

## **The Resurrection and Existentialism**

It is pretty well agreed upon among professional psychologists that the 2 main existential questions are:

1. What is the meaning of life?
2. What happens after we die?

The Resurrection of Jesus Christ answers these questions. And more.

### **What is the meaning of life?**

- In order to understand the meaning, or the purpose of life, we have to ask the One that created us why we exist.
- Ex of water cups and things.

### **Why did God create people?**

**Galatians 4:4-7** But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law,<sup>5</sup> to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.<sup>6</sup> And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!"<sup>7</sup> Therefore you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.

- The fullness of time – indicates that there was a predetermined time.
- There has been a plan from the beginning.
- That plan was to redeem people
- Why? To receive the adoption

### **We were created to be children of God.**

### **Our purpose is to be the sons and daughters of God.**

- **Ephesians 1:3-6** Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ,<sup>4</sup> just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without

blame before Him in love,<sup>5</sup> having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will,<sup>6</sup> to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved.

- We were chosen. We were predestined. In other words- this is our reason for existing. This is our destiny. The purpose of life.

### **This was so important to God that the cross had to happen.**

- **Hebrews 12:2** looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of *our* faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.
- The cross was not the joy.
- We are that joy.

**Romans 8:29–30** For whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to be* conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.<sup>30</sup> Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.

- Jesus would be the first among many to be reborn. He is the firstborn. But He died and was raised to life.
- So we too die and are raised to life when we put our faith in Him. When we receive His gift of life.

**Romans 3:23-26** for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,<sup>24</sup> being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,<sup>25</sup> whom God set forth *as* a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed,<sup>26</sup> to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

- We have all sinned

- Jesus was sent to trade His righteousness for our sin. In doing so, He justifies us.

**Romans 6:23** For the wages of sin *is* death, but the gift of God *is* eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

- Our sin can only be cancelled out by death.
- So Jesus dies in our place so that we do not have to pay the penalty for our sin.

**2 Corinthians 5:17-21** Therefore, if anyone *is* in Christ, *he is* a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.<sup>18</sup> Now all things *are* of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation,<sup>19</sup> that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation.<sup>20</sup> Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore *you* on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God.<sup>21</sup> For He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

- In Christ we are made completely new. All old things are passed away
- We are reconciled to God
- Our sins are not counted against us
- He gave us the righteousness of God

But it says “**we implore *you* on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God.**”

**The way to fulfill your purpose in life – choose to become a Son or daughter of God.**

**But we do die. So if we are saved from death, what's happening?**

That's where the second question comes in.

## What happens after I die?

Speaking specifically after we physically die. Last week, we looked at what happens after we get saved, which is when we die to our sin and are raised to new life in Him. Salvation.

The Resurrection also answers the question of what happens after we die.

- I will not go into great detail about the specific events, but I will answer this in general.

There are 2 different paths we can choose after death. The first one is if we choose not to become a son or daughter of God.

- First we must understand that death means separation. We are everlasting beings.
- Unbelievers are immediately transferred to Sheole, where they basically sleep, while awaiting judgement.
- Then, they will face judgement from God.

**Revelation 20:11-15** Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them.<sup>12</sup> And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is *the Book of Life*. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books.<sup>13</sup> The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works.<sup>14</sup> Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.<sup>15</sup> And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.

- Hell is real.
- This is also called the second death. Separation from God for eternity

**The other path is the ones that have chosen to become sons and daughters of God.**

- We First go to heaven
  - **Revelation 19:1** After these things I heard a loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, saying, “Alleluia! Salvation and glory and honor and power *belong* to the Lord our God!
- Then we live with God on a new earth
  - **Revelation 21:1-4** Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea.<sup>2</sup> Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.<sup>3</sup> And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, “Behold, the tabernacle of God *is* with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them *and be* their God.<sup>4</sup> And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.”

**This is how the Resurrection of Jesus answers that question:**

**Romans 6:4-5** Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.<sup>5</sup> For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be *in the likeness* of His resurrection,

**The resurrection of Jesus gives us eternal life with God if we choose to believe in Him.**

## Opening Reading

**Luke 23:55-24:12** And the women who had come with Him from Galilee followed after, and they observed the tomb and how His body was laid. <sup>56</sup>Then they returned and prepared spices and fragrant oils. And they rested on the Sabbath according to the commandment. <sup>1</sup>Now on the first *day* of the week, very early in the morning, they, and certain *other women* with them, came to the tomb bringing the spices which they had prepared. <sup>2</sup>But they found the stone rolled away from the tomb. <sup>3</sup>Then they went in and did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. <sup>4</sup>And it happened, as they were greatly perplexed about this, that behold, two men stood by them in shining garments. <sup>5</sup>Then, as they were afraid and bowed *their* faces to the earth, they said to them, "Why do you seek the living among the dead? <sup>6</sup>He is not here, but is risen! Remember how He spoke to you when He was still in Galilee, <sup>7</sup>saying, "The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again.' " <sup>8</sup>And they remembered His words. <sup>9</sup>Then they returned from the tomb and told all these things to the eleven and to all the rest. <sup>10</sup>It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary *the mother* of James, and the other *women* with them, who told these things to the apostles. <sup>11</sup>And their words seemed to them like idle tales, and they did not believe them. <sup>12</sup>But Peter arose and ran to the tomb; and stooping down, he saw the linen cloths lying by themselves; and he departed, marveling to himself at what had happened.

**Luke 24:36-39** Now as they said these things, Jesus Himself stood in the midst of them, and said to them, "Peace to you." <sup>37</sup>But they were terrified and frightened, and supposed they had seen a spirit. <sup>38</sup>And He said to them, "Why are you troubled? And why do doubts arise in your hearts? <sup>39</sup>Behold My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself. Handle Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see I have."

**Luke 24:44-49** Then He said to them, "These *are* the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled

which were written in the Law of Moses and *the* Prophets and *the* Psalms concerning Me.”<sup>45</sup> And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures.<sup>46</sup> Then He said to them, “Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day,<sup>47</sup> and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.<sup>48</sup> And you are witnesses of these things.<sup>49</sup> Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high.”