

On Death, Dying, and the Future Hope

Christ's Victory Over Death

Lesson #7 for November 12, 2022

Scriptures: Matthew 27:51-53,62-66; John 10:17-18; 20:11-29; 1 Corinthians 15:5-8; Revelation 1:17-18.

1. ***How important to your salvation is the resurrection of Jesus? Paul clearly felt that if Christ was not resurrected—if He did not come back to life,—then there is no hope for any of us beyond the grave. Do you agree? (See 1 Corinthians 15:16-18.)***
2. Paul felt very strongly that he needed to preach to the Corinthians nothing except the crucifixion of Jesus Christ. (1 Corinthians 2:2) But, the story must not end there; because of who He was, He arose from the dead. And this is what makes His story so remarkable.
3. ***However, would it be necessary to have a resurrection if, in fact, the dead somehow go to heaven or to hell at the time of death?***

[From the Bible study guide=BSG:] **Christ's mission seemed to have ended (and even failed) with His death on the cross.** Satan succeeded in instigating Judas to betray the Savior (*Luke 22:3, 4; John 13:26, 27*) and the chief priests and elders to demand His death (*Matt. 26:59, Matt. 27:20*). After Jesus was arrested, "all the disciples forsook Him and fled" (*Matt. 26:56, NKJV*), and Peter denied Him three times (*Matt. 26:69–75*). Now Jesus was lying in a tomb hewed out of a rock, closed with a large and sealed stone, protected by Roman guards (*Matt. 27:57–66*), and watched by invisible demonic powers. **"If he could, he [Satan] would have held Christ locked in the tomb."**—Ellen G. White, *Manuscript Releases*, vol. 12, p. 412.—*Adult Sabbath School Bible Study Guide** for Sunday, November 6.^{†‡§} [Content in brackets in the introduction is added but content in brackets in the paragraph is in the source.][‡] **[At the time of Jesus's birth Satan had claimed that he would get Jesus to sin. Every other human being had sinned. When that failed, he decided to try to make the life of Jesus so difficult that Jesus would simply give up on His mission and go back to heaven. When that failed and Jesus was dead, Satan's last hope was to keep Jesus in the tomb! When Jesus arose, Satan knew his fate was sealed.][‡]**

4. All of these events should not have been such a surprise to the disciples because Jesus had told them repeatedly that He would be handed over to the Gentiles and that He would be put to death, but, that He would rise again on the third day. (Matthew 12:39-40; 16:21; 17:22-23; 20:17-19; **Luke 18:31-34**) They were prepared to crown Him king of the Jews!
5. But, as we will see, all the efforts carried out by His enemies, the Jewish leaders, only provided additional evidence that Jesus actually did arise from the dead and did return to heaven. All the security measures taken to keep Jesus locked in the tomb only made His victory over death more widely known.
6. Try to imagine yourself as one of the Jewish leaders on resurrection day. What did they tell people who asked them, "Where is Jesus?" Of course, their explanation would be that "His disciples stole His body away while the soldiers slept!"

7. But, there were much mightier forces trying to prevent Jesus from arising from the tomb.

[From the writings of Ellen G. White=EGW:] When Jesus was laid in the grave, Satan triumphed. He dared to hope that the Saviour would not take up His life again. **He claimed the Lord's body, and set his guard about the tomb, seeking to hold Christ a prisoner. He was bitterly angry when his angels fled at the approach of the heavenly messenger. When he saw Christ come forth in triumph, he knew that his kingdom would have an end, and that he must finally die.**—Ellen G. White, *The Desire of Ages** 782.4.†‡

[BSG:] And though Christ's humanity died, His divinity did not die. In His divinity, Christ possessed the power to break the bonds of death.—*Adult Sabbath School Bible Study Guide** for Monday, November 7.‡

8. **Matthew 28:1-6; John 10:17-18; and Romans 8:11 give us some apparently contradictory information about the resurrection of Jesus. Jesus had told His disciples that He had the power to lay down His life and take it back again. He told Martha that He was the resurrection and the life. Other passages such as Acts 2:24; Romans 8:11; Galatians 1:1; and Hebrews 13:20 suggest that He was raised by God, the Father. As we know, a mighty angel was involved when he came down and rolled the stone back and called for Jesus to come forth. In some places, it says the Spirit was responsible. So, who did it?**

[EGW:] **When the voice of the mighty angel was heard at Christ's tomb, saying, Thy Father calls Thee, the Saviour came forth from the grave by the life that was in Himself.** Now was proved the truth of His words, "I lay down My life, that I might take it again.... I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again." Now was fulfilled the prophecy He had spoken to the priests and rulers, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." John 10:17, 18; 2:19.

Over the rent sepulcher of Joseph, Christ had proclaimed in triumph, "I am the resurrection, and the life." These words could be spoken only by the Deity. All created beings [including Lucifer/Satan] live by the will and power of God. They are dependent recipients of the life of God. From the highest seraph to the humblest animate being, all are replenished from the Source of life. **Only He who is one with God could say, I have power to lay down My life, and I have power to take it again. In His divinity, Christ possessed the power to break the bonds of death.**—Ellen G. White, *Desire of Ages** 785.2-3.‡ [Jesus always was God; but, Satan claimed that he should be equal with Christ. Satan did not claim equality with the Father or the Holy Spirit.]‡

9. Are these reports of the Source of Jesus's resurrection actually contradictory?

Matthew 28:11-15: ¹¹ While the women went on their way, some of the soldiers guarding the tomb went back to the city and **told the chief priests everything that had happened.** ¹²The chief priests met with the elders and made their plan; they gave a large sum of money to the soldiers ¹³and said, "You are to say that his disciples came during the night and stole his body while you were asleep. ¹⁴And if the Governor should hear of this, we will

convince him that you are innocent, and you will have nothing to worry about.”

¹⁵ The guards took the money and did what they were told to do. And so that is the report spread round by the Jews to this very day.—American Bible Society. (1992). *The Holy Bible: The Good News Translation** (2nd ed., Matthew 28:11-15). New York: American Bible Society [abbreviated as *Good News Bible*].^{†‡}

10. ***At the time of Christ’s resurrection, the Roman guard fell like dead men. They were obviously eyewitnesses of what happened. The story that they were given by the priests is self-contradictory. If they were sleeping, how could they have known that the disciples came and stole His body and took it away? Did those Roman soldiers tell the truth to anyone other than the priests and Pilate? When they went home to Rome, did they tell the truth to their families? It had to be the most amazing thing that had ever happened to them! What did they discuss in the barracks that night?***

11. The priests obviously heard something that disturbed them enormously. Why would they give a large sum of money to the soldiers to keep them quiet? It had to be the truth about the resurrection of Jesus!

12. Not to take away from the importance of the main event, however, there were other things that happened in connection with the resurrection of Jesus: **(1) A massive earthquake shook the area; (2) Those whose graves had been thrown open at His death, arose and went into Jerusalem where many people saw them and where they witnessed about the resurrection. (See Matthew 27:52-53 and *Desire of Ages* 786.1-787.2.)**

[EGW:] The voice that cried from the cross, “It is finished,” was heard among the dead. It pierced the walls of sepulchers, and summoned the sleepers to arise. Thus will it be when the voice of Christ shall be heard from heaven. That voice will penetrate the graves and unbar the tombs, and the dead in Christ shall arise. At the Saviour’s resurrection a few graves were opened, but at His second coming all the precious dead shall hear His voice, and shall come forth to glorious, immortal life. The same power that raised Christ from the dead will raise His church, and glorify it with Him, above all principalities, above all powers, above every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in the world to come.—Ellen G. White, *The Desire of Ages** 787.2.[‡]

13. ***We do not know exactly what the appearance of these people was when they went into the city; but, we do know that they were raised to eternal life and ascended with Jesus to heaven. When did they go to heaven? Was it obvious to the people to whom they spoke that they had risen from the dead? If you had heard the story of one of those resurrected beings, how would it impact you? What did they say to people in Jerusalem?***

14. Later, not all the priests were completely unbelieving.

Acts 6:7: And so the word of God continued to spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem grew larger and larger, and **a great number of priests [Sadducees] accepted the faith.**—*Good News Bible*.^{*†‡}

15. Think of the situation of the Pharisees and the Sadducees. From a human standpoint, they controlled the Jewish nation. They were able to convince Pilate and the Roman soldiers to give a false report of what happened. However, even the story they gave to the soldiers was contradictory; the testimony of those who had been raised from the dead proved them wrong.
16. Twelve distinct appearances of Christ after His resurrection can be documented in Scripture. (See also 1 Corinthians 15:4.) The order of those appearances:
- 1) **Appearance #1: He was seen by the Roman guards as He arose from the dead!**
 - 2) **Appearance #2:** To Mary Magdalene near the tomb. (John 20:11-18; Mark 16:9) John 20:1-2 say that Mary did not initially see Jesus but saw the empty tomb and ran to tell Peter and John. Soon after that, Jesus appeared to Mary. (John 20:13-17) He probably appeared to Mary first among the believers because she was there and because she believed!

Mark 16:9-11: ⁹ After Jesus rose from death early on Sunday, **he appeared first to Mary Magdalene**.... ¹⁰She went and told his companions. They were mourning and crying; ¹¹ and when they heard her say that Jesus was alive and that she had seen him, they did not believe her.—*Good News Bible*.*†

[EGW:] The women had not all come to the tomb from the same direction. **Mary Magdalene** was the first to reach the place; and upon seeing that the stone was removed, she hurried away to tell the disciples.—Ellen G. White, *Desire of Ages** [abbreviated as *DA**] 788.3.††

[EGW:] **Mary** had not heard the good news. She went to Peter and John with the sorrowful message, “They have taken away the Lord out of the sepulcher, and we know not where they have laid Him.” [John 20:1-2]—*DA** 789.2.††

[EGW:] Mary had followed John and Peter to the tomb; when they returned to Jerusalem, she remained....

Another voice addressed her, “Woman, why weepest thou? whom seekest thou?” Through her tear-dimmed eyes, Mary saw the form of a man, and thinking that it was the gardener, she said, “Sir, if thou have borne Him hence, tell me where thou hast laid Him, and I will take Him away.” [John 20:15]....

But now in His own familiar voice Jesus said to her, “**Mary**.” [John 20:16a] Now she knew that it was not a stranger who was addressing her, and turning **she saw before her the living Christ**. In her joy she forgot that He had been crucified. Springing toward Him, as if to embrace His feet, she said, “Rabboni.” But Christ raised His hand, saying, Detain Me not; “for I am not yet ascended to My Father: but go to My brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto My Father, and your Father; and to My God, and your God.” [John 20:17] And Mary went her way to the disciples with the joyful message.—*DA** 789.4-790.2.††

- 3) **Appearance #3:** To the women returning from the tomb. (Matthew 28:9-10)

Matthew 28:8-10: ⁸ So they [**the other women**] left the tomb in a hurry, afraid and yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples.

⁹ **Suddenly Jesus met them** and said, “Peace be with you.” They came up to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. ¹⁰ “Do not be afraid,” Jesus said to them. “Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see me.”—*Good News Bible*.*†‡

[EGW:] Meanwhile **the other women** came up. A light was shining about the tomb, but the body of Jesus was not there. As they lingered about the place, suddenly they saw that they were not alone. A young man clothed in shining garments was sitting by the tomb. It was the angel who had rolled away the stone. He had taken the guise of humanity that he might not alarm these friends of Jesus. Yet about him the light of the heavenly glory was still shining, and the women were afraid. They turned to flee, but the angel’s words stayed their steps. “Fear not ye,” he said; “for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified. He is not here: for He is risen, as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay. And go quickly, and tell His disciples that He is risen from the dead.” [See Matthew 28:5-7, *KJV*—*DA** 788.3.†‡

- 4) **Appearance #4:** To Peter. (Luke 24:34; 1 Corinthians 15:5)

[EGW:] The disciples [**Peter and John**] hurried to the tomb, and found it as Mary had said. They saw the shroud and the napkin, but they did not find their Lord. Yet even here was testimony that He had risen. The graveclothes were not thrown heedlessly aside, but carefully folded, each in a place by itself. John “saw, and believed.” He did not yet understand the scripture that Christ must rise from the dead; **but he now remembered the Saviour’s words** foretelling His resurrection. [John 20:3-10]—*DA** 789.2.†‡

[EGW:] **Jesus** refused to receive the homage of His people until He had the assurance that His sacrifice was accepted by the Father. [John 20:17] He **ascended to the heavenly courts**, and **from God Himself heard the assurance that His atonement for the sins of men had been ample, that through His blood all might gain eternal life.** The Father ratified the covenant made with Christ, that He would receive repentant and obedient men, and would love them even as He loves His Son. Christ was to complete His work, and fulfill His pledge to “make a man more precious than fine gold; even a man than the golden wedge of Ophir.” Isaiah 13:12. All power in heaven and on earth was given to the Prince of Life, and He returned to His followers in a world of sin, that He might impart to them of His power and glory.—*DA** 790.3.†‡

[EGW:] When Christ came to this world, he found that Satan had everything as he wanted it. The adversary of God and man thought that he was indeed the prince of the earth, but Jesus laid hold of the world to take it out of the power of Satan. He came to redeem it from the curse of sin and the penalty of transgression, that the transgressor might be forgiven. **He planted the cross between earth and heaven, and**

between divinity and humanity; and as the Father beheld the cross, he was satisfied. He said, “It is enough, the offering is complete.” God and man may be reconciled. Those who have lived in rebellion against God, may become reconciled, if as they see the cross, they become repentant, and accept the great propitiation that Christ has made for their sins. In the cross they see that “mercy and truth have met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other.”—Ellen G. White, *Signs of the Times*,* September 30, 1889, par. 4.†† 5SDABC* 1137.9.††† See also *Review and Herald*, September 24, 1901, par. 11; *RH*, June 25, 1908, par. 7; *ST*, December 25, 1901, par. 1.

[EGW:] **While the Saviour was in God’s presence**, receiving gifts for His church, the **disciples** thought upon His empty tomb, and mourned and wept. **The day that was a day of rejoicing to all heaven was to the disciples a day of uncertainty, confusion, and perplexity.** Their unbelief in the testimony of the women gives evidence of how low their faith had sunk. **The news of Christ’s resurrection was so different from what they had anticipated that they could not believe it. It was too good to be true, they thought.** They had heard so much of the doctrines and the so-called scientific theories of the Sadducees that the impression made on their minds in regard to the resurrection was vague. They scarcely knew what the resurrection from the dead could mean. They were unable to take in the great subject.—*DA** 790.4.††

- 5) **Appearance #5:** One of the most incredible stories connected with resurrection Sunday is the story of the two men traveling to Emmaus as recorded by Luke. **Read Luke 24:13-49: Don’t you wish we had Jesus’s conversation with those two!**
 - 6) **Appearance #6:** To the **10 apostles** and other followers as in Luke 24:36; but, Thomas was absent. (Luke 24:36-43)
 - 7) **Appearance #7:** To the **11 apostles including Thomas.** (John 20:26-31)
1 Corinthians 15:5: He appeared to **Peter** and then **to all twelve apostles.**—*Good News Bible*.*†
 - 8) **Appearance #8:** To **seven disciples** beside the Sea of Galilee. (John 21:1-25)
 - 9) **Appearance #9:** To **more than 500 people**—possibly on an appointed mountain in Galilee. (Matthew 28:16-20; possibly parallels 1 Corinthians 15:6)
 - 10) **Appearance #10:** To **James, the half brother of Jesus.** (1 Corinthians 15:7)
 - 11) **Appearance #11:** To the **apostles at the ascension.** (Acts 1:3-11; compare Matthew 28:1)
 - 12) **Appearance #12:** Long after His ascension, **to Paul** (probably in vision). (1 Corinthians 15:8)
17. **Jesus appeared many times after His resurrection that we do not have recorded.**
Acts 1:3: ³**For forty days after his death he appeared to them many times in ways that proved beyond doubt that he was alive.** They saw him, and he talked with them about the Kingdom of God.—*Good News Bible*.*†

18. Thomas had not been present on the night that Jesus first appeared to the other ten disciples. One week later, Thomas was with them when Jesus appeared to them again. Jesus said something important to Thomas:

John 20:29: “Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”—*New King James Version*.*§

19. When Jesus met seven of His disciples on the shore of Lake Galilee after they had been fishing all night without any success, He gave them evidence that He would still be with them. Jesus still had some further things to say, especially to Peter. See **John 21:1-23**.

20. And finally, the day came when He needed to leave them.

Luke 24:50-53: ⁵⁰ Then he led them out of the city as far as Bethany, where he raised his hands and blessed them. ⁵¹As he was blessing them, he departed from them and was taken up into heaven. ⁵²They worshipped him and went back into Jerusalem, filled with great joy, ⁵³and spent all their time in the Temple giving thanks to God.—*Good News Bible*.* [See also **Acts 1:1-11**.]‡

21. But, Jesus was not finished appearing to His followers. Think of the story of Paul.

1 Corinthians 15:8: Last of all he appeared also to me—even though I am like someone whose birth was abnormal.—*Good News Bible*.* [Was that on the road to Damascus? Or, later? Was Paul in training in Jerusalem while Jesus was still alive? Did he ever see Jesus? Did Paul see Jesus in Jerusalem before he was a follower of Jesus?]‡

22. See also *Adult Sabbath School Bible Study Guide* for Wednesday, November 9, and the portion below.

[BSG:] During the 40 days between His resurrection and His ascension, Jesus “was seen by over five hundred brethren at once” (*1 Cor. 15:6, NKJV*) and by James (*1 Cor. 15:7*). Jesus joined some disciples at the shore of the Sea of Galilee and had breakfast with them, followed by a talk with Peter (*John 21:1–23*). There might have been other appearances of Jesus (*Acts 1:3*) before the final one at His ascension (*Luke 24:50–53, Acts 1:1–11*). Paul also considered himself an eyewitness to the risen Christ, who appeared to him on the road to Damascus (*1 Cor. 15:8; compare with Acts 9:1–9*).—*Adult Sabbath School Bible Study Guide** for Wednesday, November 9.‡§

23. ***Why didn't Jesus make a grand entrance into the temple in all His glory so all in Jerusalem for the Passover (and, thus, the world) would know that He was risen?***

24. ***How has the life and death of Jesus impacted your life? Can your family, your friends, and your associates tell that you have been impacted? How has the life of Christ affected all of us in amazing ways?***

25. ***What kind of evidence do we still have that Jesus was real and that His resurrection was important?***

Consider this from: http://www.anointedlinks.com/one_solitary_life.html

Here is a man who was born in an obscure village, the child of a peasant woman. He grew up in another village. He worked in a carpenter shop until He was thirty. Then for three years He was an itinerant preacher.

He never owned a home. He never wrote a book. He never held an office. He never had a family. He never went to college. He never put His foot inside a big city. He never traveled two hundred miles [actually about 250-600 miles to Heliopolis or to Alexandria in Egypt, depending on the route taken] from the place He was born. He never did one of the things that usually accompany greatness. He had no credentials but Himself...

While still a young man, the tide of popular opinion turned against him. His friends ran away. One of them denied Him. He was turned over to His enemies. He went through the mockery of a trial. He was nailed upon a cross between two thieves. While He was dying His executioners gambled for the only piece of property He had on earth – His coat. When He was dead, He was laid in a borrowed grave through the pity of a friend.

Nineteen long centuries have come and gone, and today He is a centerpiece of the human race and leader of the column of progress.

I am far within the mark when I say that all the armies that ever marched, all the navies that were ever built; all the parliaments that ever sat and all the kings that ever reigned, put together, have not affected the life of man upon this earth as powerfully as has that one solitary life.—*This essay was adapted from a sermon by Dr James Allan Francis in “The Real Jesus and Other Sermons” © 1926 by the Judson Press of Philadelphia (pp 123-124 titled “Arise Sir Knight!”).*—[Retrieved on August 16, 2022.][‡]

26. God, of course, knew what He had in mind regarding the resurrection of Jesus Christ even back in the days of Moses. (Deuteronomy 26:1-11; 1 Corinthians 15:20)
27. While Jesus rose in His heavenly body, He will always retain the marks in His hands and His feet as trophies of His success in the great controversy. But, when we are raised from the dead, all traces of sin, disease, injury, etc. will be gone. (See *Early Writings*, 179; *Spiritual Gifts*, vol. 1, 61.2-63.0.)
28. Christ will ever identify Himself with human beings. Having given up His omnipresence, He will forever retain a human form.

[BSG:] Modern sentiment doesn't allow for something like the resurrection of Jesus. However, the historical evidence is so strong that even those who can't accept the reality of the Resurrection are forced to admit that many people *believed* that they had seen the resurrected Jesus. Thus, much of anti-resurrection apologetics is the attempt to explain what could have caused all these different people to believe that they had seen the risen Christ.

Some have argued that all the disciples hallucinated the resurrected Jesus; others that Jesus hadn't really died but only had swooned and then come back to life after He had been brought down from the cross, and when He had reappeared, His followers thought that He had been raised from the dead. And (believe it or not) some have argued that Jesus had a twin brother whom the disciples mistook for the risen Christ. In other words, the historical

evidence is so strong for Christ's resurrection that these are the kinds of arguments people concoct in order to try to dismiss it. With the Resurrection itself so important, we should not be surprised by all the good reasons we have been given to believe it.—*Adult Sabbath School Bible Study Guide** for Friday, November 11.†‡§

29. ***Would the disciples have been willing to die for a belief which was just made up and which they knew was not true?***
30. **Think of the plight of the religious leaders who begged Pilate to give them a guard to keep the grave shut so His disciples could not steal His body. They ended up paying large sums of money to those same guards to say that His disciples *did* steal His body! What does that reveal to us about the truth?**

[BSG:] The Cross is Christ's victory over sin, death, and the devil; and His resurrection is the culminating triumphal event. Death could not retain Jesus, for He never committed sin and was sinless in all His actions. Jesus' death is the central point of His accomplishments; **however, the Cross without the resurrection would become only a beautiful philosophy of unselfish service and have no salvific significance.** Furthermore, the Cross without the resurrection would be a demonstration of sacrificial love but have no power to transform lives and bring a decisive solution to the problem of sin and death. It would be incapable of providing eternal life for believers (*Rom. 3:21–26*).—*Adult Teachers Sabbath School Bible Study Guide** 93.†‡§

31. Jesus has given us two major symbols to celebrate His death and resurrection: 1) Baptism and 2) the Lord's supper.

[BSG:] The best explanation of the significance of the resurrection of Jesus Christ is laid out in 1 Corinthians 15, in which the apostle Paul explains why the resurrection of Jesus is so important. First, Paul provides the historical reason and argues that there are many witnesses of Christ's resurrection. If their testimony is dismissed, then all who testified that they had an encounter with Christ would be false witnesses. Christ appeared to Peter, to the apostles, to James, to 500, and to Paul himself (*1 Cor. 15:5–8*).

Then Paul engages in theological reasoning in defense of the resurrection and offers several crucial points:

1. If there were no resurrection of the dead, then even Jesus Christ was not resurrected (*1 Cor. 15:13, 16*).
2. If Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain (*1 Cor. 15:14*).
3. If Christ has not been raised, then our faith is in vain (*1 Cor. 15:14*). The Greek adjective *kenos* also means "useless" or "empty." Our faith loses its content and power if Jesus is still dead.
4. If Christ has not been raised, then the dead will not be raised (*1 Cor. 15:15*). There would be no hope after death.
5. If Christ has not been raised, we are false witnesses about God, because we testify about God's raising Christ (*1 Cor. 15:15*). So, if Jesus is not raised from the dead, then the picture of God and His character is distorted, and

we are misrepresenting Him. However, the Father truthfully raised Christ from the dead.

6. If Christ has not been raised, our faith is futile (*1 Cor. 15:17*). The meaning of the Greek adjective *mataios* is “worthless.” Our faith in God would have no relevance to our lives.
7. If Christ has not been raised, there is no forgiveness of our trespasses, and we remain in our sins (*1 Cor. 15:17*). As sinners, we deserve only the death sentence.
8. If Christ has not been raised, then there is no resurrection of the dead in Christ (*1 Cor. 15:18*) and, thus, no eternal life.
9. If Christ has not been raised, and if only in this life we could hope in Christ, then we are of all people to be most pitied (*1 Cor. 15:19*). Paul uses the Greek adjective *elaeinos*, which means “miserable.” Thus, if we have only a nice spiritual teaching about Jesus that pertains only to this earthly life, we are most miserable, according to Paul, because Jesus was crucified and died, and so death, inevitably, is the final fate of all.
10. If the dead are not to be raised, then we should “eat and drink, for tomorrow we die” (*1 Cor. 15:32, ESV*). Our motto in life should then be *carpe diem* in order to at least experience a little bit of happiness and joy.—*Adult Teachers Sabbath School Bible Study Guide** 94-95.†§

32. **Of course, none of these things are true because Christ is raised. The resurrection is a fact, and we can claim it as our everlasting joy.**

33. ***Do you feel that living a Christian life today is pitiful? Not at all!***

34. Paul compared the death and resurrection to an agricultural event: The seed must be cast into the soil and die before it can give rise to new life.

[BSG:] At the second coming of Christ (*1 Cor. 15:23*), those who sleep in the dust will be resurrected and “in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, . . . this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality” (*1 Cor. 15:52, 53, ESV*).

“ ‘Death is swallowed up in victory’ ” (*1 Cor. 15:54, ESV; compare with Isa. 25:8*). Then Paul writes about the glorious and triumphant shout of victory (the word “victory” is used three times in this last chapter’s section): “ ‘O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?’ ” (*1 Cor. 15:55, ESV*). Praise the Lord because this victory over death is given to the faithful in Christ Jesus. How grateful we should be (*1 Cor. 15:57*).—*Adult Teachers Sabbath School Bible Study Guide** 95.†§

35. ***Now that we have reviewed Gethsemane, the cross, the death of Jesus, and the resurrection, which is most important to you? Which was the center of all Christ’s activities?***

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