

WORD, AND THE WORD WAS WITH
GOD, AND THE WORD WAS GOD.
HE WAS WITH GOD AT THE
BEGINNING THROUGH HIM ALL
THINGS WERE MADE. WHO
HIM NOTHING WAS THAT
HAS BEEN MADE. HIS WAS
LIFE, AND THE LIFE WAS THE
LIGHT OF MEN. THE LIGHT
IN THE DARKNESS, BUT THE
DARKNESS HAS NOT UNDERSTOOD IT.

the gospel of

JOHN

John 16:16-33

Introduction

This is one of the great passages on the resurrection of Jesus Christ, and it is one of the most glorious passages in all of Scripture. It is one of those passages that lays out more than man could ever imagine. Jesus revealed and proclaimed the resurrection and its effects upon the world.

John 16:16-24

"A little while, and you will not see Me; and again a little while, and you will see Me, because I go to the Father." ¹⁷ Then some of His disciples said among themselves, "What is this that He says to us, 'A little while, and you will not see Me; and again a little while, and you will see Me'; and, 'because I go to the Father'?" ¹⁸ They said therefore, "What is this that He says, 'A little while'? We do not know what He is saying." ¹⁹ Now Jesus knew that they desired to ask Him, and He said to them, "Are you inquiring among yourselves about what I said, 'A little while, and you will not see Me; and again a little while, and you will see Me'? ²⁰ Most assuredly, I say to you that you will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice; and you will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will be turned into joy. ²¹ A woman, when she is in labor, has sorrow because her hour has come; but as soon as she has given birth to the child, she no longer remembers the anguish, for joy that a human being has been born into the world. ²² Therefore you now have sorrow; but I will see you again and your heart will rejoice, and your joy no one will take from you. ²³ And in that day you will ask Me nothing. Most assuredly, I say to you, whatever you ask the Father in My name He will give you. ²⁴ Until now you have asked nothing in My name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.

The Resurrection Perplexes

John 16:6-19

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17 Then some of His disciples said among themselves, "What is this that He says to us, 'A little while, and you will not see Me; and again a little while, and you will see Me'; and, 'because I go to the Father'?" 18 They said therefore, "What is this that He says, 'A little while'? We do not know what He is saying." 19 Now Jesus knew that they desired to ask Him, and He said to them, "Are you inquiring among yourselves about what I said, 'A little while, and you will not see Me; and again a little while, and you will see Me'?"

The resurrection of Jesus Christ perplexes people. Jesus predicted His death and resurrection.

⇒ His death: "A little while, and you will not see me."

⇒ His resurrection: "And again, a little while, and you will see me, because I go to the Father."

The prediction puzzled the disciples, and they began to ask among themselves what Jesus meant. Jesus knew that they were puzzled and asked them about their perplexity, wishing to help them.

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The resurrection does puzzle and perplex people. People are puzzled by both the resurrection of Jesus and the coming resurrection of all men at the end of the world.

- 1) Some deny the resurrection, saying such is beyond human experience and could not possibly happen (an atheistic position).
- 2) Some say the resurrection may be, but it also may not be. Man has never known anything like it other than what Christians and a few others say about Jesus. But that happened so long ago that it cannot be scientifically proven; therefore, there is no way to know if it is true (an agnostic position).
- 3) Some say the resurrection can be and that Jesus probably did arise, but that it is a meaningless puzzle for today: "I will worry about its meaning tomorrow. I have no time to get involved and wrapped up in what it means, not now. Perhaps I will need to sit down and find out its meaning later, but right now other things are pressing and more important."

The Resurrection Brings Joy

John 16:20-22

“Most assuredly, I say to you that you will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice; and you will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will be turned into joy. ²¹ A woman, when she is in labor, has sorrow because her hour has come; but as soon as she has given birth to the child, she no longer remembers the anguish, for joy that a human being has been born into the world. ²² Therefore you now have sorrow; but I will see you again and your heart will rejoice, and your joy no one will take from you.”

The resurrection brings irrepressible joy. Note four points.

1. Jesus said there was to be sorrow at first. He would be going away and leaving the disciples by sacrificing Himself for the world. They would "weep" and "lament" and experience deep grief. Their hopes would seem to be dashed upon the rocks of man's ultimate enemy - death.

Jesus said the world would rejoice at His death. The world thought death would prove that He was not the Son of God and that He was only a self-proclaimed savior who was now dead. They thought that Jesus' death would mean that His demands would not be binding and they would be meaningless. Men would not have to do what He said: deny themselves and give all they were and had to Him. They would not have to go and give all they had to meet the desperate needs of a lost world.

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2. After sorrow there was to be irrepressible joy. Jesus said that He would arise, and His resurrection would cause His followers to burst forth with joy.

His resurrection meant that death was conquered. Men no longer had to die, no longer had to be condemned for sin. They could be delivered from sin and death by following Christ.

This joy is the answer to the weeping and lamenting over death. The great source of joy is the glorious news of the resurrection, the absolute knowledge and certainty that Jesus Christ is risen.

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3. Jesus gave an illustration of the contrast between the sorrow over death and the joy of the resurrection. The illustration describes a woman's sorrow in giving birth. She suffers as the child enters into the world. Once the child is born, the sorrow and pain are forgotten as she holds the child in her arms.

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4. The resurrection brings irrepressible joy just as a newborn baby brings joy to a woman in travail. Two things cause the joy.
 - a. The resurrection and presence of Jesus Himself brings great joy. Just think: Jesus is not dead. His body has not decayed in a grave. He has risen. He emerged from the grave and ascended to the Father. There is victory over the grave, triumph over death. Man can now live forever. No truth could fill a man with any more joy and rejoicing than really knowing that death has been conquered in the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

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b. The believer's joy of really knowing the resurrection of Jesus Christ cannot be taken away by any man. Jesus did die for man's sins and arise again to give man a new life. This life is both abundant and eternal. The believer knows it.

His joy is permanent and unmovable. When the trials and sorrows of earth come upon him, he still...

- knows the joy of the Lord's presence and care.
- knows that Christ will escort Him into the Father's presence eternally.
- knows that he shall be a child of the new heavens and earth to be created for the Father's family.

The Resurrection Brings Access to God

John 16:23-24

“And in that day you will ask Me nothing. Most assuredly, I say to you, whatever you ask the Father in My name He will give you. ²⁴ Until now you have asked nothing in My name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.”

The resurrection gives open access into God's presence. Note two facts.

1. The glorious promise: an open door into God's presence. Jesus said "in that day," after His resurrection, there will be no need to ask Him anything. (This does not mean, of course, that we cannot ask Him, only that we do not have to ask Him.) The believer can walk right into the Father's presence. There is an open door into His presence. Whatever the believer asks the Father in Jesus' name, He will give it to the believer. This is the most glorious of promises, that we can approach God as our Father just as a child approaches his earthly father.

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2. The institution of prayer: Our approach to God is in Jesus' name. Our approach to the Father must be in Jesus' name. Before Jesus, men had always asked God for things through sacrifice, but no more. The resurrection instituted a new and living way into God's presence. Men must now approach God through Jesus Christ...

- believing that the righteousness of Jesus covers them.
- asking God to accept their faith in Jesus as righteousness.
- thanking God for Jesus, His great love and sacrifice for them.

Note two tremendous promises to the man who asks in Jesus' name.

⇒ He will receive what he asks.

⇒ His joy is full and complete.

So What ...

God did not send His Son so we could just exist or survive. He gave us Hope. A hope that is not based in the things of this world, but a hope that is based in God Himself.

This hope is anchored in God's character that He displayed in the death and resurrection of Jesus. As one theologian put it, "We do not have a 'hope so' hope, but a 'know so' hope".

Regardless of what the world does, regardless of the situations of life we find ourselves, we have a hope that we also will rise again because of the power displayed in Jesus.

We should have great joy and a change in focus. It should be less about me, and a need to share our joy with those who are still searching.

Is your hope evident in your life? How will you live that hope out this week?