

07-04-10

Series: The Resurrections

The Resurrections (13a)

What Happens to Christians Who Die?

([1 Thessalonians 4:13-18](#))

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[Matthew 28:1-10](#)

(Continuation from 06-27-10)

The Doctrine of the Resurrections

([1 Thessalonians 4:13-18](#))

The Thessalonians' *ignorance about the Rapture* caused them to grieve.

It was to give them hope and to comfort them that Paul discussed that momentous event, giving a **fourfold description of it: 1) its pillars, 2) participants, 3) plan, and 4) profit (the benefits).**

1. The Pillars of the Rapture

The marvelous truth that the Lord Jesus Christ will return to gather believers to Himself is **based on three unshakeable pillars: 1) the death of Christ, 2) the resurrection of Christ, and 3) the revelation of Christ.**

1. The death of Christ
2. The Resurrection of Christ

[John 14:16-20 \(NASB\)](#)

¹⁶ I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever;

¹⁷ *that is* the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, *but* you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you.

¹⁸ I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.

¹⁹ After a little while the world will no longer see Me, but you *will* see Me; because I live, you will live also.

²⁰ In that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you.

([John 14:18-20](#)) **Indwelling Presence**: the Holy Spirit is the personal presence of Christ.

Note four points.

1. Jesus said, **“I will come to you.”** He meant that He would return after He had gone away, that is, died. He would come back to give believers His personal presence. He would not leave them **comfortless (*orphanous*)**; the word means **“to be orphaned, to be without parental help, to be helpless.”** Jesus would not leave them to struggle through the trials of life alone.

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Jesus' presence with His followers began with His resurrection and with the coming of the Holy Spirit. Jesus was saying that He would come to the believer in the person of the Holy Spirit.

2. The world lost its opportunity to see Jesus. He said so. He said that He would be present for only a short time longer, then the world would see Him "**no more.**" (The next time the world sees Him, He will be coming in judgment.)

3. The presence of Jesus is a living, eternal presence. He died, but He did not stay dead. He arose and conquered death. He arose to live forever. Now think: if Jesus Christ is living forever and He dwells within the believer, then the believer lives eternally. Christ the Eternal Presence lives *within* the believer; therefore, the believer becomes eternal. He never dies. The believer is made eternal by the eternal presence of Christ *within* him.

In fact, when Jesus says "**I live,**" He means He lives abundantly and eternally: He lives life in all of its full meaning. Therefore, by living *within* the believer, Christ imparts the same kind of life to the believer, a life that is both abundant and eternal.

4. The presence of Christ is a living union, a *mutual indwelling* between God, Christ, and the believer. "**In that day**" refers to Jesus' resurrection and the coming of the Holy Spirit.

Now note: when Jesus arose from the dead, believers knew something. His claim was true in an absolute sense. Jesus really was "**in**" God. God is eternal, so by being "**in**" God, Jesus was bound to live forever; He was bound to arise from the dead.

Something else was known. All that Jesus had said was true. He was placing all believers "**in**" Himself and Himself "**in**" them; or to say it another way, when the Holy Spirit came, believers were placed "**in**" His Spirit and His Spirit "**in**" them.