

ZOE — LIFE

Life! God's life! The word "life" is the English translation of the Greek, "Zoe", meaning the unchanging and eternal life of God. Unlike the Lord, mankind has a short term fluctuating lifespan that is filled with a constant stream of uncertainties.

Springtime brings into focus the excitement of natural life; the deciduous trees growing leaves after a long dormant season, the flowers arraying themselves with vibrant and colorful blossoms, the birds singing as they build their nests and the rivers swelling from the melting snow. Spring a season of bursting forth into new life!

Resurrection, literally a standing on the feet again after the grave, is the hope of every true believer. The scripture says, "For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus" (1 Thess. 4:14). Our hope of resurrection, the resurgence of life for the body, is based upon the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Paul explains that the body is sown a perishable one, but it is raised up as an imperishable body; it goes into the grave in total weakness, but comes up out of the grave in God's power; and it is placed into the grave a natural one, yet it comes forth out of the grave a spiritual one. (1 Cor. 15)

The hope of the Christian can be summed up in this wonderful scriptural promise: "...Christ in you, the hope of glory" (Co. 1:27).

The history of our life begins in the Garden of Eden with Adam and Eve, who received the mandate to guard and cultivate it. They were the product of God's intelligence and power. In the center of the garden were two distinctly different trees, one that gave life to Adam and Eve and the other that threatened them with death. The Garden was irrigated by a morning mist and a pure river. The tree of life represents the word of God and from it God's creatures were sustained. The river quenched their thirst and this represents the Holy Spirit. God's food and water provided Adam and Eve with eternal life.

Tragedy happened in the Garden of Eden when Adam and Eve disobeyed and ate from the wrong tree, the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. They were driven from the Garden, the source of the food and drink that sustained their lives supernaturally. The river that flowed out of the Garden separated into four rivers and changed from a pure river of life into four corrupted and polluted streams—idolatry, adultery, pride and greed. The number four represents the world. As a result of sin, Adam and Eve were alienated from the tree of life and were forced to live in a corrupted world. If it was not for this scriptural promise, they would have been without hope, "And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed: He shall bruise you on the head, and you shall bruise him on the heel" (Gen. 3:15). God first hint about His plan to rescue mankind from his judgment of death.

Finally after four millennia, Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, and was declared by the angel to be the Savior of the world. He was the Word of God, and the Bible says, "In Him was life.." (St. Jn. 1:4). To a world dying because of the sin of Adam, these words must have been startling, "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" (St. Jn. 6:40). Do you mean it is the determination of God that we have an opportunity to LIVE ETERNALLY? Yes, it is so!

Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life" (St. Jn. 6:48) and if one would only eat of the bread, he would not die. If Jesus is the Word of God, then as we eat of the Word, then we shall live, even as Adam ate of the tree of life and lived. Life is not a result of a religious wafer, or meal, rather it is believing in the Word of God and submitting to its content with all your heart, mind, soul and strength.

Robert Louis Stevenson once recalled how, as a little boy, he would watch the village lamplighter work his way through the town. One night as he saw the lamplighter move from lamppost to lamppost, he became so excited that he ran to find his mother, "Mommie, Mommie," he shouted, "Come with me and see a man who is punching holes in the darkness."

When Jesus came up out of the grave on that glorious resurrection night, he was PUNCHING HOLES IN THE DARKNESS! For 3½ years Jesus had declared and demonstrated he was the resurrection and the life. He became the "first-born among many brethren" (Ro. 8:29). He is the "living One" that was dead, but now alive forevermore! Rev. 1:18. Let me emphasize, HE IS THE LIVING ONE! How then does anyone obtain life?

"If then you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory" (Col. 3:1-4).

It is in Christ that we have life! It is by God's doing we are in Christ, and that based on our faith in the death and resurrection of Jesus. 1 Cor. 1:30. "If a man die shall he lives again," asked Job? The answer is YES! YES! Because he lives we too shall live.

After unlocking all the jails and setting the prisoners free, Theodosius the Great, who was Emperor of the Roman Empire in the last part of the 4th century, wishfully remarked, "I would to God I had the power to unlock all the tombs and release those who are imprisoned there." What the emperor could not do, Jesus has done. The key turned in the lock of death and hades when Jesus AROSE FROM THE DEAD!

Are you hungry? Jesus is the bread of life! Are you thirsty? "If any man is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink" (St. Jn. 7:37). Jesus is the answer to the problem of eternal life.

