

Sovereign Grace Chapel

NO. 54

August 8, 2004

Page 1

“The Resurrection and Judgment” Revelation 20:12-13

By: Walter Pendleton

“And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.”

While there is no direct mention of a resurrection in the verses I have as a text, a resurrection is indeed implied and demanded...

(1) The dead *stand* before

By: Joe Galuszek 2 Cor 2:14-17

Our triumph is in Christ. The beauty of this is that in Christ, his people always triumph. It may not seem to be a triumph at the time. Sometimes, it really does not feel like a victory, but it is. Quite a few years ago I was called upon from the pulpit by the preacher, not pleasantly. I had shaken my head in disagreement with what he had said. I stood up and still disagreed with this preacher (vocally, he asked for it) on the point of when God's choice of His people is made. The preacher said God made His choice when a person believed;

God.

- (2) The sea *gave up* the dead in it.
- (3) Death and hell *delivered up* the dead in them.
- (4) These dead persons are *cast into* the lake of fire after being judged for their works.
- (5) There is a *resurrection first* (so stated in the Greek) which demands there be a resurrection last with its related second death (20:5-6).

Attempts to deny this always come from persons wishing to promote their own opinion and their own brand of doctrine. Rather than taking a straightforward look at these

needless to say I disagreed. Then Walter stood up; this was a Sunday Night service; agreed with me, and the debate raged. After everything died down; everyone left, and as I was leaving (not planning on ever going back, I didn't) it did not feel like a triumph. It was revealed to me that night how much of a difference there was between myself and others who claimed the name Baptist. I was not hurt by their threats or anger. I was depressed by their rejection of the Christ who saves. I did not feel
2 Cor cont. Page 3

verses and the passage related to them some seek special “spiritual” [their word] interpretations. The correct interpretation of this passage is the only spiritual one for no lie is spiritual in the scriptural sense whether it be a literal or symbolic one. Those who use the word *spiritual* as the opposite of *literal* are at best improperly tutored, and at worst they are dishonest tricksters. The opposite of *literal* is *symbolical*; the opposite of *spiritual* is *fleshly*. There is a spiritual resurrection of the elect in regeneration and there will be a physical, bodily resurrection of all mankind. However, these are not two opposite resurrections [spiritual verses lit-

Resurrection cont.. Page 2

Inside...

‘Resurrection and Judgment’
.....Page 1-3

2 Cor 2:14-17
.....Page 1,3-4

Contact info
.....Page 4

.....**Ressurrection (cont.)**
 eral] but rather they are both two kinds of literal resurrections! The spiritual resurrection is just as literal as the physical resurrection. Let us as God's people be honest in our speech to all our hearers! Improper phrases may aid a particular opinion but they do not provide honest instruction in God's word.

I must also say that the passage of my text does not speak of the spiritual resurrection of regeneration as being the first resurrection (20:5-6) and then the implied last resurrection (20:12-13) is then the physical, bodily resurrection of all mankind – saved or lost. The reasons why from the whole passage...

- (1) The first resurrection includes the souls of them who have been "be-headed" (thus they physically died for the cause of Christ) and these are actually resurrected (physical death demands physical resurrection) who then live and reign with Christ for 1000 years (20:4-6).
- (2) The life (*lived* is the word used in the passage) of the "*rest* of the dead" is equal to that of the first group who lived by the first resurrection (20:5a), but the second group will be found under the power of the second death (20:6 cf. 20:14-15). If the first resurrection, before the 1000 years, is the spiritual one then so must the second one be and thus

all will ultimately be regenerated. One cannot pick and chose the meaning they want or especially have the two resurrections be different *kinds* simply because it's the only way its fits their system of doctrine.

- (3) Moreover, one will be cast into the lake of fire to experience the second death because their works justify such (20:12-13) and neither was their name found written in the book of life (20:12, 15). The context does not deal with whether or not they were regenerated. The book of life spoken of here is that which is said to be "the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world" (13:8). Thus it is the book of blood redemption life by Christ the slain substitute and not regenerative life by the Spirit because of Christ that is the key here.
- (4) If the first resurrection is the spiritual one of regeneration then one can only be regenerated before the 1000 years starts! This is a bad foundation for those who say the 1000 years is the present age! Notice how this is true. Those who take part in the blessing of the first resurrection live and reign with Christ a 1000 years, not *during* the 1000

years. The actual length of this life and reign is defined for them all as 1000 years. It cannot be symbolical of this present age!

- (5) If Satan's binding (20:2-3) is symbolical of the power of Christ's person and work, which is declared in the gospel, to presently save the nations [Gentiles] as some say it is, then before the 1000 years started, and especially after it ends (20:7-8), then the power of His person and work must be to some extent thwarted. This is the only sound manner of consistent interpretation of that doctrine. Yet those who teach Satan's binding as being such would clearly depart for such sound hermeneutics. Granted, one should recoil from even the thought of supposing such of Christ and His work. But when consistent interpretation confounds the system taught because it seems to suggest a lack in Christ's power to save, then the system must be reconsidered and not sound hermeneutic principles. We do not interpret the scripture trying to "get the best" out of Christ and His gospel. We interpret scripture as each scriptural text demands — according to context — and we can be as-

.....**Ressurrection (Cont.)**

sured that the integrity of Christ and His gospel will be intact in God's word, but our opinions and doctrines may need correcting!

There is no doubt to the sound mind of the believer that to be one of those who will stand before God as He sits on that great white throne is to be eternally damned. When there is *found no place* for a person, whether in heaven or earth, then that person can kiss himself or herself goodbye. Let us take clear note here that although all who will be here before God at that time will indeed *stand* before Him, this same thrice holy, unapproachable God will judge every one of these people according to their works no matter what their stature in their life (small or great). Moreover, the book of life will not be opened to show each one of them that they never chose to believe on Jesus, as some are prone to teach. Never choosing to, or refusing to, believe on Jesus may well be one of the works for which some are here judged and condemned. But the book of life will be opened to prove to them that their sin and sins were never dealt with by God in Christ. He, God, can rightly and justly judge them according to their works. The only alternative is indeed the free and sovereign grace of God in Christ. **THE** book has recorded in it all the names of those for whom Christ is the life giving slain Lamb and they are recorded even from the foundation of the world (13:8-9). To be judged out of the books according to one's works, and to do so unscathed by

God's holiness and justice, would require one's works to be impeccable. No person can claim that before God (Rom. 3:9-19).

So then, those who are waiting for the day of this resurrection and judgment spoken of in Revelation 20:12-13 to finally hear of their eternal destiny, and yet holding to some hope of being pardoned, will have what men call a "rude awakening" coming. There will be no such thing as a singular, general resurrection of all mankind without exception. But there will definitely be a general, last resurrection of the unjust who will in justice find they are without the free grace of God in Christ and have only their works to their credit and the lake of fire as their eternal destiny.

.....**2 Cor (Cont.)**

triumphant at all.

What Walter and I did was make manifest "the savour of His knowledge" (2 COR 2:14). You can believe this or not, as you choose. That day we were a sweet savour of Christ unto God. That sounds audacious if you say it aloud, but it is true. The message of Jesus Christ is the savour of life, unto life. It is also the savour of death, unto death. All of this happening at the same time, with the same message. Looking back, I can see this as a triumph. I did not know it at the time, but that is understandable, for it is Christ's victory and not mine. There were results, some good and some not so good. I left and did not go back. So did Walter and some of his family.

1 Cor. 13:1-13

¹ Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal.

² And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing.

³ And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing.

⁴ Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up,

⁵ Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil;

⁶ Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth;

⁷ Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things.

⁸ Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away.

⁹ For we know in part, and we prophesy in part.

¹⁰ But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away.

¹¹ When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things.

¹² For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.

¹³ And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity.

.....2 Cor (Cont.)

The rest, as far as I know, stayed. The truth of Christ was made manifest without corruption in the sight of God. God is willing, and His people shall always triumph in Christ.

Watchman, Tell Me Does The Morning

1. Watch-man tell me does the morning Of fair Zion's glory dawn? Have the signs that mark His coming Yet upon the pathway

shone.

2. Watch-man see, the light is beaming, Brighter still upon the way; Signs through all the earth are gleaming, O-mens of the coming day;

3. See them rising up to meet Him, As He comes down from on high, Oh, how happy now to greet Him, and to heav'n they with Him fly.

Chorus: Pilgrim rise and look around thee; light is breaking in

the skies; Gird thy bridal robes around thee, Morning dawns arise, arise. Then the Jubal trumpet sounding, Shall awake from earth and sea All the saints of earth now sleeping, Clad in immortality. See the pearly gates fly open, Oh, how sweetly now they sing, All the heav'nly arches ringing, With the praise of God their King.

Newsletter

We will start placing the newsletter on the website. It will be in PDF format. This will require you to have the adobe reader to view it and print it out if you would like. You can go to the Adobe site and download their viewer for free.

Pamphlets

For sometime now we have said we were going to place our pamphlets on the website. You should now be able to see them there and print them out also. They will be in the PDF format as well.

Articles on the Web

We also have some messages on the site that may not have appeared in our newsletter.

Mailing Address:

Sovereign Grace Chapel

PO Box 15

Kellysville, WV 24732

Sovereign Grace Chapel Web Page:

<http://www.sgchapel.com>