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Your Resurrection

by David Sielaff, November 2009, March 2023

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YOU are the object of God's creation. All creation was made for YOU. Christ died for YOU. Every son and daughter of Adam — every human being — will become a mature child of God, completing God's declaration to make man in His image. You live because God wills you to live, moment to moment, heartbeat by heartbeat, breath upon breath.¹ Days or years from now your heart will stop, your breathing will cease, you will lose consciousness. You will die. Your cells quickly decay. Your soul ceases to exist, your spirit returns to God,² until you are resurrected from the dead.

If you believe that Jesus was resurrected from the dead and He is your Savior at the moment of your death, your next conscious realization will be amazing! If you hold fast to your profession of faith (Hebrews 10:23), this article will describe your immediate moments after death.

What is the evangel, the Gospel or "good news" or "good tidings" that you must believe? Read the concise statement by the apostle Paul of what that Gospel is (from the *Concordant New Testament*):

"NOW I am making known to you, brethren, the evangel [Gospel]

**which I bring to you,
which also you accepted, in
which also you stand, through
which also you are saved** [at this present moment],

IF you are retaining what I said in bringing the evangel [Gospel] **to you, outside and except you**

¹ I deal with these concepts in my May 2007 Commentary "[The Travail of Everyday Life](#)" and the "[August 2006 Newsletter](#)."

² If God allows, you might be resuscitated to life. It happened to the apostle Paul. He says he died often according to 2 Corinthians 11:23. At Christ's resurrection many recent dead were raised (like Lazarus) to mortal life. See "[Out of the Graves' after Christ's Resurrection](#)."

believe feignedly [in vain]. **For I give over to you among the first** [things] **what also I accepted,**

[1] **that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures, and**

[2] **that He was entombed, and**

[3] **that He has been roused the third day**

according to the scriptures.”

• **1 Corinthians 15:1–4, Concordant New Testament**

That is the simple Gospel through which you are saved. (See also John 1:12 and 1 Thessalonians 4:14.)

First, You Will Be Resurrected To A Mortal Body Of Flesh ... But Only For A Moment

Every human being who believes (yes, with a few exceptions when Christ returns, 1 Corinthians 15:51) will be resurrected from death to receive a mortal body of flesh. Then almost immediately those believers will receive a glorious body from God. The rest of humanity will be given a physical body and will be subject to God’s judgment as Jesus said:

“Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation [Greek, *krisis*, judgment].”

• **John 5:28–29**

Jesus was resurrected to the flesh before He received His immortal Spirit body.³

You will be resurrected to the flesh. But as a believer, almost immediately you will notice air rushing past your naked body. That sensation will last only a moment, but you will always remember it. We shall all be changed. Changed? From what, to what? This is easy to know. We shall be changed from corruption (our new body of flesh) to incorruption (our even newer immortal spiritual body). Paul tells us what will happen, and it will happen to **YOU**. Read the words of the next four verses very carefully:

“Behold, I show you a mystery; We [you, me, and all believers, alive and dead, 1 Corinthians 15:1–4] **shall not all sleep** [a metaphor for death], **but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.**”

[Then Paul explains why this must occur ...]

“For [because] **this corruptible MUST put on incorruption, and this mortal put on immortality. So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, THEN shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, ‘Death is swallowed up in victory.’**”

• **1 Corinthians 15:51–54** [quoting Isaiah 25:8]

You (and all believers) will be resurrected to mortality so you can take that first breath. Then you will almost immediately be changed from your resurrected mortal bodies into your immortal spirit body, just as Jesus Christ was raised from the dead to a mortal body, then He put on immortality. How do we know He was raised with a mortal body? Well, when Mary Magdalene met the resurrected Christ at the tomb, He had not yet ascended to His Father. He instructed her not to touch Him.

“Jesus said unto her, ‘Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but [you] **go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God.’”**

• **John 20:17**

³ Using Christ as the example for what our experience will be, see Dr. Ernest Martin’s comments in chapter 16, “[Resurrections from the Dead](#),” the section “*All Resurrections Will be to Mortal Life*” from his book [Essentials of New Testament Doctrine](#).

After He spoke with Mary, Christ ascended and was given His immortal and incorruptible body. Remember, Christ is the example in all things. This includes His resurrection experience being a model for us. He is the captain of our salvation (Hebrews 2:20). Christ is **“the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence”** (Colossians 1:18).

Jesus could not approach God the Father in a body of mortal flesh because **“flesh and blood cannot inherit the Kingdom of God”** (1 Corinthians 15:50). Once that was accomplished, we are also told that His own blood of sacrifice was put on the altar in heaven (Hebrews chapter 9) which is before the Mercy Seat, the throne of God, Christ’s Father, and our Father.

In this matter, as in most everything regarding salvation, the events of Christ’s resurrection show that He is the only example for you and me in our resurrections. But there are differences. Christ sprinkled His own blood upon the altar. You and I will not do that because He did it for you and for me:

“But Christ being come [coming as] a high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building; Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal [eonian, age-lasting] redemption for us.

... For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies to the purifying of the flesh: How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal [eonian] Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?”

• **Hebrews 9:11–12, 14**

Christ was by then again immortal and performing His actions when He sprinkled His own blood on the altar to validate and complete His sacrifice. Then He approached the throne of God, **“to appear in the presence of God for us”** (the literal Greek says **“the face of God”** in Hebrews 9:24), something impossible for a man of flesh. Christ’s sacrifice was accepted and He sat at the right Hand of God the Father in Heaven (Hebrews 1:3). You, because of your status of being **“in Christ”** are figuratively seated there also. After all, as it says in Hebrews 9:24, He did it all **“for us.”**

Let us explore more about what happens in that first split second of your resurrection.

Your Quick Change To A “New” Spiritual Body

In your future resurrection you will not wait long to **“put on”** your immortality. That change will occur **“in the twinkling of an eye.”** This will be a great blessing because, although your resurrected mortal body will be whole and strong, you will be naked. Your nakedness also will last only for a brief time and then immortality will wrap like a cloak around you.⁴ You will have a new body. With total and perfect memory, you will be able to recall that moment forever.

Why will God resurrect you to a physical body and then have your body dissolve into your spiritual body? God’s creation gives us the reason. Your physical body is like the kernel of a seed. When the seed germinates, the material in the seed dies and is used by the plant.⁵

“But someone will be protesting, ‘How are the dead being roused? Now with what body are they coming?’ Imprudent one! What you are sowing is not being vivified [quickened, made alive] if it should not be dying.

And, what you are sowing, you are not sowing the body which shall come to be, but a naked kernel, perchance of wheat or some of the rest. Yet God is giving it a body according as He wills, and to each of the seeds its own body.”

• **1 Corinthians 15:35–38, Concordant Version**

⁴ Dr. Martin presents his understanding of these verses and this process in his article [“The Time Periods for the Resurrections.”](#)

⁵ Paul’s analogy from nature is not that of a caterpillar transformed into a butterfly. That is an occult concept frequently presented in New Age teaching today. The proper biblical analogy is of a seed that germinates and grows to become a mature plant.

Note again the word “**naked**” is translated “bare” in the King James Version.

Our present physical bodies of flesh literally groan to put on our immortality. This is not just about aging. Paul writes that everyone groans with a desire to put on immortality, without realizing they are doing so:

“For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is from heaven: If so be that being clothed we shall not be found naked.

For we that are in this tabernacle do groan, being burdened: not for that we would be unclothed, but clothed upon, that mortality might be swallowed up of life. Now he that has wrought us for the selfsame thing is God, who also has given unto us the earnest of the Spirit.”

• **2 Corinthians 5:2–5**

The immortality you will “**put on**” (1 Corinthians 15:53–54) immediately causes your physical body to disappear, just like the kernel of the seed seems to be absorbed and disappears when the plant sprouts. Jesus uses the same figure in John 12:23–25. The seed must die when the plant comes forth. At your resurrection God will do that for you almost instantly. In fact, your spirit body is waiting for you at this moment.

You have an invisible seed within you as well. You are now:

“Being born again, not of corruptible seed [your body of flesh], but of incorruptible [seed], by the word of God, which lives and abides for ever [permanently].”

• **1 Peter 1:23**

The seed Peter refers to (and Paul refers to in 1 Corinthians 15:38 above) is a seed within you that is incorruptible, yet it has no relation to flesh at all. God’s Holy Spirit melds with the “**spirit of man**” within you (Job 32:8 and 33:4; Proverbs 20:27; Ecclesiastes 3:21; Zechariah 12:1; 1 Corinthians 2:11, 14).

“The spirit itself is testifying together with our spirit that we are children of God” (Romans 8:16, Concordant Version). Your spirit and God’s Holy Spirit blend perfectly as one within you at this present moment, if you are a believer.⁶ That is the incorruptible seed. That seed is still connected to your soul. Except for very few believers who are alive when Christ returns (1 Thessalonians 4:15–17), all other believers will have died when they receive their spiritual bodies immediately after their resurrection.

Your New Spirit Body

In moments after your “**putting on**” immortality and incorruption, you will be filled with God’s Holy Spirit surging its energy throughout your God-given spiritual body. It will give you life, energy, feelings of well-being, joy, and power you never felt before — yet you will feel these things from now on, and will likely increase. You will not breathe air (unless you choose to do so), but you will “breathe” God’s Holy Spirit. You might be skeptical about that statement, but remember what Christ did after His resurrection, but some weeks before Pentecost. During his first appearance to His disciples Jesus did something unusual:

“Then said Jesus to them again, ‘Peace be unto you: as my Father has sent me, even so send I you.’ And when he had said this, HE BREATHED ON THEM, and said unto them, ‘Receive you the Holy Ghost’ [Spirit].”

• **John 20:21–22**

Did Jesus give them the Holy Spirit at that moment? I do not think so. But Jesus breathed on them for a reason. Yes, He did that to calm their fear at His sudden appearance, and to demonstrate that He was the same person as before His crucifixion. But note this, when Christ breathes on you, important things happen. Read some interesting verses and note what happened when God breathed life into bodies for them to begin to breathe on their own with the processes God gave to each kind of life: Genesis 2:7; Job 33:4; Psalm 33:6; Ezekiel 37:9; and Acts 17:25.

⁶ I discuss the spirit of man in my Addendum to Dr. Martin’s article “[Abortion and the Bible](#).”

Your spiritual body will be composed of spirit, but you will be able to form flesh and bones, just as Christ's body is presently spirit, but He manifested as flesh and bones when He chose to do so:

“Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have.”

• *Luke 24:39*

Jesus did other actions to show that He was still human, although resurrected to glory (Luke 24:13, 31, 36, 39, 42–43, 51).

You will probably wonder for a moment that your resurrected body will seem very familiar to you. This is because God will fashion your body to be specially designed **for you**:

“In my Father’s house are many mansions [abodes]: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there you may be also.”

• *John 14:2–3*

What do mansions and abodes have to do with your body? Read what Paul writes. He seems to be referring to Jesus’ statement in John’s Gospel:

“While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal [temporary]; but the things which are not seen are eternal [eonian]. For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle [our body] were dissolved, we have a building of God, a house not made with hands, eternal [eonian] in the heavens.”

• *2 Corinthians 4:18–5:1*

Christ’s body after the resurrection was not only familiar to Him, but it was also familiar and recognizable to His apostles and disciples. They were able to interact with Him, touch and feel His wounds (Luke 24:33–43; John 20:19–29), and eat with Him (John 21:1–14; Acts 10:41), although He hid his identity to the men on the road to Emmaus to teach them important lessons (Luke 24:13–35). But when He wished to be recognized, they immediately knew it was Him.

Your body will be able to do the same. You will be able to go through solid objects as Christ did (John 20:19) and rise into the air (Acts 1:6–11). In fact, as you rise into the air at your resurrection you will notice things around you. You will notice angels who take you and millions of others into the air to change all our bodies:

“And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: ... And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.”

• *Matthew 24:30–31 (cf. John 11:52)*

You will be able to see these angels. They will no longer be invisible to you. **“Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of his saints”** (Jude 1:14). This refers to angels because the only human being in heaven is Christ Jesus.⁷ They may look like humans when manifesting physically, but angels will not be like you. You will be able to know and understand the differences between children of God, like you, and angels. Angels have their own bodies, their own substance, and a spirit which will be different from yours (Hebrews 2:16). First Corinthians 15:38–44 tells us about such differences, although angels are not precisely addressed.

Hebrews chapters 1 and 2 do specifically address the subject of angels and their difference from Christ and, by extension, their differences from you as a future resurrected child of God. Apparently the original audience of the Book of Hebrews (many scholars think it was a written sermon) misunderstood some basic

⁷ See Dr. Martin’s research in the article [“The Pagan Immortal Soul and 'Double Doctrine.'”](#) and Chapter 13, [“Just What Are Human Beings?”](#) from Dr. Martin’s book [Essentials of New Testament Doctrine](#).

facts about the relationship of angels, Christ, and believers in Christ's resurrection. Some thought Jesus was an angel. Paul makes it clear in Hebrews that no angel can ever be a son of God. Christ Jesus, the Son of God was not an angel (Hebrews 1:5). See Chapter 28, "[Who Are the Sons of God](#)" from Dr. Martin's book *Essentials of New Testament Doctrine*.

You As A Child of God

Consider your legal position relative to God and Christ. Legally you were chosen to be "**in Christ**" before the foundation of the world.⁸ At this present moment, if you have God's Spirit within you, then you are "**born again**."⁹ At present in our pre-resurrection life, as believers God labels and calls us "**children of God**." I emphasize this important point because it means that you are a newborn, an infant in the sight of God. Your infancy has a direct bearing on what will happen to you after your death, and in your resurrection from the dead.

You and all believers are called "**children of God**" (sometimes called "**sons and daughters of God**," 2 Corinthians 6:18) if we have the Spirit of God within us.¹⁰ This is not a metaphor. You are a now born son or daughter of God if you have God's Spirit within you. John says this several times in several ways:

"If you know that he is righteous, you know that every one that does righteousness is born of him [now!]."

Behold, what manner of love the Father has bestowed upon us, that WE should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knows us not, because it knew him not. Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and

it does not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, WE SHALL BE LIKE HIM; for we shall see him as he is. And every man that has this hope in him purifies himself, even as he is pure."

• **1 John 2:29–3:3**

You are not a "potential" child of God. You will not achieve your status as a child of God after your resurrection from the dead. God considers **YOU NOW** to be a newborn child of God:

"Forasmuch as YOU know that YOU were not redeemed with corruptible things, ... But [YOU were redeemed] with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:

... [YOU] Who by him do believe in God, that raised him up from the dead, and gave him glory; that YOUR faith and hope might be in God. ...

Being born again [now], not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible [seed], by the word of God, which lives and abides for ever [*eon*, for the age]. ...

Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings, As newborn babes [now, at the present moment], desire the sincere milk of the word, that YOU may grow thereby."

• **1 Peter 1:18–19, 21, 23, 2:1–2**

Peter is saying that you (by extension) are "**born again**" at the present time (from incorruptible "seed," by the way). Then Peter describes you as one of the "**newborn babes**" desiring milk.

Paul says the same:

⁸ You did not exist before you were born of a woman. In this respect we are all unlike Christ, who was created. As God's first creation everything else was created through Him (Colossians 1:15–20; Hebrews 2:10–11; and Revelation 3:14).

⁹ See Dr. Martin's presentation "[The Arrogance of Man](#)" where he notes that being "**born again**" (a scriptural phrase, John 3:3, 7 and 1 Peter 1:23) does not mean being "begotten again," as demonstrated by comparing 1 Peter 1:23 with 2:2 in its own context.

¹⁰ Put all the verses together from the synoptic Gospel writers (Matthew 5:9, 20:36, etc.); the apostle John (John 1:12, 11:52; 1 John 3:1–2, 10, 5:2); Paul (Romans 8:14–21, 9:8, 26; Galatians 3:26, 4:7; Philippians 2:15; Hebrews 2:13–14); and Peter (1 Peter 1:14).

“For whoever are being led by God’s spirit, these are sons of God. For you did not get slavery’s spirit to fear again, but you got the spirit of sonship, in which we are crying, ‘**Abba, Father!**’

The spirit itself is testifying together with our spirit that we are children of God [at this present moment]. Yet if children, enjoyers also of an allotment, enjoyers, indeed, of an allotment from God, yet joint enjoyers of Christ’s allotment, if so be that we are suffering together, that **WE** should be glorified together also. ...

that the creation itself, also, shall be freed from the slavery of corruption into the glorious freedom of the children of God.”

• *Romans 8:14–17, 21, Concordant Version*

What Happens Next?

After your transition to immortality, you will see Christ in the air along with thousands (maybe millions, who knows?) of other believers since the time of Adam and Eve.

“Now we do not want **YOU** to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who are reposing, lest **YOU** may sorrow according as the rest, also, who have no expectation. For, if **WE** are believing that Jesus died and rose, thus also, those who are put to repose, will God, through Jesus, lead forth together with Him.

For the Lord Himself will be descending from heaven with a shout of command, with the voice of the Chief Messenger, and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ shall be rising first, Thereupon **WE**, the living who are surviving, shall at the same time be snatched away together with them in clouds, to meet the Lord in the air. And thus shall **WE** always be together with the Lord. So that, console one another with these words.”

• *1 Thessalonians 4:13–18 Concordant Version*

You will be flying. You will not have a horse though Christ will be riding a horse upon His return, and so will the army following Him:

“And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he does judge and make war. ... And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean.”

• *Revelation 19:11–14*

This event will commence the Kingdom of God on earth. The physical earth will undergo a rest of a 70-year restoration. You, along with all other resurrected children of God, will receive 70 years of training. The early part of the training will be simple. What will you learn during the beginning of your resurrection life?

The *ekklesia* at present, which includes you, is nurtured by Christ. God’s word is washing, cleansing, and perfecting you. You do not realize it any more than a newborn understands what a parent does when he or she cares for, feeds, cleanses, diapers, and puts clean clothes on that infant. Look at what Christ does for His *ekklesia*:

“That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, That he might present it to himself a glorious church [*ekklesia*], not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.

... For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourishes and cherishes it, even as the Lord [nourishes and cherishes] the church [*ekklesia*]: For we are members of his body, [members] of his flesh, and [members] of his bones.”

• *Ephesians 5:26–27, 29–30*

Some knowledge about God is shown through creation (Romans 1:20). And analogy of early human development may apply to your post-resurrection experience during the 70-year education. At your resurrection you will transition from infancy to a new status of childhood. All the learning and character development that you worked at as a believer in this physical life will have its fulfillment and reward.

The purpose of the apostle Paul's ministry as a teacher was to bring all members of the *ekklesia* of God to maturity. The fulfillment of that maturity will occur at your resurrection. That was his goal. Paul said that he worked to develop leaders,

“... for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect [mature] man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.”

• *Ephesians 4:12–13*

Your Infancy As A Believer, Your Growth As A Child Of God

As an infant believer, you went through developmental stages. In the weeks and months after birth you learned to focus your eyes, recognize sounds, identify faces and objects, learn tastes, become sensitive to touch, learned to make sounds, and grasp objects. At the same time you were helpless and could do nothing for yourself insofar as your safety, well-being, and growth were concerned.

You were learning about your surroundings, and at an incredibly fast rate, all while you performed your constant tasks of ingesting, eliminating, crying, gurgling, and sleeping. As an infant you never realized that everything important for your health and well-being was being provided for you. You did not know much about what was going on around you, nor did you really care.

All you cared about as an infant was for your wants to be satisfied — **IMMEDIATELY!** — even when your needs were provided for. When you were happy you learned to smile, giggle, or laugh. When there was discomfort, you cried. You concentrated on your immediate desires and wants, because that was the only thing you could know. The entire time you were learning very quickly without realizing it: about yourself, your body, your wants, and increasingly about the world around you. This is how God made us as physical children descended from Adam and Eve.

Look at your situation. You demand that your “wants” be supplied now! You should be praying for God to supply your “needs,” and then thank God for doing so. Yet we are all still infants to God and Christ. We are loved, cared for, fed, cleansed, and then loved some more. After our resurrection we will be stunned to learn how we have been nurtured by God and Christ.

As a born again child of God, a babe in Christ, you go through a similar process — you ingest spiritual food (the Word of God), you taste everything, you touch everything, you learn, you eliminate (bad doctrines), you cry a great deal, and you are learning at a tremendously fast rate. Sometimes you flail with your hands and scratch or hurt yourself and others. We all do the same things.

Yes, there are gradations of growth as Paul tells us in 1 Corinthians 13:9–13, **“When I was a child, I spoke as a child ...”** If you read that passage carefully, Paul is discussing person-to-person relationships, and the importance of love between people. The human-to-Christ and human-to-God relations are what is important. I think the difference between a babe in Christ and a “mature” Christian may be analogous to the difference between a newborn and a 1 year old or 2 year old child.

In Hebrews Paul talks about **“the mature.”** In spite of their supposed maturity, they were still very young in faith, yet their maturity was sufficient for them to eat solid food of the more mature teachings of Christ:

“Now solid nourishment is for the mature, who, because of habit, have faculties exercised for discriminating between the ideal and the evil.”

• *Hebrews 5:14*

As a born-again child of God, **you are being perfected.** That is God's purpose toward you (and the goal of every parent). God is working for you and in you through Christ. By the way, He is highly pleased **with YOU:**

“Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, ... Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ ...”

• *Hebrews 13:20–21*

“My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into diverse temptations [trials]; Knowing this, that the trying [testing] of your faith works patience [endurance]. But let patience [endurance] have her perfect work, that you may be perfect and entire [unimpaired], wanting nothing.”

• **James 1:2–4**

Will You Be A Toddler In The Resurrection?

After your resurrection you will still be young, even as a spiritual child of God like Christ. It will take some 70 years of non-stop education for you to get “up to speed” on everything God wants you to know and function as a child of God Almighty.¹¹ After all, we will be doing many things including working in different areas of service:

1. We shall judge angels for their rewards and punishments according to 1 Corinthians 6:3.¹²
2. Those of the Old Covenant will assist Christ to rule and instruct the people and tribes of Israel.
3. Those of the New Covenant will assist Christ to rule and teach the nations.
4. Those of the Mystery will assist Christ to rule and reconcile the powerful celestial and spirit realms (other than angels) in what we in our modern age call “outer space” or the second heaven. They also will be reconciled to their God.

Paul gives us an example of how we might help God, through Christ, to reconcile all creation (Colossians 1:20 and Philippians 2:10–11). Apply these words of 2 Corinthians 5:17–20 to your future life:

“Therefore if any man [anyone] be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

And all things are of God, who has reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and has given to us [believers] the ministry of reconciliation; To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing [attributing] their trespasses unto them; and

[God] has committed unto us the word of reconciliation. Now then we are [and will be after our resurrection to glory] ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead [for Christ's sake], be you reconciled to God.”[!]

• **2 Corinthians 5:17–20**

That phrase, **“Be you reconciled to God,”** is in the imperative. It is not a suggestion or a wish; it is a command (which is why I added the exclamation mark at the end of verse 20). You and other believers will function as servants to others, just as Christ served people, just as Christ has served you and all believers in our lives, and as He will serve you after your resurrection (Matthew 20:26–27; Mark 10:43–44).

In turn, you will further study and train to help educate and counsel the billions of humans descended from Adam and Eve. That means one-on-one contact, not constantly telling people how to behave, but gently giving guidance when they need it most.¹³

The people coming alive in the Great White Throne judgment will also be raised to physical bodies, but

¹¹ Dr. Martin discusses the 70 year period after Christ's return in his article [“Salvation and the Biblical Doctrine of Deification”](#) in the bold green titled section *“How Long Will We Remain ‘Infants’ and ‘Children’ in the Resurrection?”*

¹² Were those angels who fought with Satan in Revelation 12:7–10 the same as **“the stars”** in Revelation 12:4? We cannot know for sure. Perhaps the “stars” are some **“principalities and powers”** that the apostle Paul mentions.

¹³ Many think that all believers (those who believe Christ died and rose again) should actively preach the Gospel, and those who do are more devout. However, in this life now only some are called to do so. If you want to teach and preach now, God will bless you for trying and will help you succeed, but in ways you cannot imagine. Nowhere in Second Corinthians or in the New Testament will you read that everyone should teach or preach the Gospel. Yes, we should be prepared, as Peter tells us:

“But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready ALWAYS to give an answer to every man that asks you [for] a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear.”

Because you know the truth, and the truth shall make you free (John 8:32), you can choose to make that decision.

they will live many decades. It appears children will be resurrected at the age of their death, and infants will live a long life. Anyone 30 years or older seem to be raised at age 30. All of them will be,

[1] people who never heard or learned about the true God (beyond the testimony of creation in Romans 1:18–32), or they were

[2] people who heard God’s truth and the Gospel, but rejected it.

Both these situations were God’s will for those people.¹⁴ Those two groups of people will undergo judgment and education to receive the full knowledge of the truth of God (1 Timothy 2:4). Those people were not any more sinful than you and me. There was no merit in our being chosen to learn the truths of God, and them not being chosen. All will eventually be in the family of God, and in the end there will be no distinction between us now and them later. All will be part of God’s family.

“That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ [even unbelievers and reprobates from the faith], both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him: In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who works all things after the counsel of HIS OWN will: [Why?] That WE should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ.”

• *Ephesians 1:10–12*

“For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior; Who WILL have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; Who gave himself a ransom for all, [when?] to be testified in due time [Greek: *in its own eras*].”

• *1 Timothy 2:3–6*

During the Great White Throne judgment (Revelation 20:11–13) those made alive again will pay attention, listen, and learn and they will repent (over time), and you and all believers will help reconcile the celestials and spirits to God. And yes, there will be severe chastisement with God’s “tough love.”

If God considers you a babe now, I submit that after your resurrection you will be in something like the toddler stage of development. You will be an immortal, incorruptible child of God, but you will need to learn to do many things.

What do toddlers do? They touch. They grasp. They taste. They explore. They laugh and they cry. They learn to stand and fall. They learn to walk and fall. They run and fall. They usually do not hurt themselves when they fall; they pick themselves up. Of course, after the resurrection you will be incapable of hurting yourself. God’s Holy Spirit, combined with the character God formed within you during your life now, will train you and prevent you from hurting yourself or from hurting others through word or deed.

People will suffer during this period of judgment, but not from physical pain. They will suffer and grieve realizing how they have hurt others. Jesus grieved over the acts of the people of Jerusalem and Israel (Matthew 23:37; Mark 3:5; Luke 13:34). In Luke 19:41 Jesus wept over the people of Jerusalem, yet He knew that every person would eventually be saved. He wept over their future suffering.

So too Jesus wept for and with Mary and Martha in her anguish over the death of their dear brother Lazarus (John 11:1–44). Mary knew Lazarus would be resurrected (John 11:23–24). She said, **“I know that he shall rise again in the resurrection at the last day.”** And she knew Jesus was the Messiah and Savior (verse 27). She wept and Jesus wept with her.

As a resurrected child of God, during the Great White Throne Judgment you will help and witness great things among your future brothers and sisters. You will witness people confessing to one another, and great emotional healing will occur between people. This process may last 1,000 years after the Millennium, perhaps much longer than 1,000 years. However long it takes, God’s will shall be fulfilled.

¹⁴ Read or reread my May 2022 Commentary, [“Your Place in God’s Lottery”](#) and detailed in Chapter 25: [“How Were We Chosen?”](#) and expanded in Chapter 26: [“God’s Manifesto of Human Rights and Privileges”](#) from Dr. Martin’s book [Essentials of New Testament Doctrine](#). See also my article, [“Losing Your Salvation.”](#)

You Will Be Overwhelmed With Experiences!

After your resurrection, will you be overwhelmed with all your senses, your power, your vitality, your sensations, your capabilities? No, God will provide for that. For the first time you will be able to fully express your thanks and love to God your Father and Christ your elder brother. You will see their faces for the first time.

- You will see Christ as you rise in the air. He will likely be the focus for much of your attention.
- You will see God the Father at your judgment (sitting to the left of Christ) as you receive rewards from Him (and no punishment), as told in Matthew 25:21, 23, Luke 19:17; Romans 2:6–7, 10–11.¹⁵

“And whatsoever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; Knowing that from the Lord you shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for you serve the Lord Christ.”

• ***Colossians 3:23–24***

- You will learn the procedures of the divine assembly, those times when God’s creatures appear before Christ’s throne. God **“has raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus”** (Ephesians 2:6).
- It will take time for you to learn how to handle your new life and body. You will need to learn how to travel, go through walls, and those are just some of the things Jesus did on this physical earth.
- You will learn the procedures for judgment: **“Do you not know that the saints shall judge the world?”** (1 Corinthians 6:2). In addition, **“Know you not that we shall judge angels?”** (1 Corinthians 6:3). You must learn those procedures also.
- The apostles will judge various aspects of the 12 tribes of Israel (Luke 22:30) which will have King David ruling all Israel (Ezekiel 37:24).

Those of us of the Mystery administration will learn to make known the wisdom of God to the creatures in the heavens: the principalities and powers in the celestials and according to God’s purpose (Ephesians 3:10, 6:12). At that time, we will not need any protection or armor from their attacks as we do now (Ephesians 6:10–20).¹⁶ Your life now before your death and resurrection is an example to the principalities and powers of the unseen realm. Paul says he was given a commission:

“To me, less than the least of all saints, was granted this grace: to bring the evangel [Gospel] of the untraceable riches of Christ to the nations, and to enlighten all as to what is the administration of the secret, which has been concealed from the eons in God, Who creates all, that now may be made known to the sovereignties and the authorities among the celestials, through the ecclesia, the multifarious wisdom of God, in accord with the purpose of the eons, which He makes in Christ Jesus, our Lord.”

• ***Ephesians 3:8–11 Concordant Version***

- You will have to learn your way around the 2nd heaven, our physical universe. Will there be tours? Who knows, perhaps something similar. It is a big universe.
- You will learn your way around the third heaven where God resides, and probably view or tour New Jerusalem, which exists now (Galatians 4:26, Hebrews 12:22), and is still under construction as you

¹⁵ First Corinthians chapter 3 deals with rewards in verses 8–10 and 13–14:

“Every man’s work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man’s work of what sort it is. If any man’s work abide which he has built thereupon, he shall receive a reward.”

¹⁶ See Dr. Martin’s articles [“The History of the Revelation of the Mystery,”](#) [“The Mystery and the New Covenant,”](#) and of course throughout his book [The Essentials of New Testament Doctrine](#), available online free.

read this.¹⁷ In fact, we are even told its dimensions when completed (Revelation 21:9–27).

- You will need to learn to conduct yourself at the marriage supper of the Lamb (Revelation 19:9). Whether this is the Passover Christ was talking about that would take place in the Kingdom of God, we cannot know. If not, then it will be a separate event (Luke 22:30, 12:37, 14:15; Acts 10:41).
- You will learn the secrets of how God and Christ made all of creation, and explore that creation.

All this will require extensive education so you can “work” to assist the reconciliation of all creation. Most all you can know about your resurrection can only come from Scripture. We have this assurance: **“That in the ages to come he might show the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.”** (Ephesians 2:7). The gifts of God’s grace shall continue through the ages, up to when Christ hands over the Kingdom to His Father (1 Corinthians 15:28). By that time we shall be much more mature as children of God. How then should we live now? Paul tells us clearly:

“Put on, then, as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, pitiful compassions, kindness, humility, meekness, patience, bearing with one another and dealing graciously among yourselves, if anyone should be having a complaint against any. According as the Lord also DEALS GRACIOUSLY WITH YOU, thus also you. Now over all these put on love, which is the tie of maturity.

And let the peace of Christ be arbitrating [ruling or deciding] in your hearts, for which you were called also in one body; and become thankful. Let the word of Christ be making its home in you richly, in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing yourselves; in psalms, in hymns, in spiritual songs, singing, with grace in your hearts to God. And everything, whatsoever you may be doing, in word or in act, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, giving thanks to God, the Father, through Him.”

• *Colossians 3:12–17, Concordant Version*

God will always give the **“riches of His grace”** to us, but our motivation should be to do good and righteous acts. Why? Simply because it is good and righteous to do such things. That is true spiritual maturity.

Addendum 1

“First Sensations After Death”

Commentary for September 15, 2022 (Modified) — ... After Your Resurrection

Sometimes I wonder about things. Did you ever take a moment to consider, what will be your first sensation at the moment of your resurrection from the dead? Let me remind you of my July 1, 2022 Commentary, because everyone is **“Raised to Mortal Flesh,”** but there are differences after that moment. The apostle Paul tells us in two passages below.

Resurrection Of Those Raised To Glory

The first sensation of YOUR resurrection to glory will be a loud sound of a trumpet, blown when Christ returns from heaven. He will be in the air, not yet touching His feet on the Mount of Olives. The trumpet blast will wake you to life:

“Behold, I show you a mystery; We shall not all sleep [in death], but we shall all be changed,

In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for

[1] THE TRUMPET shall sound, and

¹⁷ See my December 2004 Commentary, **“New Jerusalem and the Center of Creation.”**

[2] **the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and**

[3] **we shall be changed.**

For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.”

• **1 Corinthians 15:51–53**

In First Thessalonians Paul tells about the same event in a different context. We also learn the trumpet is “**the Trump of God**”:

“For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring [or lead forth] with him.

For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent [precede] them which are asleep.

For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the arch-angel, and with THE TRUMP OF GOD: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words.”

• **1 Thessalonians 4:14–18**

“**Them also which sleep**” refers to the dead. Is this the same trumpet in Revelation 11:15? It seems to be the same event. Notice how, in context, Christ takes active rule and control over the world:

“And the seventh angel sounded [An active verb in Greek, the angel “trumpets,”]; and there were great voices in heaven, saying,

‘The kingdoms [singular in Greek: “kingdom”] of this world become[s] the kingdoms [singular, “kingdom”] of our Lord, and of his Christ; and He shall reign for ever and ever’ [Greek: ‘for the eons of the eons’].”

• **Revelation 11:15**

We will always remember that moment when we heard the trumpet.

It will be a glorified body of believers resurrected to immortality. That body will be composed of God’s Holy Spirit, a “spiritual body” (1 Corinthians 15:44), our bodies will breathe God’s Holy Spirit, when they choose to be seen breathing.

Resurrections Of Those Raised To Judgment — They Must Learn (Revelation 20:11–13)

The Great White Throne judgment begins with individuals being resurrected to flesh and blood. The process is described in Ezekiel 37:1–14. Specifically that passage is about resurrections of Israelites in the future, who are not believers. I think the process will be the same. We who are glorified will be able to watch the process as it happens — a recreation of life and a human soul by God. In the Book of Revelation judgment, adults will be raised as adults, and children at the age they died. They will grow to adulthood.

Their first sensation of those resurrected to judgment will be a full breath of air when the spirit of life enters them (Ezekiel 37:13–14). God will put into their newly re-formed physical bodies what Scripture calls the “**spirit of man**” (Proverbs 18:14 20:27; Ecclesiastes 3:21; Zechariah 12:1; 1 Corinthians 2:11).

The Great White Throne Judgment will have harsh punishments for several billions of people,¹⁸ but punishments save no one, just as works save no one (Ephesians 2:8–11).

For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God has before ordained that we should walk in them.”

• **Ephesians 2:8–10**

¹⁸ Only God and Christ know how many billions of people will live from Adam and Eve to the end of the Millennium.

Most of mankind have not yet benefited from God’s gift of grace — yet. Nor have they received the benefit of God’s “workmanship” — not yet, but they will receive God’s love, correction, punishment, mercy, and God’s grace that will lead to reconciliation of every human being to their Creator God and reconciliation between and among every person they have ever harmed or received harm from. That is the role of punishment, to have individuals look at themselves.

All people will learn and come to **“know the truth, and the truth shall make you [them] free”** (John 8:32). There will be reconciliation between you and people you have known, people who have done both good and evil to you. Likewise, you will be reconciled to those you have done good and evil toward you. All your relationships, interactions, and experiences that have impacted others will be revealed (Luke 12:2–3; Ecclesiastes 12–14; Matthew 10:26; 1 Corinthians 4:5) — all of them.

The main purpose will be for every person to be reconciled with God as well as reconciliation between evil doers and victims. Everyone then will learn what you are learning now: God our Father exists and He created everything through His Son, Jesus Christ:

“But to us there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by him. Howbeit [however] there is not in every man that knowledge.”

• **1 Corinthians 8:6**

Eventually all human beings will be reconciled to God, become children of the living God, and receive glorified bodies and minds, as I quote Paul again in 1 Corinthians 15:44–46:

“IT IS SOWN A NATURAL BODY; THERE IS A NATURAL BODY,	IT IS RAISED A SPIRITUAL BODY. AND THERE IS A SPIRITUAL BODY.
<i>and so it is written,</i>	
‘THE FIRST MAN ADAM <u>WAS MADE A LIVING SOUL</u>’;	THE LAST ADAM <u>WAS MADE A QUICKENING SPIRIT.</u>
<i>howbeit that was not first which is spiritual,</i>	
BUT THAT WHICH IS NATURAL;	AND AFTERWARD THAT WHICH IS SPIRITUAL.”

- We shall be like He is (1 John 3:2).
- What is Christ, **“the last Adam,”** at this moment? He is **“a quickening spirit”** (1 Corinthians 15:45).
- All creation came through God’s Son (Colossians 1:12–17 and Hebrews 2:10),
- He is **“the captain of their salvation [made] perfect through sufferings”** (Hebrews 2:10).
- God **“works all things after the counsel of His own will”** (Ephesians 1:11), to save every person born of Adam through Christ (1 Timothy 2:4-6, 4:10).
- God will also reconcile every created intelligent spirit being to Himself (Ephesians 1:9–10; Colossians 1:20; Philippians 2:10–11). God our Father will accomplish His will in heaven and earth through Christ.

For more information, see Dr. Martin’s [Chapter 16: “Resurrections from the Dead”](#) and Chapter 29: [“Marriage and the Family in the Resurrection”](#) — two fascinating chapters from Dr. Martin’s *“Essentials of New Testament Doctrine.”* Also see my May 2020 Commentary, [“Your Resurrection; Paul’s Comparisons.”](#)

One remarkable article by Dr. Ernest Martin shows that God Himself **will repent** of the evils **He** has done against mankind. This act of repentance by our Creator will demonstrate His love toward all of mankind. See the dual article: [“The Repentance of God and the Influencing of God.”](#)

David Sielaff, 2009, 2023