

Written by; Frank Hickman

I want to mention something about the spirituality debate in America right now. You don't believe in God? Fine, I'm not one to judge, because I'm not the judge. Why is it so important for some to mock those of us that do? If we're wrong, what have we lost when we die? Nothing! How does our believing in Jesus bring any harm? You think it makes me stupid? Gullible? Fine. How does that affect you? I would rather live my life believing in God and serving Him, and find out I was right, than not believing in Him and not serving Him, and find out I was wrong. Then it's too late. There's no shame in my game! I believe in Jesus Christ. He said deny me in front of your friends & I will deny you in front of my Father (Matthew 10:33-35). HE'S COMING BACK...Greatest man in history, had no servants, yet they called him Master. He had no degree, yet they called him Teacher. He had no medicines, yet they called him Healer. He had no army, yet kings feared Him. He won no military battles, yet He conquered the world. He committed no crime, yet they crucified Him. He was buried in a tomb, yet He lives today. His name is Jesus.

Marietta church of Christ

8150 Driggers St.
Jacksonville, FL 32220

Times of Worship

Sunday:

9 am - Bible Classes / 10 am - Worship / 5 pm - Worship

Wednesday:

7 pm - Bible Study/Worship

Evangelist: Devin Barber

www.mariettacoc.com



“I Am the Resurrection, and the Life”

I opened my back door this morning and, as I slowly sipped my coffee, looked out upon my little corner of the world as it greeted the new dawn. Not ten feet away, in the lowest boughs of a tree, sat a young squirrel. We looked at each other in the eye and I watched with amusement as he scurried down the tree and then back up, pausing anxiously at each sound or movement around him, his bushy tail quivering, his eyes and ears alert. In a short moment he was gone, scampering up the tree, leaping limb to limb into the larger pines and pecan trees in my neighbor's yard. I looked down to see my dog gazing into the branches, searching for the little intruder of his domain. I stepped outside and we played a bit as Hank obviously relished the cool air of the early autumn morning. A blue jay flew away from our noise and commotion, and as Hank loped across the yard to bark at a neighborhood cat, I noticed a rather long earthworm which was climbing onto the porch. I nudged him back into the flower bed with my boot tip and covered him with soil, for the sun would be up soon and he would die if stranded on the warm concrete.

Life is all around us. Birds and dogs and trees and grass are all possessed of that indefinable force that we refer to as life. Oh, the dictionary gives a rather impressive sounding explanation about distinctions from inorganic objects and manifestations of growth by internal processes, but it is basically saying that life is that which is not dead. Life is defined only by contrast to non-life, and whatever that condition or power or phenomenon is, we are its subjects. ...

Life is something that all men experience, yet no man possesses. We can't create it in our laboratories, we can't prevent its end (although we can hasten or delay it at times), and we have yet to determine how it works. What is it, in a seed, that can produce a giant Redwood tree, or even a blade of grass? We just don't know. Moreover once we deprive something of its life, we cannot renew it. I killed a roach in my garage yesterday, and I wouldn't have any idea how to revive it. But then, who would want to? However unappealing, though — life is life, and as mortal men, we are obsessed with it. It is at once our greatest certainty and the greatest uncertainty. We cherish it, protect it, lust after it continuation, but can do nothing to preserve it beyond the natural processes which govern it, And one we lose it, well...

In John 11.25, Jesus makes a rather bold statement to Martha of Bethany. "I am the resurrection and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die." It is in my opinion the greatest statement of truth ever expressed. I realize that it is no more important than any other of His assertions of identity. But consider its impact. It addresses the very foundation of the human dilemma — the source of existence and the solution to death. Moreover, it is the fundamental premise upon which divinity is based. True, Jesus Christ is "the true and living way" (John 8.32), "the light of the world" (John 8.12), "the door of the sheep" and "the good shepherd" (John 10.7, 14). But of what importance are those wonderful and glorious qualities if they fall subject to mortality? Of what practical benefit is God's goodness and mercy, love and sacrifice, revelation and promise if He is not possessed of the greatest of all forces — life? As Paul says in 1 Corinthians 15.19, "If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable."

But Jesus boldly, yet honestly, affirms that He is life. Notice, He does not claim to simply possess power over it, but he claims to be its very force. Life exist because he exists. He is not animated by life, but life is sustained by Him. What an awesome consideration! John 1.1f affirms Jesus as the power behind "all things", the life which is the light of men, the revelation of deity which came into His own creation in the form of the fleshly creature which He animated in the beginning. ...

It boggles the mind. But, it addresses our greatest fear — death. The end of life as we know it. Christ says, "Though he were dead, yet shall he live" (John 11.25). Our physical death is not the end, and we need not fear any end if we have faith in Him (verse 26). And this I know because he is the resurrection and the life. He provided me with evidence of thus truth in the resurrection of Lazarus, the manifestation of which power He calls "the glory of God" (John 11.40). Moreover, at least two other similar instances are recored (Mark 5 and Luke 8) which verify His claim. But most importantly, He manifested His veracity in His own subjection to physical death that He might rise again, victorious over death and evidence of His own assertion (John 6.40, 47; 11.26). He has promised to reunite my spirit with my body resurrected to a glorified, eternal, incorruptible state (1 Corinthians 15.24f; 2 Corinthians 5.1f) and He has proven His power to fulfill His promises.

You see, He is life. All life is sustained by Him — the squirrel, Hank, the bird, the tree, me. As long as He exists, life continues. And He alone can restore life to the body from which it departs in physical death (1 Thessalonians 4.14f). And He will. Maybe we out to listen to Him, you reckon?

Written by; Russ Bowman

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