

08-01-10

Series: The Resurrections

The Resurrections (16)

What Happens to Christians Who Die?

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

Pastor Eddie Ildefonso

[Matthew 28:1-10](#)

(Continuation from 07-25-10)

The Doctrine of the Resurrections

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

THE COMFORT & CHALLENGE—[John 14:1](#)

[John 14:1-3 \(NASB\)](#)

¹ “Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me.”

² “In My Father’s house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you.”

³ “If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also.”

Jesus has just informed His disciples of several distressing things. He is getting ready to leave them and they can’t follow Him for the time being. He has informed them that one of them is going to destroy Him. He also knows what is coming shortly which would include His arrest, trial, crucifixion and death. The disciples are getting ready to go through the ringer. The upcoming events may even create doubt in their minds. Jesus offers them a message that is like a cool breeze in the desert, “There is no place like home.”

Let me illustrate the point:

A farmer needed a hired man. After trying several workers, who all failed to meet his standards, the farmer began to feel desperate. Then another worker applied for the job. The farmer asked him, “What qualifies you for this job?” The man answered, “I can sleep at night.” That didn’t sound too promising, but since he was desperate, the farmer hired the newcomer. That night there was a terrific thunderstorm. The farmer awoke, ran to the hired man’s room and tried to arouse him. He could not. Muttering to himself something like, “I’ll take care of him in the morning,” the farmer went outside into the night and the driving rain. He found the barn doors securely closed, the hay stack well covered and the tractor put away in the shed. There was nothing he could do but return to the house and go back to bed. Then he understood why his new hired man had said, “I can sleep at night.” He had taken care of everything and was prepared for the storm. Isn’t it comforting to know that when we have prepared ourselves for Jesus’ coming by faithfully doing the things the Lord has made clear to us, He will take care of those things beyond our control?

[John 14:1 \(NASB\)](#)

¹ “Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me.”

08-01-10

Series: The Resurrections

Jesus said to us, “**Let not your heart be troubled.**” The word “troubled” means “agitated, shaken, stressed out, worried, or restless.” God doesn’t want us to be a bunch of stressed-out, worry warts. The Greek word for troubled, *tarasso {tar-as'-so}*, was used “to describe the stirring up of the mind, the clouding of a pool of water, the throwing of an army into disorder, and a government that was plagued by anarchy and chaos.”

The Lord doesn’t want our lives to be what is described above. This statement of the Lord in verse one reveals that we are responsible for our heart’s condition. ([John 14:1](#)) Life in this fallen, sin-cursed world is packed with trouble and trials. Instead of pretending they do not exist, Scripture faces the hardships of life directly.

Job, no stranger to suffering, declared: “Man, who is born of woman, Is short-lived and full of turmoil.” ([Job 14:1](#)) Eliphaz, one of Job’s would-be counselors, noted that: “For man is born for trouble, As sparks fly upward.” ([Job 5:7](#)) In [Jeremiah 20:18](#) the prophet lamented, “Why did I ever come forth from the womb To look on trouble and sorrow, So that my days have been spent in shame?” Knowing that His followers would face trouble in this life, the Lord Jesus Christ commanded them, “So do not worry about tomorrow; for tomorrow will care for itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.” ([Matthew 6:34](#)) In [John 16:33](#) He reiterated the reality, saying, “In the world you have tribulation.” Paul and Barnabas reminded believers in Asia Minor that, “Through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God.” ([Acts 14:22](#)) But the blessed promise of Scripture is that God, “the Father of mercies and God of all comfort” ([2 Corinthians 1:3](#); cf. [Isaiah 51:12](#)), will comfort His children.

As Paul went on to write, He “comforts us in all our affliction so that we will be able to comfort those who are in any affliction with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. For just as the sufferings of Christ are ours in abundance, so also our comfort is abundant through Christ” ([2 Corinthians 1:4-5](#)). God comforts because He is “compassionate and gracious” ([Exodus 34:6](#); cf. [Deuteronomy 4:31](#); [2 Chronicles 30:9](#); [Nehemiah 9:17, 31](#); [Psalm 78:38](#); [Psalm 103:8](#); [Psalm 111:4](#); [Psalm 116:5](#); [Lamentations 3:22](#); [Daniel 9:9](#); [Joel 2:13](#); [Jonah 4:2](#); [James 5:11](#)).

God initially comforts His people by granting them forgiveness, salvation, and the Holy Spirit, who is the Comforter ([John 14:16](#), [John 14:26](#)). Jesus promised that “those who mourn” over their sin, “shall be comforted” ([Matthew 5:4](#); cf. [Isaiah 12:1-2](#); [Isaiah 40:1-2](#); [Isaiah 51:11-12](#); [Isaiah 52:9](#)). That eternally decreed comfort ([2 Thessalonians 2:16](#)) will culminate in the perfect peace and eternal bliss of heaven ([Isaiah 25:8](#); [Revelation 7:17](#); [Revelation 21:4](#)).

God not only promises comfort to believers in the future, but also in the trials and difficulties of this present life. In the most beloved of the Psalms, David wrote confidently, “Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil, for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me” ([Psalm 23:4](#)). In [Psalm 86:17](#) he exulted, “You, O Lord, have helped me and comforted me.” Speaking

08-01-10

Series: The Resurrections

from his own experience, Paul wrote that “God... comforts the depressed” ([2 Corinthians 7:6](#)). The apostle reminded the Thessalonians that God would “comfort and strengthen [their] hearts in every good work and word” ([2 Thessalonians 2:17](#)).

God comforts His people when they cry out to Him in prayer. The psalmist prayed, “O may Your lovingkindness comfort me... My eyes fail with longing for Your word, while I say, “When will You comfort me?”” ([Psalm 119:76, 82](#)). The Word also is a source of comfort: “This is my comfort in my affliction, that Your word has revived me.... I have remembered Your ordinances from of old, O Lord, and comfort myself” ([Psalm 119:50,52](#)). The Holy Spirit, the divine Comforter (NASB, “Helper”; [John 14:16, 26; John 15:26; John 16:7](#)), also comforts Christians: “So the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria enjoyed peace, being built up; and going on in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it continued to increase” ([Acts 9:31](#)).

On the night before His death, the Lord Jesus Christ addressed the eleven remaining disciples (minus Judas) in the upper room. Though the cross, with its sin-bearing ([2 Corinthians 5:21](#)) and separation from the Father ([Matthew 27:46](#)), was imminent, Jesus' focus was not on His own ordeal. Instead, He was concerned for the disciples, whose world was about to be shattered. They were already hurting, confused, and anxious because of the impending loss of their beloved Master. Soon He would be gone, and they would “weep and lament” ([John 16:20](#)). Because of His perfect and complete love for the disciples, Jesus sought to comfort them in the face of His departure. The first fourteen verses of chapter 14 lay the foundation for that comfort—not only for the disciples gathered in the upper room but also for all believers. Comfort comes from trusting Jesus Christ's presence, preparation, proclamation, person, power, and promise.