

## **The Resurrection Summer Group Classes 2007**

John 11:25-26 Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. **Do you believe this?"**

Tom Wright (Our Speaker today) is a respected New Testament Scholar. He has studied for the ministry at Oxford and as recent as 2000 became Canon Theologian of Westminster Abbey. Dr. Wright has written over thirty books, including "The Resurrection of the Son of God" and most recently, "Simply Christian".

Resurrection is the belief that some or all dead persons will one day be given new and more glorious bodies. 1 Corinthians 15:35-50.

This is different from immortality of the soul, the belief that the soul lives perpetually with or without the body. Body (dust) and spirit (breath of life) make us a living soul or being, thus, both are required for resurrection. Genesis 2:7.

This is also different from resuscitation, the giving back life to a corpse. Lazarus, the widow of Nain's son, and the ruler's daughter are examples of this. These people died again. Jesus did not and we will not. John 11:1-44, Luke 7:11-16, Matt 9:18-25.

Last Lent season we had a course on the Evidences for the Resurrection. The point of this course was to give you a historical and evidential reason for faith and belief in the Resurrection. The Resurrection is the most contested point of Christianity but at the same time it is the most important point of Christianity. Without the Resurrection, Paul says that we are to be most pitied and are dead in our sins. If Jesus is not alive as the God who lives, we worship a dead man and are no different than those that worship Buddha or Confucius. 1 Corinthians 15:12-19.

The Resurrection is a main topic of the Bible.

The O.T. speaks of the Resurrection. Ps 16:8-10; 49:15; 68:18; Isa 25:6-12; Dan 9:26, Daniel 12:1-3, Acts 2:29-31

Jesus spoke of his death and Resurrection. Mat 20:17-19, Mark 10:32-34, Luke 18:31-34, John 2:19-21.

The N.T. writers focused on this one point as a fact of extreme importance. Acts 13:29-39; 26:22-23; 2:32-36, 1 Cor 15:1-8,13-14,17, 20-22, Rev 1:18

The point of all of this is that we have a hope. Our hope is to rise from the dead bodily. Jesus rose bodily and we shall rise bodily for we will be like him. 1 John 3:2-3. His resurrected body ate food, was touched and was not a spirit alone. On all twelve occasions mentioned in the Four Gospels, Jesus was seen and probably heard. Four times he offered Himself to be touched. He was definitely touched twice. Jesus

revealed His crucifixion scars on two occasions. On another four occasions Jesus ate food. This is clearly a body and spirit and not just a spirit.

Luke 24: 36-39 While they were still talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." They were startled and frightened, thinking they saw a ghost. He said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds? Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have."

If you are one of those that believe that Jesus rose as a spirit body you must ask yourself what resurrection means? What victory did Jesus have over death if the body was not raised? To raise a spirit is not victory over death. This is merely a transformation from one existence to another. Victory means to win over or defeat death. Jesus defeated death which affects only the body. The spirit never dies, it returns to the Lord at the time of your death. Eccl 12:7. Therefore, resurrection of spirit alone is meaningless. You as a soul or living being are not just spirit but spirit **and** body.

1 Cor 15: 51-58 Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed--in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable and the mortal with immortality. When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: "Death has been swallowed up in victory." "Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?" The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.

But the hope of the Resurrection is not just for us to live forever. It is also for us to hope in the soon reunion of those we loved here on earth. It is this hope that I hold dear for the recent loss of my son and it is also the hope for many others whom have lost friends and family. Otherwise, the loss would be truly a total loss with no hope.

1 Peter 1: 3-6 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade--kept in heaven for you, who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials.

**HE IS RISEN! HE HAS RISEN INDEED!**