

# Scripture Consulting Essentials

December 7, 2020

## Life Today and Life To Come

In the new birth, we have so many wonderful things that have been given to us by God's grace and love. The gift of holy spirit born within us is also the earnest or guarantee of our inheritance that is to come in the future. In addition to what we have in Christ today, we also have the hope of even more to come.

II Corinthians 4:14:

Knowing that he which raised up the Lord Jesus shall raise up us also by Jesus, and shall present *us* with you.

God raised the Lord Jesus Christ from the dead, and we may be assured that God will also raise those who have believed in Jesus Christ. That is our hope.

### **I Corinthians 15:12-19.**

If there is no resurrection from the dead, then all will perish. If we only have hope in this life, then we are of all men most miserable, or pitiable.

Psalm 6:5:

For in death *there is* no remembrance of thee: in the grave who shall give thee thanks?

Psalm 146:4:

His breath goeth forth, he returneth to his earth; in that very day his thoughts perish.

Ecclesiastes 9:5 and 6:

For the living know that they shall die: but the dead know not any thing, neither have they any more a reward; for the memory of them is forgotten.

Also their love, and their hatred, and their envy, is now perished; neither have they any more a portion for ever in any *thing* that is done under the sun.

Ecclesiastes 9:10: "Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do *it* with thy might; for *there is* no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest."

These records tell us that there is no remembrance of God in death, nor can anyone give thanks to God when he is dead. A person's thoughts perish in the day that he dies. They do not know anything, nor do they have any love, hatred, or envy. They cannot work, nor do they have knowledge and wisdom in the grave where they go. If this is the end and if there is no resurrection, then we would be of all men most pitiable.

### **I Corinthians 15:20-26.**

This passage tells us that the Christ was the “firstfruits,” that is, the first to be raised from the dead. Others are to be raised at his second coming. There are many things that will occur at the time called “the end,” and Christ is to reign until all enemies are put under his feet and he delivers the kingdom over to God, the Father.

The last enemy to be destroyed is death. Some people have referred to death as a friend, but God’s Word calls it an enemy. Hebrews 2:14 says that the Devil has the power of death. <sup>1</sup> God our Father wants life for His people. He has given them life in the new birth, and He has made provision for them to be raised from the dead at Jesus Christ’s second coming. The only one to be raised from the dead thus far is the Christ. All others will be raised at a later time. Until then, those who have died are without the ability to think or work.

### **I Corinthians 15:51-58.**

Verse 58 concludes with the exhortation to be steadfast and unmovable and always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that our labor in the present time is not in vain in the Lord. In contrast, verse 19 spoke of the pitiful situation of only having hope in the present life. Then why work so hard? However, when children of God realize that Christ is coming back and that they will be changed at that time, they have a firm hope, which gives them purpose for their current labor in the Lord.

### **I Thessalonians 4:13-18.**

This is a subject of which God does not want His children to be ignorant. He wants them to know about the genuine hope of Christ’s return to gather them all together.

### **Colossians 3:3 and 4.**

### **Philippians 3:20 and 21.**

The Greek word translated “conversation” in verse 20 means “citizenship.” We are citizens of heaven, and we look forward to going to our home. Hence, we look for the savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, to return. He will change our vile bodies (mortal and corruptible bodies) to be fashioned like his glorious body (his resurrected body).

We are children of God now with the guaranteed hope of Jesus Christ’s return for us.

We have access to our Father by the spirit born within us. We can ask Him anything according to His will in the name of Jesus Christ, and He will hear and answer our prayers. Regardless of our backgrounds, we are all heirs together and members together of the body of Christ. We are all partakers of the promise in Christ by the gospel. We also have the assurance of Christ’s return to gather us all together. We have all these realities by the exceeding riches of God’s grace in His kindness toward us because of what Jesus Christ obediently accomplished for us.

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<sup>1</sup> Hebrews 2:14: “Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil.”