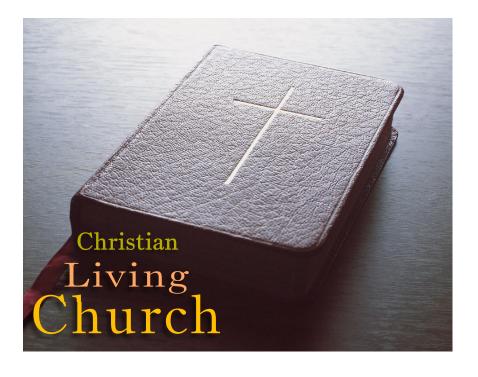
"Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live:"





This series of lessons has been designed for private study or classroom presentation. The purpose of this foreword is to explain certain conventions utilized throughout the program. The overall concept is to begin with the basic concepts necessary for the new convert to understand and progress toward more complex doctrine. The lessons are numbered in order to maintain the proper sequence of study.

When Scripture references are encountered in the text, various actions are recommended. When in parenthetical bold (Genesis 1:1) the verse is to be looked up and read right away. Frequently, the next textual statement will comment on that verse. Reading verse and text in proper order will enhance one's understanding of the verse. Direct quotes from Scripture will be "bold italicized and contained in quotation marks" and, unless otherwise noted, will be from the King James Bible. When the reference is in parenthetical non-bold (Genesis 1:1) it is to provide the Scriptural basis for the statement if confirmation is desired. References in blue Genesis 1:1 will be listed in the lesson section entitled FURTHER STUDY.

FURTHER STUDY is the "homework" section. Its purpose is to encourage Bible study at home. The referenced verses have a short summation to assist the student desiring more knowledge about a subject to find what they are looking for.

The DISCUSSION QUESTIONS section is primarily for classroom use. Open discussion with the exchange of ideas produces growth for all involved. Most of the time the answer is contained in the referenced Scripture but sometimes the question is offered for open discussion. Even in private Bible study, analysis of the question and the search for its answer can be rewarding.

This work is offered to anyone with a desire to better understand God's Word. It is our hope and prayer that the person studying these lessons will come away with a better understanding of God's will and a closer walk with our Lord, Jesus Christ.

With Loving Concern for all those seeking God's Message The Church of God Rocky Mount Rocky Mount, Virginia

Key Verse: John 11:25



"Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live:"

Discussion Question: What does the Key Verse mean to you?

The only hope Christ ever gave for the possibility of living again was by a resurrection from the dead. Death in the Bible is referred to as the most hated enemy of mankind, therefore understanding what the resurrection is and how mankind can live again is critical knowledge that man needs to have. The first place we must begin is by a definition of the word "resurrection." Just what does it mean to be resurrected? The Greek word is Strong's #386, "anastasis" and it means a standing up again, (literally) a resurrection from death or-raised to life again.

All of mankind will come face to face with two monumental truths. One, we will all die and two, we will all be resurrected back to life again. Many people assume we go to heaven immediately after death, but Paul said clearly that Christ has been raised from the dead already but nobody else has (1 Corinthians 15:22-23). Jesus also stated that no man has gone to heaven (John 3:13). Many people assume that we live on after death as a disembodied soul, but the Biblical view is that we receive a resurrected body (1 Corinthians 15:42-44). The gospel also states that only God has immortality (1 Timothy The third misunderstanding of Scripture concerns location. The gospels nowhere say, "Jesus has been raised; therefore, we are all going to heaven." Instead, it says that



Jesus is coming here to resurrect the dead in Christ at His return (1 Thessalonians 4:16).

Actually, Christianity teaches not immortality but resurrection, and it goes like this: when a person dies, their whole being dies, every aspect of that person dies. Then, for those who have accepted God's grace, God, who gave them life in the first place, gives them life again. We all go to the grave completely expired, every part of us, 100 percent deceased. Then, in God's own time, He raises the faithful by giving the person a new resurrected body.

Consider this, if man already has an immortal soul then why does he need God? He can simply trust that which he already has. This false teaching has caused many to think that they can get along just fine without God. The Bible teaches us that we must depend on Jesus for the resurrection.

This dependence is based on a relationship with Him (John 15:14), and this relationship is determined by whether or not a person has received the Spirit of God (Romans 8:9).

The Bible speaks specifically about two resurrections. first one occurs at the return of Christ, at the last trump. The ones who come up in this resurrection are the dead in Christ, the firstfruits, the called of God, the elect, the ones God is NOW offering a chance for salvation. After the millennium, there will be another resurrection. The ones who come up in this resurrection are referred to as the rest of the dead (Revelation 20:5). The ones who come up in this resurrection are the ones who never had a chance for salvation offered to them by God.





Discussion Questions:

1. What is God's will when it comes to saving the human race? 2 Peter 3:9
2. Is God limited by time when it comes to saving humanity?2 Peter 3:8
3. Can a person come to God of his own volition and at any time he chooses? John 6:44
4. Is God now calling the firstfruits to be in the first resurrection? James 1:18
5. Are there people that God has chosen to blind their eyes for
now? John 12:39-40



6. Romans 11:32 says, "God has placed all people into the prison of their own disobedience so that He could be merciful to all people." [GW] How is it possible for God to place people in the prison of their own disobedience and have mercy at the same time?
7. Where does your spirit go when you die? Ecclesiastes 12:
8. Is this spirit, which returns to God, conscious of the passage of time? James 2:26; Ecclesiastes 9:5
9. Could Paul have written 1 Corinthians 15:13-19 if he believed that the dead are already in heaven enjoying their rewards?
ple in the prison of their own disobedience and have mercy at the same time? 7. Where does your spirit go when you die? Ecclesiastes 12: 8. Is this spirit, which returns to God, conscious of the passage of time? James 2:26; Ecclesiastes 9:5 9. Could Paul have written 1 Corinthians 15:13-19 if he believed that the dead are already in heaven enjoying their re-



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