

## Lesson 3

### Eastered Bodies: The Hope of Resurrection

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**Objective:** To answer the question, 'What is the ultimate hope of the follower of Jesus'? In answering this question we will explore key New Testament passages which spell out this hope in detail. Finally, we will briefly address the subject of what happens to a person, specifically the Christian, when they die.

#### 1. We Were Made For Life, Not Death

##### a. Humanity Was Given Life By Him Who Is Life

- Life, i.e. being created, was a gift from Him who is Life Himself
- This life from God was communicated through or by means of creation (Example of Food)
- This life wasn't merely 'in the soul' but in the whole person, body and soul
- This life was not only received but was also to be cultivated in and thorough faithfulness
- This life could be lost through disobedience (Gen. 2.17)

##### b. Death Wasn't Created, It's a Consequence

- Death comes as result of humanity seeking life solely from the world (Rom. 5.12; 8.10)

For Christianity, death first of all is revealed as part of the moral order, as a spiritual catastrophe. In some final and indescribable sense man *desired death*, or perhaps one might say, he did not desire life that was given to him by God freely, with love and joy..."God did not create death." It is man who introduced death into the world, freely desiring life only for and in himself, cutting himself off from the source, the goal, and the content of life – from God. (Alexander Schmemmann, *O Death, Where Is Thy Sting*, pp.32-33, 35)

##### c. The Nature of Death

- Death biological and spiritual, i.e. life was given to the whole person, death touches the whole person (Eph. 2.1)
- Death is separation from Life, i.e. God
- Death is the disintegration of humanity, the image of God, i.e. animal-like (Gen 3.21), the rupture of humanity's unity
- Death is an intruder, an enemy (1 Cor. 15.26)
- Therefore, death is not to be regarded as natural or as longed for escape

##### d. God's Promise To Destroy Death

- God will swallow up death (Is. 25.6-9)
- God's promise fulfilled in Jesus' death and resurrection (Jn. 6.33; Rom. 5.17-18; 2 Tim. 1.10)

#### 2. The Ultimate Hope of the Christian (Rom. 8)

##### a. 'In This Hope We Were Saved' (Rom. 8.23)

- Full Salvation: the redemption of our bodies, not our release from them
- Salvation Now: life now in and through the Spirit (Rom. 8.9-11)

##### b. By Implication Our Ultimate Hope Is Not Going to Heaven When We Die, But Rather Resurrection to a New Heavens and New Earth

- Heaven not a place a to go but God's dimension to come (Rev. 21.1-4)
- We aren't waiting to die, we're waiting for a Savior to come and destroy death in full (Phil. 3.20-21; Col. 3.4)

3. **Eternal Weight of Glory (2 Cor. 4.13-5.5)**
  - a. **The Foundation of Faith (4.14)**
    - The Theology of Firstfruits (1 Cor. 15.20-23)
    - We will see him and be like him (1 Jn. 3.2)
  - b. **We Don't Lose Heart In the Present (4.16-18)**
    - Wasting away, yet renewed day by day (v. 16)
    - Affliction now, glory then (v. 17)
    - Seeing the unseen by faith
  - c. **Longing to Put On the Heavenly Dwelling (5.1-5)**
    - Not made for camping (vv.1-3)
    - Not wanting to be found naked (vv.3-4)
    - The Spirit is our guarantee (v.5)
4. **A Summary**
  - a. **Who Will Be Raised From the Dead?**
    - All People: Believers to Honor and Glory, Unbelievers to Wrath and Dehumanization (Rev. 2.6-11)
  - b. **Where Will the Resurrection Take Place?**
    - On this Earth Made New (Rom. 8.19ff; Rev. 21.1-4)
  - c. **What Will the Resurrection Body Be?**
    - It will be like Jesus' resurrected body (1 Jn. 3.2; 1 Cor. 15.49)
    - It will imperishable/immortal (1 Cor. 15.42)
    - It will be glorious (1 Cor. 15.43)
    - It will be powerful (1 Cor. 15.43)
    - It will run on the Spirit, rather than on our own natural life force (1 Cor. 15.44-49)
  - d. **Why Will Be Given New Bodies?**
    - We aren't fully human without bodies
    - God's purpose in Christ was to defeat death
    - God's purpose for us to reign with Christ on a new earth (Rev. 22.5)
  - e. **When Will the Resurrection Happen?**
    - When Christ returns our appears (1 Thess. 4.13-18)
  - f. **How Will It Happen?**
    - By the Spirit (Rom. 1.4; 8.11; Eph. 1.19-20 with 3.16)
5. **What Happens When We Die?**
  - a. **We Go To Be With the Lord (2 Cor. 5.6-9)**
  - b. **In Paradise or Heaven (Lk. 23.43)**