

# A Theology of Heaven

## *Part Three:* "The Hope of Resurrection"

### "Present Heaven"

1. The dwelling place of believers who die before the resurrection
2. A place of provisional blessedness
3. A place of anticipation for the final, eternal state

## Hope of Resurrection

### Preface

- We tend to be out of step with the Bible's emphasis on the resurrection of the body as our ultimate hope

### John 5:28-29

"...for the hour is coming, in which all who are in the tombs shall hear His (Son of Man) voice, and shall come forth; those who did the good to a resurrection of life, those who committed the evil to a resurrection of judgment."

### John 6:39-40

"And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that of all that He has given Me I lose nothing, but raise it up on the last day.

For this is the will of My Father, that everyone who beholds the Son and believes in Him, may have eternal life; and I Myself will raise him up on the last day."

### John 11:25

"Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me shall live even if he dies."

**Romans 8:11**

"But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through the Spirit who indwells you."

**Philippians 3:11-12**

"that I may know Him (Christ), and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death; in order that I may attain to the resurrection from the dead."

**Philippians 3:20-21**

"For our citizenship is from heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ; who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has to subject all things to Himself."

**Hope of Resurrection**

- **1 Thessalonians 4:13-17**
  - **Setting:** believers have died before the return of Christ
  - **Goal:** comfort believers whose loved ones have died
  - **Content:** not the present heaven, but the resurrection at Christ's return

**Hope of Resurrection**

- **Romans 8:23-25**
  - Creation groans waiting eagerly the glorification of believers
  - We also groan "waiting eagerly" for "*the redemption of our bodies*"
    - redemption applies to our bodies
    - this is the ultimate hope in which we were saved

**Hope of Resurrection**

- **1 Corinthians 15:12-19**
  1. **Setting**
    - there were some in Corinth who denied the idea of resurrection
    - influenced by Greek philosophy – the inherent corruption of the physical

## Hope of Resurrection

### > 1 Corinthians 15:12-19

#### 2. Paul's Response

- if Christ has not been raised...
  - our faith is vain and worthless
  - we are still in our sins
  - we have no hope of salvation
  - the dead have perished

## Hope of Resurrection

### > 1 Corinthians 15:12-19

#### 3. Implications

- The concept of salvation apart from the resurrection of the body is meaningless
- There is no heaven for human spirits if there is no heaven for human bodies