be when the loved one is taken from us in death, especially when the death is unexpected. While any major loss is emotionally painful, it’s crucial that we learn how to work through such losses biblically, because we’re all going to face them. Peter indicates that it is precisely in times of suffering that the devil seeks to destroy our faith for this is when he comes in as a roaring lion to devour us (1 Pet. 5:8–9). I’ve known certain believers who have wiped out spiritually because they didn’t know how to face suffering biblically.

Jesus taught something very wonderful and hopeful in John 11:23-27 to help us through our suffering: “Jesus saith unto her (Martha), Thy brother shall rise again (from the dead). Martha saith unto him, I know that he shall rise again in the resurrection at the last day (the view of Old Testament saints regarding resurrection). Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live (Jesus is talking here about being made physically alive again, He’s referencing the bodily resurrection of believers): And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die (Jesus then talks about spiritual and eternal life). Believest thou this? She saith unto him, Yea, Lord: I believe that thou art the Christ, the Son of God, which should come into the world.”

Here is our main point in this Easter study. Because Jesus is alive we have been given the hope of resurrection and eternal life.

There are two promises of hope related to Christ’s resurrection.

- 1. The promise of a resurrected body.**

- A. Christ gives the promise.

“Thy brother shall rise again” (11:23) and “he that believe in me, though he were dead, he shall he live” (11:25). These references are to the believers (those who have placed faith in Christ). Jesus is giving the promise that we will one day be raised from the dead if we have believed on Him to be our Savior. “Martha saith unto him, I know that he shall rise again on the last day” (verse 24.) This is simple faith in what Jesus says will happen someday. We too can have this same simple faith and assurance about the resurrection of other believers who have gone on before us. Like Martha, we can believe that this glorious event will take place just as Jesus said.

Ray Prichard remarked:

“The New Testament again and again connects our resurrection with his. Ours will happen in the future because his happened in the past. Sometimes when I stand by the grave of someone I know, I can almost hear a voice from beneath the ground saying, “I’m coming up.” To unbelievers that may sound like wishful thinking, but to me it’s solid biblical faith. In the words of the Apostles Creed, I believe in the resurrection of the body.”

The resurrection of the human body is nothing short of a miracle of God. And we can be sure that one day at every graveside something wonderful and glorious is going to take place. Jesus is going to raise the bodies of all His beloved saints from the grave and we will get a brand-new body.

Our resurrection is based on the resurrection of Christ.

John 14:19

“Yet a little while, and the world seeth me no more; but ye see me: because I live, ye shall live also.”

If Jesus was not raised from the dead, passing through death and defeating death for us, our bodies are staying in the dust or ground! They will be forever disintegrated and never brought back together for the resurrection.

But because Jesus was raised from the dead, we can have the assurance that our bodily resurrection will follow. The law of first fruits and a future harvest illustrates this to us. Paul talked about this.

1 Corinthians 15:20 -23

“But now is Christ risen from the dead, *and* become the firstfruits of them that slept (*a N.T. metaphor used for Christians who have died*). For since by man *came* death, by man *came* also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming” (*the Rapture*).

The first fruits were a handful of ripened grain from the harvest field before the actual harvest started. They were a pledge, a guarantee, a foretaste of what was to follow. Christ rose as the firstfruits to confirm that a much greater harvest will follow of resurrected saints. Of course, the expression does not necessarily mean that Christ was the first one to rise from the dead. We have instances of resurrection in the OT, and the cases of Lazarus, the widow's son, and Jairus' daughter in the NT. But Christ's resurrection was different from all of these in that Christ rose to die no more. The others were actually restored to life but Jesus rose from the dead to live in the power of an endless life. He rose with a glorified body.

Without getting into all the dispensational prophetic details of this verse, Paul is clearly teaching that our resurrection is based on the resurrection of Christ. Christ is likened to the first fruits of the harvest as depicted in the Old Testament and we (Church Age saints) will follow in our own resurrection because Jesus conquered the realm of death for us, winning the victory over it, paving the way for our future, bodily resurrection.

What a wonderful promise and hope this is! We are getting a new body someday all because Jesus rose from the dead! It will be a body that is perfect, free from sin, pain, suffering, and one that will never die again.

John 11:38-44 tells us what happened:

“Jesus therefore again groaning in himself cometh to the grave. It was a cave, and a stone lay upon it. Jesus said, Take ye away the stone. Martha, the sister of him that was dead, saith unto him, Lord, by this time he stinketh: for he hath been *dead* four days. Jesus saith unto her, Said I not unto thee, that, if thou wouldest believe, thou shouldest see the glory of God? Then they took away the stone *from the place* where the dead was laid. And Jesus lifted up *his* eyes, and said, Father, I thank thee that thou hast heard me. And I knew that thou hearest me always: but because of the people which stand by I said *it*, that they may believe that thou hast sent me.

And when he thus had spoken, he cried with a loud voice, Lazarus, come forth. And he that was dead came forth, bound hand and foot with graveclothes: and his face was bound about with a napkin. Jesus saith unto them, Loose him, and let him go.

It's good Jesus said "Lazarus come forth" or every person in the graveyard would have been raised from the dead!

One man said, "When I was a teenager, my friend Ralph Blake and I would watch on Friday nights Creature Feature. We would watch the old television shows such as Frankenstein, Wolf Man, Dracula, and the Mummy. The Mummy would come out of his grave or tomb and walk through the cemetery and fog-filled forests, destroying people in his path. This story in John 11 is a true story. The Mummy comes back to life. His name is Lazarus.

The raising of Lazarus by Christ is an example of the power Christ has to raise the dead someday. You know, in reading the Bible, I discovered that every funeral that Jesus attended - He raised the dead! Wow! This means He has the power to raise the body of all His saints from the dead and this is exactly what He will do someday. Jesus will get it done! You can take this to the bank! 2 Corinthians 1:20 says that "All the promises of God in Christ are yea, and in him Amen!" This means someday all of us who know Christ as Savior are going to get a new body that will be like Christ's body.

Philippians 3:20-21

"For our conversation (*citizenship*) is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall change our vile (*humiliating and lowly*) body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself."

Our future resurrection is based on the resurrection of Christ. Yes, we are getting a new body someday all because Jesus rose from the dead! He was victorious over death, and we will be victorious as well when we are raised with a glorified and eternal body like Christ's – free from sin, free from disease, free from sorrow, free from old age, and free from death!

HERE ARE SOME SIGNS THAT YOU'RE GETTING OLD: Your probably hears some of these:

- Your back goes out more often than you do.
- You quit trying to hold your stomach in, no matter who walks into the room.
- You buy a compass for the dash of your car/truck.
- You enjoy hearing about other people's operations.
- People call at 9:00 p.m. and ask, "Did I wake you?"
- You take a metal detector to the beach.
- When you finally reach the top of the ladder and find it leaning against the wrong wall.
- You know you're getting older when a fortune teller offers to read your face rather than the lines in your hand.
- You know you're getting older when everything hurts, and what doesn't hurt, doesn't work.
- You know you're getting older when you sit in a rocking chair but can't get it going.
- You know you're getting older when you look forward to a dull evening.
- You know you're getting older when your little black book contains names ending only in M.D."
- You know you're getting older when you sink your teeth into a steak, and they stay there.

During his presidency, Ronald Reagan told the following story at a White House reception. "It seems that an 80-year-old man's golf game was hampered by poor eyesight. He could hit the ball well but he couldn't see where it went. So his doctor teamed him up with a 90-year-old man who had perfect eyesight and was willing to go along to serve as a spotter. The 80-year-old man hit the first ball and asked his companion if he saw where it landed. 'Yep,' said the 90-year-old. Where did it go?' the 80-year-old demanded. The 90-year-old replied, 'I don't remember.'"

Someday we are going to get a new body and it will never grow old again! The resurrection of our body is a wonderful hope based upon Jesus' own resurrection. But the resurrection of the human body is something we must accept by faith as Martha did. Jesus said that He will do it and we can believe Jesus! We can believe in this miraculous event just as we believe in the miracle of life, the conception and formation of a baby in the womb of a mother. God has many miracles and wonders

that He performs before our very eyes and the resurrection will be another one of His miracles.

B. Christ has the power – “I am the resurrection...”

Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live (Jesus is talking here about being made physically alive again, He’s referencing the bodily resurrection of believers): **And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die** (Jesus is referencing spiritual and eternal life of believers).

This is the fifth of Jesus’ great “I am” revelations. But we need to understand the grammatical connections in this verse. Jesus states, “I am the resurrection and the life.” First, the “I am the resurrection” corresponds with what Jesus first says (“though he were dead, yet shall he live”) which is speaking of His power in granting a physical resurrection to

His saints. Second, “the life” corresponds with the second part of the passage and this study (“And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die”) which is referencing to Christ giving spiritual and eternal life to those who believe prior to their death.

Jesus was simply stating that He was the overcomer of death and has the power and authority to raise the dead and also give people eternal life so they might live forever with Him. In relation to the death of Lazarus, it’s very clear that Christ is emphasizing His power to raise the dead when He says, “I am the resurrection.” In other words, Jesus was saying, “Martha, Lazarus does not have to wait until the Last Day to be raised (John 11:24) – I am the resurrector, I have the power and authority to raise the dead, and I am going to do it right now before your very eyes!”

I often turn to this verse on Easter. Jesus said in Revelation 1:18: “I *am* he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell (*hades – a reference to the place of departed spirits*) and of death” (*a reference to the body which goes back to the earth or dust*).

Prior to Christ’s resurrection, Satan had the authority to keep men bound in the realm of death (separation from God in the inner earth) but Jesus took the keys away from him an unlocked death for all mankind making death the entranceway

into Heaven and the very throne room of God (Heb. 4:14-16). In other words, Jesus has the full authority and power to raise the dead someday. He possesses the keys (authority) to unlock the door of death and resurrect the bodies of His saints who have died centuries ago.

Christians who were burned at the stake will be resurrected even though their bodies and molecules are gone! Christians who were lost at sea, eaten by sharks, and lost in airplane crashes will be brought back together and be raised from the realm of death with a new glorified body! You ask, "How can this be? It's because Jesus is "the resurrection." He has the power to raise the dead and bring them back to life! Jesus Christ is the SOURCE behind the resurrection and physical restoration of life to the human body which will occur on a massive scale in the future at His coming.

"I am the resurrection" (John 11:25). Notice how personal this is. Jesus doesn't say, "I bring resurrection" but rather "I am the resurrection." It seems to be that death (your death and mine) has been totally transformed by Jesus himself. It's very personal. It's through Jesus and Jesus alone that we will be raised someday.

At this point, I need to remind you that our Lord often used the word "sleep" to describe death. When he saw Jairus' dead daughter, he said, "The damsel (child) is not dead but sleeping" (Mark 5:39). He told the disciples that Lazarus was asleep (John 11:11), The whole point of sleeping is to wake up later. Death of the body for the believer is like lying down to a good long nap. The body may sleep a long time—for many years in fact—but in the end it will wake up. When Jesus raised Lazarus, it was just a specimen, a sample of what He will do for his people when He returns for the bodies of deceased saints. But again, it's very personal with Jesus. The answer to death is not a resurrection. It's Jesus himself. "I am the resurrection and the life." No one can ever hope to escape death unless he is related to Jesus through personal faith.

It's Easter Sunday. What does this day mean to us? It means that through Jesus Christ and His resurrection, we as believers are given the promise of a new glorified, pristine body someday of endless life, no pain, no hearing devices, not pacemakers, no heart monitors, no glasses, and no medical tests and one of moral perfection.

1 John 3:2

“Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be (*we are not perfect, we are getting older, we are feeble and frail*): but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is” (*physically and morally in a new glorified body*).

Because He lives, we will receive a new resurrected and transformed body someday! We are looking at two specific promises of hope related to Christ’s resurrection. We have the promise of a resurrected body, but we must go on and see what else Jesus is offering us in view of His resurrection from the dead.

2. The promise of eternal life.

Because He lives, we also possess eternal life! Resurrection follows on the wings of eternal life. In other words, a person must possess eternal life if they are going to experience the kind of resurrection and transformation that Jesus was talking about.

John 11:25-26

“Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live (*made physically alive again, referencing the bodily resurrection of believers*): And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die? (*the reference to spiritual and eternal life*).

Once again, when Jesus said He was “the resurrection and the life” He was making the announcement that He also was not only in charge of resurrection (physical life) but also in charge of “life” or giving people spiritual and eternal life. This is clearly what Jesus was teaching because He dealt with the two concepts of resurrection and life separately in this discussion. He first spoke about His power to raise the dead (“the resurrection”) but now He comes back to speak of His authority to give “life” (spiritual and eternal life) to those who are still alive and awaiting death. And all of this was based upon the fact that He rose from the dead!

Jesus moves from the promise of the bodily resurrection of believers to the promise of eternal life for everyone who believes on Him. In one sense, Jesus wanted to say something to everyone who is left behind and who were standing there at the funeral of Lazarus. At every funeral Jesus wanted to speak to those who were still

alive. It's for the unsaved who need to be saved and it's also reminder for those of who already saved.

A. Our belief results in eternal life – “the life.”

Since Jesus is also “the life” (John 11:25), He goes on to say: “And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?” (John 11:26). There is no indication that Jesus was talking about those who would be living on the last day at Christ's Second Coming. He was speaking to Martha about the here and now. He would raise Lazarus right now and people can possess eternal life right now and be prepared for eternity and the great resurrection day. In other words, whoever believes or expresses faith in Jesus will live spiritually and eternally, even if he or she dies physically.

Jesus is saying if you are still alive and believe on me (place personal faith in Me to be your Savior), then you will never die. Of course, it seems clear that Jesus was referring to never dying spiritually and going to hell for when you believe on Christ you are granted eternal life and are forever delivered from God's condemnation and wrath. Jesus makes the connection that only those who possess eternal life will be raised with a glorified body at His coming (defined elsewhere as a resurrection “unto life” – John 5:29). Eternal life gives us the promise of a resurrection unto life, a resurrection that results in true blessing throughout eternity.

It's important to understand that eternal life begins for the believer before he dies physically. We receive it the moment we believe on Christ. Jesus repeated this often during His earthly ministry.

John 3:16

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”

John 10:28

“And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any *man* pluck them out of my hand.”

This is Jesus' promise of eternal security! So, we discover that Jesus also rose from the dead to give us the free gift of eternal life. A dead Christ cannot give eternal life to anybody! Jesus was saying, based upon His own resurrection, that He has the

authority to give us spiritual life that will never end. Only a living Christ who rose from the dead and who is now in Heaven can promise you eternal life in Heaven! That makes good theological sense to me!

Romans 6:23

“For the wages of sin *is* death; but the gift of God *is* eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”

In other words, Jesus is saying that for those who are left behind and weeping over the loss of our loved ones (everyone has a Lazarus funeral), we can believe in Jesus Christ to be our Savior, so that we will never die, which in this case means that we will never die spiritually and be separated from the presence of God in hell. Wonder of wonders! When we trust Christ to be our Savior, we will not only be raised physically to live with Christ, but we will never die spiritually! We win, win, and win with Christ!

B. Our resurrection is based on eternal life.

In our final point we discover that if a person possesses eternal life and physically dies that person is assured of being raised from the dead with a glorified body that reflects Christ’s glorified body. When Jesus speaks how a believer “shall never die” (John 11:26) spiritually (be separated from God in hell) when possessing eternal life, He indicates that eternal life is a necessary prerequisite for receiving a resurrected or transformed body someday. You cannot have one without the others. An eternally glorified body can only be promised to those who possess eternal life.

This is what Paul taught in 1 Corinthians 15:51-55 regarding resurrection and eternal life. In possessing eternal life, we can be assured of a future resurrection unto glory and great blessing. This is the grand finale that ties everything together about our eternal life and resurrection. When we come to this passage of Scripture the fireworks are going off as we read these verses, the band is playing, the confetti is flying,

“Behold, I shew you a mystery (*a sacred secret hidden in the past*); **We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed (*receive a transformed body*). **In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible** (*those Church Age saints who have died*), and**

we (*those Church Age saints who are alive*) **shall be changed** (*two classes of people are represented here – the dead and living Church Age saints*).

“For this corruptible (*dead body*) **must put on incorruption** (*a reference to the saints whose bodies have already returned to the dust and decayed who will be raised with an immortal body*), **and this mortal** (*living body*) **must put on immortality** (*a reference to the bodies of saints who are still living at the time of the Rapture who will immediately receive an immortal – never-dying body*). **So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption** (*the resurrection of the saints*), **and this mortal shall have put on immortality**, (*the rapture of the living saints*) **then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory** (*this is because death could not keep the bodies of deceased saints or take the bodies of living saints and certainly death could not judge the souls of the saints*).

Next is the taunting victory song at the time of the Rapture. It’s a song or saying that relates to Christ delivering us from the judgment or wrath of God that is related to death so we can have the assurance of being raised or transformed at Christ’s coming in the Rapture.

“O death, where is thy sting? O grave (*literally - hades*), **where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin** (*sin’s judgment in hell*); **and the strength of sin is the law** (*sin’s power over our lives*). **But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory** (*the victory over the sting of death by bypassing the judgment and wrath of God in hades and therefore the victory in receiving our glorified bodies for eternity*) **through our Lord Jesus Christ”** (*His death and resurrection*).

Paul is teaching that we cannot have the hope of receiving a resurrected, glorified, body someday (as explained vv. 51-54) unless we bypass spiritual death and Hades, the place of God’s wrath and judgment for sinners (as explained in vv. 55-57), and the only way to escape this place is through faith in the Gospel of Christ’s death and resurrection and receive the free gift of eternal and spiritual life (1 Cor. 15:1-3).

Here is Paul’s point. Death and Hades (representative of spiritual death – separation from God’s presence) will not have victory over us on this resurrection and transformation day by keeping us from taking part in the glorious destiny of receiving a transformed body at the Rapture (1 Pet. 1:3-5). Instead, we who have

been saved from God's wrath will be able to rise with a glorified body like Christ's (the dead Church Age saints) or be instantaneously transformed (the living Church Age saints) to live with Him in the Father's House as Christ promised (John 14:1-3). Thanks be to God that gives us victory over death, hell, and the grave!



1 Corinthians 15:55

“Oh Death, Where is Thy Sting”



Have you ever been stung by a yellow jacket? It's not the most wonderful experience in the world! Think of that sting. It hurts. It stays there for some time. Now think of this. In a very real sense Jesus Christ was stung to death on the cross for us, in our place, so the stinger of death can be removed from our lives forever when we place faith alone in Christ. In other words, death has been robbed of

its sting and terror as far as the believer is concerned for Jesus was stung to death in our place on the cross, removed the sting of death for each one of us, and rose again the third day to give us eternal life.

Here is a wonderful Easter message. When we place personal faith in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, believing that He bore the sting of death for us, our judgment in hell (hades), and believing He rose from the dead, it's then that He can He grant us eternal life.

In the midst of a storm, a little bird was clinging to the limb of a tree, seemingly calm and unafraid. As the wind tore at the limbs of the tree, the bird continued to look the storm in the face, as if to say, "Shake me off; I still have wings." Because of Christ's death and resurrection, each Christian can look the experience of death in the face and confidently say, "Shake me off; I still have wings. I'll live anyway!"

Think of it this way. At the very moment of death, the spirit lives on (2 Cor. 5:8; Phil. 1:21, 23) and at a later time the body will be resurrected to live forever (1 Cor. 15:53). In every way we are victors over death and the grave because of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Second Timothy 1:10 triumphantly declares that Jesus Christ “hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.” This means the message of Christ’s death and resurrection brought new revelation to the world concerning eternal life and the immortality of our human body). The point is this, through the Gospel message of Christ’s death and resurrection He has given us the assurance of eternal life and the hope of Heaven. This is because Jesus has taken the sting out of death for the believer (“hath abolished death” – “made it of no effect”). In other words, Jesus Christ has destroyed the adverse effects of death and made it possible for each one of us to live with God eternally in a new glorified body. Death is really no longer our enemy. It is actually that which delivers us into the loving hands of our Savior! Death is not the ending but our entranceway into our heavenly glory and a new eternal beginning!

William MacDonald said:

“God brings sweetness out of bitterness and gives beauty for ashes!”

Because He lives – I have eternal life!

We finish with the application of this passage to our lives this Easter morning.

John 11:26 -27

“And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this? She saith unto him, Yea, Lord: I believe that thou art the Christ, the Son of God, which should come into the world” (*which the prophets predicted would come into the world as the Savior*).

We see Martha’s clear expression of faith in Christ the Messiah. She believed who Jesus was and what He came to do for her (save her soul).

Believest thou this? This is what Jesus asks of you and me today. Have you personally believed in Jesus Christ (His death and resurrection) and by simple faith received His free offer of salvation? If not, you can do so today. When I place my total faith and trust in Christ to give me eternal life, Jesus gives this promise: Ye shall never die! We will never face the sting of death which is an eternity in the Lake of Fire. Instead, we will live on forever with Jesus Christ in Heaven! What a glorious promise and destiny this is for us today!!

This statement by Jesus divides the world into two categories.

- Those who believe, and those who do not.
- Those who have hope, and those who have no hope.
- Those who will die and go to hell, and those who will live forever by possessing eternal life.

For those of us who are saved death has lost its sting and terror (no judgment will follow us). But for those who are not saved death is terrible for it holds the beginning of eternal punishment.

So what is the basis or foundation for our own resurrection and the free gift of eternal life that Jesus gave to us? The basis is that He died and rose again from the dead, defeating death, hell, and the grave, providing us with the promise of our own bodily resurrection someday (a glorified body like Christ possesses) and granting us the free gift of eternal and spiritual life.

A dead Christ cannot give us the promise of resurrection or eternal life! But because He lives, we can have the complete confidence that we will be raised from the dead with a glorified (sinless and deathless) body, that we possess eternal life right now, and will live with Christ forever and forever!

“Because He lives, I can face tomorrow,
Because He lives, all fear is gone;
Because I know He holds the future,
And life is worth the living,
Just because He lives!”