

## **I Will Give up Everything to be Caught Up in the Rapture**

**Apostle Paul wrote in Philippians 3: 7-14,**

**Philippians 3:7-14** But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ.

8 Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ,

9 And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith:

10 That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;

11 If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead.

12 Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus.

13 Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before,

14 I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

I will give up everything and count the loss of those things as less than nothing that I may gain Jesus Christ and His righteousness which is of God by faith. That I may know Him and the power of His resurrection. Being buried with Him in baptism, partaking of

His death, burial and resurrection. If by any means I may attain unto the Resurrection of the dead. (the dead in Christ). I am crucified with Christ, nevertheless I live; yet not I- Christ lives in me.

***I am willing to give up everything to be caught up in the Rapture!!!!***

Church! Jesus spoke of two Resurrections in John 5:25-29

The Resurrection of Life and the Resurrection on Damnation.

**John 5: 25-29** Verily, verily, I say unto you, The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live.

26 For as the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself;

27 And hath given him authority to execute judgment also, because he is the Son of man.

28 Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice,

29 And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.

**The First Resurrection is the Resurrection of Life. The Resurrection of the Just, The Resurrection of the Saved; the born again Christian, the redeemed of Christ, those bought with a price, those washed in the blood of the Lamb. Apostle Paul said, "I will give up everything and count it as nothing to attain this first resurrection, the resurrection of eternal, everlasting life. Apostle Paul warned the Church that there are those who falsely say that there is no Resurrection of the Dead. But if there be no Resurrection of the dead, then Jesus has not risen and we are still in our sins and our religion is vain.**

**But thank God that Paul declared that Jesus has risen and that there is a Resurrection.**

**The Resurrection of Life has two parts.**

**The first part**----Jesus was crucified, Jesus did raise from the dead on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day. Jesus did give up the ghost on the cross. His soul did descend into the bowels of the earth. Jesus did descend into hell, there he did preach to the imprisoned souls. There the dead did hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ. When Jesus rose from the dead on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day, the righteous dead also rose with Him. The graves were opened up and the saints of old did walk the earth and were seen of men in Jerusalem and they did ascend into Heaven when Jesus ascended up.

These Saints are the first fruits of the first resurrection.

**The second part of the first Resurrection is the Rapture!**

Apostle John wrote in Revelation 20:6,

**Revelation 20:6** Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.

Apostle Paul wrote in I Corinthians 15: 51-57,

**I Corinthians 15: 51-57** Behold, I show you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,

52 In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.

54 So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.

55 O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?

56 The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law.

57 But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

**The Rapture is the second part of the Resurrection of Life—**Jesus is coming again, the trumpet of God is going to sound and the dead in Christ shall rise first, then we which are alive shall be changed in a twinkling of an eye from mortal to immortal, from corruptible to incorruptible and we shall be caught up into Heaven with Jesus. **Praise the Lord!** Praise God we are the present day fruit of God, His righteous people; His Church, that shall be caught up in the Rapture of the Saved that began when Christ arose 2000 years ago.

Again Paul speaks of the Rapture in I Thessalonians 4:13-17,

**I Thessalonians 4:13-17** But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope.

14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.

15 For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep.

16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

**Saints I will give up everything to be caught up in the Rapture!**

Let me share with you, a dream I had as a young Christian about the Rapture.

**I will give up everything to be caught up in the Rapture!  
Now let us speak about the Second Resurrection---the second death; the Resurrection of Damnation.**

**Apostle John wrote in Revelations 20: 7-15**

**Revelations 20:7-15** And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison,

8 And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea.

9 And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them.( This is the destruction of the world by fire. This is the time that Peter spoke of saying, seeing as how all these things shall melt with fervent heat, even the air, the earth and the sea shall be consumed by fire. What manner of person should you be in all holy conversation.)

10 And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.

11 And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.

12 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.

13 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.

14 And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

15 And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

After the one thousand year reign of Jesus and His Saints which is the Thousand Year Millennium, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison, and he shall go up against Christ and his Saints in the beloved city of Jerusalem and God will rain fire down from Heaven and Devour them! **Praise God Hallelujah!!! Satan will be cast into the lake of fire!!!**

### **This is the Great White Throne Judgement!**

This is the Second Death, the Second Resurrection; the Resurrection of Damnation and whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the **lake of fire!**

Saints, blessed and Holy is he who taketh part in the **First Resurrection,** upon him the second death; the lake of fire and brimstone; hath no power!

All who come up in **the first resurrection** shall **not** be in the Great White Throne Judgement but shall stand **before the judgement seat of Christ to receive their reward for the works done in their body. This is the Church, we that are saved by grace, through the faith in Jesus.**

### **Apostle Paul expounds upon this in Romans 14: 10-12**

**Romans 14: 10-12** But why dost thou judge thy brother? or why dost thou set at nought thy brother? for we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ.

11 For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God.

12 So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> death is the **lake of fire** prepared for satan and his angels. Thank God we are not doomed to that terrible place. God did not prepare that place for us, for mankind, but it was prepared for satan.

But Church be warned: **Hell hath enlarged itself, it's mouth has become a great abyss, a great chasm, to receive all the ungodly, all the unthankful, all the proud, all the vain, all the liars, all adulterers, all murderers, and all who have refused Jesus Christ and his Salvation.**

Mankind cries out, **how can a just and loving God send us to such a terrible place, a place where Jesus said: There shall be weeping and wailing and gnashing of teeth. Where the worm-the soul-dieth not and the fire is never quenched. Being burned for eternity in fire, but never consumed-knowing who you are and where you are, Eternal-Living Death!**

Know today; our **God is love.** Our God is **merciful,** our God is **compassionate.** Jesus hasn't, doesn't and **never** will **send** a soul to Hell! Praise God! We send ourselves to hell by refusing God's blessed plan of salvation, by refusing to repent, by refusing to be baptized, by refusing the precious cleansing blood of Jesus to wash away our sins. By rejecting the Holy One of God, by turning our backs on Jesus and the cross of Calvary and counting the shed the blood of Jesus as nothing and the death of Jesus as vain. But God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten son; put our sins upon Him "Jesus", He who knew no sin-God made him to become sin for us that through His death, burial, and resurrection; that whosoever believeth on Him, Jesus should not perish, but have everlasting life. God has done all that is humanly possible, God has done all that is godly possible to save us.

What more could He do, what more can He do that He has not already done.! God became a man, one of us, took on the seed of

Abraham; became flesh so He could put sin to death in the flesh, defeated Satan's power over us took back the keys of hell and death, **brought salvation to light, and gave us eternal life.**

As it is written, Oh death where is thy sting, oh grave where is thy victory. I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord-where by we have now received the atonement.

**I will give up everything to be caught up in the Rapture!**

Do you want to make your calling and election sure? Let us stand, this altar is open to everyone, will you give up everything, every sin to make heaven your home?

**Heaven is going to be a wonderful place!!!!**

Do you want to go?