

YOUTH INSTRUCTION CLASS

LESSON 20: THE HOLY SPIRIT

RESURRECTION OF THE BODY

Opening

- Near the end of the third article of the Apostles' Creed we confess that we "believe in the resurrection of the body." That means just what it says. We believe that after we die, the day will come when our bodies will be raised to life again. We look forward to this with joy!

The Resurrection of the Dead

According to the Bible, what happens when we die?

Ecclesiastes 12:7 (909) Body:

Soul:

What happens at the resurrection of the dead?

- In the resurrection, _____ and _____ are reunited as God breathes the breath of life into us once again.
- The Bible teaches that *all* will come back to life from the dead, both believers and unbelievers. See John 5:28-29 (911).
- This resurrection will take place (when) _____ .

False Teachings About the Resurrection

The resurrection is a popular topic in churches today. Unfortunately, many so-called Bible teachers add ideas to the teaching of the resurrection that the Bible does not plainly teach. For example, instead of one resurrection at the Last Day as the Bible teaches (Jn 5:28-29, 6:39-40), some teach that there will be more than one.

The false teachings of *millenialism* and *dispensationalism* are common even among Christians today. See the chart on the next page for a short summary of these.

Common False Teachings Concerning the Resurrection

Premillennialism	<p>Premillennialism is the false teaching that when Christ comes again He will begin a period of rule on the earth for 1000 years (the "millennium") before the last judgment. The Bible teaches that the judgment comes as soon as the dead are raised. There is no millennium. See passages like Daniel 12:2 (914).</p>
Dispensationalism	<p>The <i>dispensationalists</i> divine the events of the last times into different divisions known as <i>dispensations</i>. They use terms like:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <u>The Rapture</u> – the resurrection of dead believers and the secret snatching of living believers into heaven. ● <u>The Great Tribulation</u> – a period of seven years where the Antichrist appears disguised as a man of peace, the Jewish Temple is rebuilt and Jewish sacrifices resume, and there is severe tribulation for the Jews. ● <u>The 1000 Year Rule</u> – where the Lord will come then with the believers to rule on earth for 1000 years. ● <u>The Little Season of Satan</u> ● <u>Armageddon</u> – in which God's enemies are finally destroyed in one last battle. ● <u>Eternity</u> – the resurrection of unbelievers, the final judgment, etc. <p>This outline of future events DOES NOT FIT with what Jesus says will happen. Jesus simply speaks of the Last Day coming when all who are in the graves will hear His voice and come out. There will be only one resurrection of the dead. The dispensationalists forget what Jesus said and get their teachings from a misunderstanding of certain prophecies (especially those in Revelation 20).</p>

- The false teachings on this page are listed for you so you will know them when you see them. The teachings of the *dispensationalists* are *very popular* today and you must watch out for them. You will find books on the rapture, for example, in many Christian bookstores.

- We teach, according to the Bible and the Lutheran Confessions, that "our Lord Jesus Christ will return on the last day for judgment and will raise up all the dead ... rejected are certain Jewish opinions ... which teach that before the resurrection of the dead, saints and godly men will possess a worldly kingdom and annihilate all the godless" (*Augsburg Confession* XVII).

- The Bible teaching about the resurrection is very simple:

1.	Jesus will come again	Revelation 1:7	(913)
2.	The dead will be raised	John 5:28-29	(911)
3.	All will be judged	Matthew 25:41, 46	(916)
		Daniel 12:2	(914)

Questions About the Last Judgment and Resurrection

What will the resurrection on the Last Day mean for the evildoers (unbelievers)?

Matthew 25:41, 46 (915)

What will the resurrection mean for believers in Jesus?

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 (922)

John 11:25 (648)

When we are raised from the dead, will we have our own bodies again?

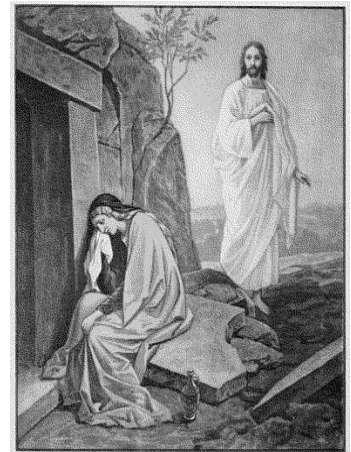
Job 19:25-26 (919)

What will our bodies be like after we are raised from the dead?

Philippians 3:21

After we are raised from the dead, will we ever die again?

1 Thessalonians 4:17 (925)



The Resurrection of Jesus

- **NOTE:** The Bible does not tell us much about what our bodies will be like when we are raised from the dead. About all we can say is that they will be perfect human bodies without the effects of sin.
- **NOTE:** The Bible does not say much about what happens for believers after death and before the resurrection (while the soul and body are separated). About all we can say is that during that time the believer is "with the Lord" (See 2 Corinthians 5:8 and Revelation 14:13).

False Teachings Regarding the Time Between Death and the Resurrection

Purgatory	The Roman Catholic Church teaches that most believers go to <i>purgatory</i> after their death to suffer punishment for their sins. Only after they have completed this necessary suffering are they permitted to enter heaven. They can purchase <i>indulgences</i> which can take time off their suffering in purgatory. Purgatory is not mentioned in the Bible at all.
Spiritists	Spiritists teach that the spirits of the dead hover in their former homes and can be contacted by people through seances, etc. God's word condemns all spiritism.
Reincarnation	The Hindus and other Eastern religious teachers teach the <i>reincarnation of souls</i> ; namely, that the souls of the dead enter into other human beings, animals, or plants, and continue their existence in this way. There is no basis in the Bible for such teaching.

The Great Resurrection Chapter

1 Corinthians 15 is a famous chapter in the Bible that talks about the resurrection from the dead.



Listen to 1 Corinthians 15.

How can you be sure you will rise from the dead and be saved?

Review

1. When will the resurrection of our bodies take place?
2. What are some of the false teachings of dispensationalism?
3. What does the Bible tell us about our resurrection bodies?
4. When the last day comes, what will happen to those who believe in Jesus?
5. How can you be sure that you will be in heaven someday?

Assignment

- Study Questions 212-215 (pp. 160-161) in the catechism.