



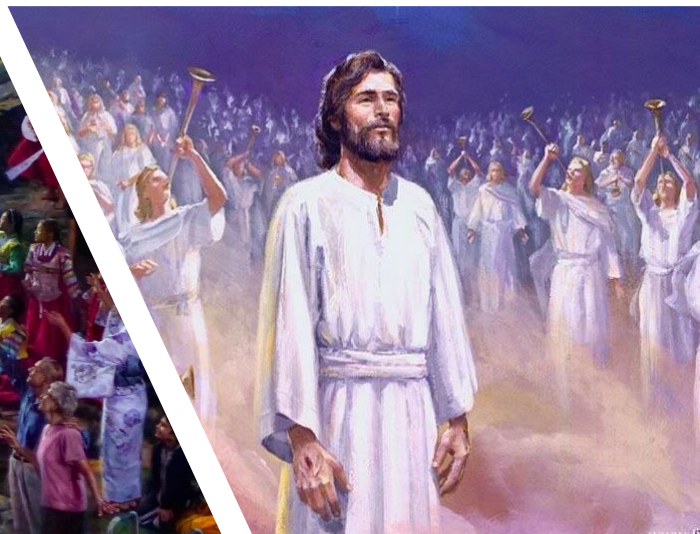
Lesson 8 for November 19, 2022





“And this is the testimony:  
that God has given us  
eternal life, and this life  
is in His Son. He who has  
the Son has life; he who  
does not have the Son of  
God does not have life”

1 John 5:11, 12


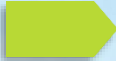
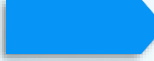






Paul referred to the Second Coming of Jesus as “the blessed hope” (Titus 2:13). There are many references to this major event in the New Testament.

This hope is closely related to the resurrection and the eternal life with Jesus. However, the Second Coming and its repercussions have become secondary among some Christians. Let’s study some common doubts on these topics.

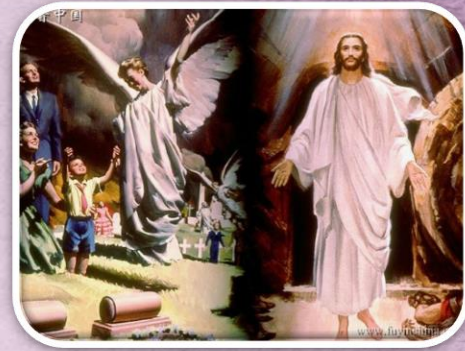


-  **Disheartened?**
-  **Tired of waiting?**
-  **Are we immortal?**
-  **Do we need to be resurrected?**
-  **Will we be secretly raptured?**

# DISHEARTENED?

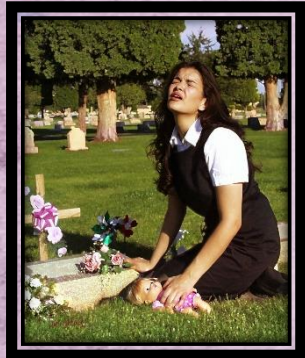
**"If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied." (1 Corinthians 15:19 NIV)**

**The only afterlife that Paul knew about starts after the resurrection. Therefore, he was sure that there wouldn't be any hope for the dead if resurrection was not real (1Co. 15:16, 18).**



**If we believe that everything ends when we die, we are "as others who have no hope." (1Ts. 4:13)**

**The same applies if we deny that Jesus was resurrected, because our own resurrection is closely related to His (1Co. 15:14).**



**Our hope is not built on this short life. Thanks to Jesus, a sinless eternal life awaits. We lose everything we lose sight of this truth.**



# TIRED OF WAITING?

*"He promised to come again. Where is He? Since our early fathers died, everything is the same from the beginning of the world."* (2 Peter 3:4 NLV)

Before ascending to Heaven, Jesus promised that He would come again (Jn. 14:1-3). It's the last promise written in the Bible (Rev. 22:20). However, it's been almost two thousand years. Are you tired of waiting? Actually, nobody has waited more than a few years.

We live  
(Ps. 90:10)



We die  
(Eccl. 9:10)



Jesus comes back  
(1Co. 15:52)



When Jesus comes back, we will feel like that it's been a blink since we died. Think about Adam and Eve. For them, Jesus is not taking six thousand years to come because they're not currently aware that time goes by.

We don't know when He will come back, but He will.



# ARE WE IMMORTAL?

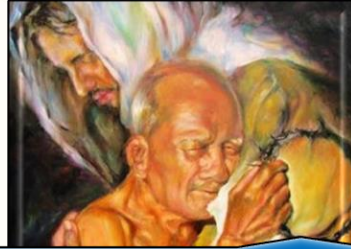
**"Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day." (John 6:54)**



**Jesus highlighted three concepts about eternal life in the synagogue at Capernaum:**



**He is the bread that "gives life to the world" (Jn. 6:33)**



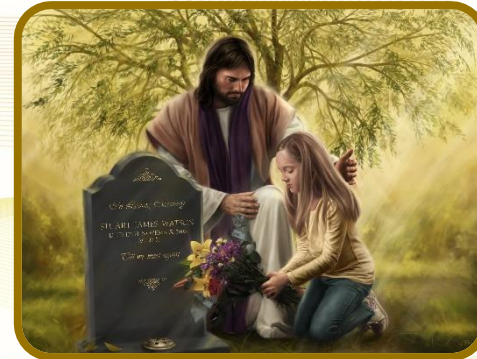
**We get eternal life by believing in Him (Jn. 6:35)**



**We will receive eternal life at the resurrection (Jn. 6:39-40, 44, 54)**

**Even those who believe in Jesus (and have eternal life) are subject to death. We will receive immortality when we're resurrected (1Co. 15:52-53). Therefore, those who don't believe in Jesus are not immortal and will never be.**

**Immortality is a gift given to those who take the "living bread" today (Jn. 6:51)**





# DO WE NEED TO BE RESURRECTED?

**"But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope." (1 Thessalonians 4:13)**

**Paul wanted the Thessalonians to know the truth about "those who have fallen asleep."**

**Those who defend the immortality of the soul use the expression "God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus" (1Ts. 4:14) to affirm that the souls of the dead will come with Jesus to receive their physical body.**

**If that were true, why would they need to be resurrected? If they're already with Jesus, they don't need to be resurrected and ascend to Heaven to be with Him (1Ts. 4:16-17).**

**The hope of the resurrection would become useless if those who have died were already living with Jesus. Our consolation resides in the resurrection.**



# WILL WE BE SECRETLY RAPTURED?

“Then two men will be in the field: one will be taken and the other left.” (Matthew 24:40)

Many Christians believe in a “secret rapture” that’s supposed to take place before the Second Coming, when the faithful will be transformed and taken to Jesus, while the rest of people will remain on Earth. This is based on an interpretation of 1 Corinthians 15:51 and other texts.

However, Paul was clear about when both the dead and the living saints will be transformed:

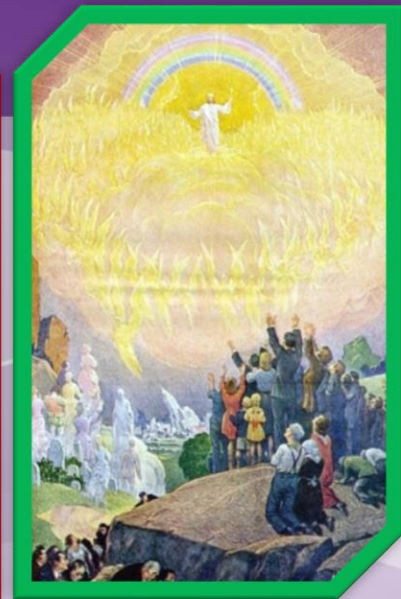
1Co. 15:52;  
1Ts. 4:16

A “last trumpet” will announce the event, and God Himself will call the dead. Too noisy to be a secret event

1Ts. 4:16-17

Both the living and the resurrected will be caught up

This event is not called “the rapture” but “the coming of the Lord” (1Ts. 4:15).





**“Christ is coming with clouds and with great glory. A multitude of shining angels will attend Him. He will come to raise the dead, and to change the living saints from glory to glory [...] When we look upon our dead, we may think of the morning when the trump of God shall sound, when ‘the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.’ 1 Corinthians 15:52. A little longer, and we shall see the King in His beauty. A little longer, and He will wipe all tears from our eyes. A little longer, and He will present us ‘faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy.’ Jude 1:24.”**

**E. G. W. (The Desire of Ages, cp. 69, p. 632)**