

## **Eleutheros Newsletter**

December 2019

### **News of Interest**

Looking for Christmas gift ideas?

Quality Christian books are always a good idea!

[www.eleutherosbooks.com](http://www.eleutherosbooks.com)

In recent days Eleutheros Books has come into contact with a Christian ministry in Pakistan named New Life Ministry. While presenting the saving message of the Gospel to those who seek help, its mission is to bring rehabilitation and sustainable development of persons with disabilities.

NLM has requested prayer from the readers of this newsletter. Anyone interested in learning more about this can check out their website: [www.nlmpk.org](http://www.nlmpk.org) Email: [newlifelnm66@gmail.com](mailto:newlifelnm66@gmail.com)

### ***Continued Thoughts of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ***

**II Corinthians 4:14**. *Knowing that He Which raised up the Lord Jesus shall raise up us also by Jesus, and shall present us with you.*

There is no doubt that we who believe in Jesus Christ will be raised up by the same One Who raised up Jesus (notice the first part of [II Corinthians 4:14](#)). It is also clear that Paul and the believers in Corinth will spend eternity with the Savior.

The second part of this verse raises an interesting question: did Paul believe he would be resurrected or will he be raptured with those who are alive at His coming according to [I Thessalonians 4:13-17](#)?

On the one hand Scripture is clear about the *imminency* of the rapture of the Church. The word "rapture" means the *snatching out* of believers to meet the Lord in the air. The word "imminency" means that this could take place *at any time*.

Consider the following evidence for imminency.

[Matthew 24:42](#). "Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come."

[Matthew 24:36](#). "But of that day and hour knows no man, no not the angels of heaven, but My Father only." His coming is certain. The time of His coming could be at any time, but even Jesus is waiting for the Father to tell Him to come.

[Luke 12:35-40](#). Because we do not know exactly when He will return for us, we should be always living for Him and expecting Him to appear.

“Let your loins be girded about, and your lights burning: And ye yourselves like unto men that wait for their lord, when he will return from the wedding; that when he cometh and knocketh, they may open unto him immediately. Blessed are those servants, whom the lord when he cometh shall find watching: verily, I say unto you, that he shall gird himself, and make them to sit down to meat, and will come forth and serve them. And if he shall come in the second watch, or come in the third watch, and find them so, blessed are those servants. And this know, that if the Goodman of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched, and not have suffered his house to be broken through. Be ye therefore ready also: for the Son of man cometh at an hour when ye think not.”

“And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now, is our salvation nearer than when we believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light” ([Romans 13:11-12](#)).

[Philippians 4:5](#). “Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand.”

[James 5:8-9](#). “Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh. Grudge not one against another, brethren, lest ye be condemned: behold, the judge standeth before the door.”

[I Peter 4:7](#). “But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer.”

[Revelation 1:1](#). “The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto Him, to shew unto His servants things which must shortly come to pass; and He sent and signified it by His angel unto His servant John.”

Thus, imminency is something we should surely believe in!

Jesus could come back for us today, and we should stay close to Him at all times: “Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth 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 hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as He is pure” ([I John 3:2-3](#)).

Paul emphasized imminency, but he also knew that no man knows when the rapture (and subsequent resurrection of the bodies of believers who have fallen asleep) will take place.

That is why he says “shall present us with you” at the end of [II Corinthians 4:14](#). We know today that this great event will take place when He comes again in the air.

The last point to be made from [II Corinthians 4:14](#): He did not know whether he would pass away and be resurrected with others or whether he would be alive at His coming.

Paul did know, however, that he would one day be in heaven with the Lord along with those in Corinth who believed. His basis for believing this was the resurrection of Jesus Christ!

**[II Corinthians 5:1-5](#)**. *For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is in 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 that we would be unclothed, but clothed upon, that mortality might be swallowed up of life. Now He That hath wrought us for the selfsame thing is God, Who also hath given us the earnest of the Spirit.*

Having written about the many difficult circumstances he had faced in his ministry (**[II Corinthians 4](#)**), Paul here discusses the effects such trials have on us in this life.

He speaks of our bodies being “dissolved,” the need to “groan,” “being burdened,” “and mortality.”

Anyone who has lived very long on this earth understands that bodies experience pain. Those who know the Lord *long* to be in a better place where sin is nonexistent, where there will be no time limitations, where joy will be eternal, where fellowship with others will be better than we can imagine, where there is no environmental pollution, where there will be no taxation, where “we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.”

The remedy for our pain and strain in this world is the promise “that mortality might be swallowed up of life.” This is a result of the resurrection of Jesus Christ!

Notice also that “He that hath wrought us for the selfsame thing is God, Who hath given us the earnest of the Spirit.” God the Father has planned our salvation; God the Son paid for our salvation; and God the Holy Spirit administers many of the blessings of salvation. The role of the Holy Spirit is twofold in this verse: 1. The intimacy that we have with Him in this life is great. After all, He indwells us (**[I Corinthians 3:16](#)**), but we live in this world with all its sin, limitations, and frustrations. In heaven relationships will be unhindered forever! 2. The Holy Spirit guides us into all truth (**[John 16:13](#)**). He works in the minds and hearts of believers, to confirm the truth of the Word He inspired (**[II Timothy 3:16](#)**; **[II Peter 1:21](#)**). Surely, He speaks to us in wonderful ways to explain that the resurrection of Jesus Christ is a reality and a promise of spectacular things to come!

**[II Corinthians 5:15](#)**. *And that He died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto Him Which died for them, and rose again.* The high doctrine of Christ’s atoning death carries a correspondingly high obligation on the part of those who live because of Him. Selfishness is ruled out by our duty to live “unto Him Which died” and rose again. “For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God’s” (**[I Corinthians 6:20](#)**).

The death of Christ supplies the urgency to serve Him; His resurrection supplies the power to serve Him ([Romans 6:4](#)).

**[II Corinthians 13:4](#)**. *For though He was crucified through weakness, yet He liveth by the power of God. For we also are weak in Him, but we shall live with Him by the power of God.*

Jesus became a man ([John 1:14](#)) and was crucified through weakness, but because of the will of the Father He lives forever.

In this world believers do well to understand that His “strength is made perfect in weakness” ([II Corinthians 12:9](#)).

He died and rose again. We will do the same by the power of God.

**[Galatians 1:1](#)**. *Paul, an apostle, (not of men, neither by man, but by Jesus Christ, and God the Father, Who raised Him from the dead;).*

Among the obstacles Paul faced in his ministry was the question of his apostolicity. There were people who opposed him for two reasons: 1. He was not one of the original twelve apostles. 2. He preached Jesus as crucified, buried, and risen again.

These opponents to the Gospel are generally referred to as “Judaizers.” Paul dealt with them especially in his epistle to the Galatians and his second epistle to the Corinthians. These Judaizers preached a false Gospel (“another Gospel”—[Galatians 1:6](#)), trying to merge faith in Christ with works. The dependence on works included circumcision, obedience to the Old Testament Law, and adherence to many of the man-made regulations of first century Judaism.

Paul’s response to the Judaizers was very strong: “But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. As we said before, so say I now again, if any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed” ([Galatians 1:8-9](#)).

Paul was saved while journeying to Damascus to persecute Christians there.

“And as he journeyed, he came near Damascus: and suddenly there shined round about him a light from heaven: And he fell to earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou Me? And he said, Who art Thou, Lord? And the Lord said, I am Jesus Whom thou persecutest: it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks. And he trembling and astonished

said, Lord, what wilt Thou have me to do? And the Lord said unto him, Arise, go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do” ([Acts 9:3-6](#)).

Soon Paul entered the house of Ananias. The Lord said to him, “Go thy way, for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel: For I will shew him how great things he must suffer for My name’s sake” ([Acts 9:15-16](#)).

This was a confirmation that Paul was granted apostleship and commissioned to preach the Gospel.

Paul had seen the risen Lord and received a call to evangelize both Jews and Gentiles. These were the requirements for apostleship: “Am I not an apostle? Am I not free? Have I not seen Jesus Christ our Lord? Are not ye my work in the Lord? If I be not apostle unto others, yea doubtless I am to you: for the deal of mine apostleship are ye in the Lord” ([1 Corinthians 9:1-2](#)).

Notice how Paul writes in [Galatians 1:1](#). He received his apostleship “not of men, neither by man, but by Jesus Christ, and God the Father, Who raised Him from the dead.” His position was ordained by God the Father Who allowed him to see His resurrected Son.

No doubt Paul received great gifts to serve the Lord as an apostle. He needed every one of those gifts to carry on the ministry God called him to perform.

The resurrection of our Lord was key to his call and the primary message he presented to lost souls.

We will continue these thoughts on the resurrection of Jesus Christ in next month's newsletter.