From the desk of

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Resurrection of the Dead

1 Cor. 15:19 (ASV)
If we have only hoped in Christ in this life, we are of all men most pitiable.

Recently I was celebrating before God with a couple of dear saints in their eighties the hope in the resurrection of our body with the coming of our Lord Jesus. This all came about as we discussed their age, the issues of this weak and perishing body and the time that remains here on earth is only momentary in comparison to eternity but praise God, that the body would be resurrected to spend eternity with Jesus.

I was shocked to say the least to find they thought and related the resurrection only to the soul and not the body. Not being in the place to teach at the time, I was still never the less, driven back to the scripture. For you see the scripture is clear that the resurrection is of the dead. Just as the verse says above - if there is no hope beyond this life (referencing the resurrection) then in this we are most miserable of men, to be most pitied or as the ASV says “most pitiable”.

As we have discovered in our previous studies in Heb 6:1-2, there are six principles or elementary teachings of Christ that is really a foundation that must be established if the saints are to build or grow. For without a solid foundation the structure will only crumble beneath the builder, particularly in a storm. As Jesus taught in this parable:

Luke 6:47-49 (NIV)
I will show you what he is like who comes to me and hears my words and puts them into practice. [48] He is like a man building a house, who dug down deep and laid the foundation on rock. When a flood came, the torrent struck that house but could not shake it, because it was well built. [49] But the one who hears my words and does not put them into practice is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. The moment the torrent struck that house, it collapsed and its destruction was complete."

What is the foundation we are to build on?

1 Cor. 3:10-11
...But each one should be careful how he builds. [11] For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ.

Again in Heb 6:1-2
Therefore let us leave the elementary teachings about Christ and go on to maturity, not laying again the foundation of repentance from acts that lead to death, and of faith in God, [2] instruction about baptisms, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment.
The foundation in Christ begins with the basic teaching of Christ and in this verse it implies only after laying this foundation can we go on to maturity.

This is also shown in the a verse that tells us how we are to study God’s Word and the order we are to pursue the more mature things with God.

Isaiah 28:9-10 (KJV)
Whom shall he teach knowledge? and whom shall he make to understand doctrine? them that are weaned from the milk, and drawn from the breasts. [10] For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little:

Only after drinking of the milk and being weaned from the breast can one grow in understanding and maturity and then only step by step and line by line, precept upon precept.

This I have come to appreciate more and more as I declare God’s Word and His teachings. So I hope to set another of the foundation stones in Christ tonight so that we will be more ready to build on with the more mature doctrines.

Most Pitiable of Men, was given consideration as the title of this teaching and it still remains a good title because without clear understanding we could remain in our sins and have no righteousness or justification, as you will see later in the study.

God by Holy Spirit revelation through his servant Paul, dedicated much scripture to this topic of the resurrection of the dead and its importance.

It is written in Romans 4:25 that Jesus died for our sins but was raised from the dead so that we might be justified. Without believing the resurrection of the dead we have no righteousness nor justification. Do you hear this. NO JUSTICATION!

Romans 4:22-25 (NIV)
This is why "it was credited to him as righteousness." [23] The words "it was credited to him" were written not for him alone, [24] but also for us, to whom God will credit righteousness--for us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead. [25] He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification.

What are we to believe -
Romans 10:9
That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

If one does not believe Jesus was raised from the dead, that is in body, then they remain in their sin. That is to say, they remain a unregenerate man, condemned because they have not believed.

1 Cor. 15:12-17
But if it is preached that Christ has been raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? [13] If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. [14] And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is
useless and so is your faith. [15] More than that, we are then found to be false witnesses about God, for we have testified about God that he raised Christ from the dead. But he did not raise him if in fact the dead are not raised. [16] For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either. [17] And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins.

Mark 16:16

Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.

Raised from the dead. Who are the dead? I will not get in a deep discussion of death but for this time it is a BODY without the breath of life. When death takes over and puts this body in the grave. From where was Jesus raised, but from the grave in body NOT in soul and spirit alone. This is critical issue and many have missed justification and freedom from sin because they do not believe the resurrection of the dead is for the body!!! This, the body, I will examine later in more detail from scripture.

This is why it is written first in Hosea 13:14 as prophetic and in 1 Cor 15:55 as victory seen.

1 Cor. 15:54-55, 57

When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: "Death has been swallowed up in victory."

[55] "Where, O death, is your victory?
Where, O death, is your sting?"...

[57] But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

By what evidence can we claim this victory. By Jesus, who was and is the first one, called ‘firstfruits’ of those who are in the grave to be raised. And HOW do we claim this victory of what was seen over 2,000 years ago. By faith, being certain of what is not seen, by believing in our heart that Jesus was raised from the dead.

1 Cor. 15:20

But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. ...[23] But each in his own turn: Christ, the firstfruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him.

Now let us go to the question that is recorded in
1 Cor. 15:35

But someone may ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body will they come?"

Two things of importance here - dead raised, but more so the fact that here it addresses that we will receive a body. Body, this is the a physical body. Let us review some of the verses about Jesus’s resurrection on that 3rd day after His death.

Matthew 28:5-6

The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for
Jesus, who was crucified. [6] He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay.

Luke 24:2-3,6
They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, [3] but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus...[6] He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee:

Mark 16:6
"Don't be alarmed," he said. "You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him.

John 20:12, 14, 17
and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot... [14] At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus... [17] Jesus said, "Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet returned to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, 'I am returning to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.' "

When addressing the resurrection of the dead, the body will rise as shown by the accounts of the resurrection of Jesus by the eye witnesses. There was no BODY in the tomb, and when he appeared, Mary could see Him and touch Him or hold Him. A physical resurrection from the grave. Hallelujah. Praise God for there is a day when we will see our bodies resurrected.

Back to 1 Cor 15. As we read this passage, we can see that Paul was clear in identifying that the body is the subject of the resurrection.

1 Cor. 15:35-44,53
But someone may ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body will they come?" [36] How foolish! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. [37] When you sow, you do not plant the body that will be, but just a seed, perhaps of wheat or of something else. [38] But God gives it a body as he has determined, and to each kind of seed he gives its own body. [39] All flesh is not the same: Men have one kind of flesh, animals have another, birds another and fish another. [40] There are also heavenly bodies and there are earthly bodies; but the splendor of the heavenly bodies is one kind, and the splendor of the earthly bodies is another. [41] The sun has one kind of splendor, the moon another and the stars another; and star differs from star in splendor.

[42] So will it be with the resurrection of the dead. The body that is sown is perishable, it is raised imperishable; [43] it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; [44] it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body...[53] For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality.

Not only does this passage clarify that it is the body, it also answers the question as to what kind of body? Remember, it is a physical body, though fully changed for the purpose to survive eternity with victory over death. There are 5 changes that occur as revealed here.
1. vs 42 - perishable to imperishable (or corruption to incorruption): The body that is buried, put in the grave, is perishing but when raised it will be imperishable. No longer subject to decay.
2. vs 43 - dishonor to glory: no longer live in humility of the earthly body but in glory and honor in the new body.
3. vs 43 - weakness to power: We can only imagine the power that is ours in Christ beginning with the promises we already have even in this mortal body and looking at what Jesus did in His physical glorified body yet it says from weakness to power in the new body.
4. vs 44 - natural body to spiritual body: The natural body could be said to be the soulish body or one that has continuous battle with the soul vs the spirit. While the spiritual body is one that will be fully controlled by the spirit and yet fully physical.
5. vs 53 - mortal to immortality: Those that are not in the grave perishing, decaying who are destined for such will be saved from that by our mortal bodies being changed to immortality.

In #4 above I think this is somewhat revealed in this verse

1 Cor. 15:23-24 (NIV)
But each in his own turn: Christ, the firstfruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him. [24] Then the end will come, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father after he has destroyed all dominion, authority and power.... [28] When he has done this, then the Son himself will be made subject to him who put everything under him, so that God may be all in all.

When all of God will be in all things includes us.

Verse 28 reads from the Amplified Bible

1 Cor. 15:28
However, when everything is subjected to Him, then the Son Himself will also subject Himself to [the Father] Who put all things under Him, so that God may be all in all [be everything to everyone, supreme, the indwelling and controlling factor of life].

As we continue in the reading of 1 Cor 15, the excitement of the event to come is over powering at times. A rejoicing and celebration rises up in me and I hope in you too. For you see we must get beyond the temporary thing called time and enter into the realm of eternity to be able to appreciate the truth that we have seen in just the few scriptures above. Let me say that again a bit differently. WE MUST be able to live in this state of condition BUT fully focused on the hope by believing the eternity that is ours: ours that comes with the resurrection of our body.

One of the greatest strongholds and lie the enemy can put on us is to keep us mindful of the temporary life and that death is the end. YES, I think every Christian has some truth of the after death promise, but how often do the really step into the mind set of eternity and revel in the victory over death? How many really understand that the body will live again with the breath of life, eternal life as give by the Great I AM as it was intended in the Garden of Eden.
Genesis 3:22-24
And the Lord God said, "The man has now become like one of us, knowing good and evil. He must not be allowed to reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat, and live forever." [23] So the Lord God banished him from the Garden of Eden to work the ground from which he had been taken. [24] After he drove the man out, he placed on the east side of the Garden of Eden cherubim and a flaming sword flashing back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life.

As we all know the soulish natural body came into existence and after the sin, began to die. Death is for those who do not accept Jesus as Lord and believe that he was raised from the grave. There is no life forever unless we eat of the tree of life, which has become Jesus Himself. This is why we see in scripture that Jesus is the bread of life that we must eat. I think he was the replacement of the tree of life. (Note to the reader - this really needs some line on line study that is not given here. In the book of Revelation there is a tree of life in the paradise of God found in the New Jerusalem and is said it was for the healing of the nations. It seems to be a different tree of life than that of Genesis that was in the Garden.)

John 6:35
Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty.

John 6:48-50
I am the bread of life. [49] Your forefathers ate the manna in the desert, yet they died. [50] But here is the bread that comes down from heaven, which a man may eat and not die.

Again, how do we receive the promise of eternal life. BY FAITH.

We can recall that Hebrew 11:1 defines faith:
Hebrews 11:1 (NIV)
Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.
Hebrews 11:1 (KJV)
Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

Or one could say it like this:
Now faith is the substance of things hoped for and certain of what we do not see.

The unseen hope we have causes faith to have substance for us and the evidence that the faith is present is being certain of what we do not see. What do we not see at this time? It is the changed body, to immortality, honorable and powerful body controlled by the spirit of God. WOW, do you believe it is yours and your body will be changed to that like Jesus.

Jesus said in
John 20:29
Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

In Revelation, it is written and Jesus said it - He promised it
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Rev. 22:20
He who testifies to these things says, "**Yes, I am coming soon.**"
Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

And when He comes He also told us how He would return at His second coming
Acts 1:9-11
After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.
[10] They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. [11] "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? **This same Jesus**, who has been taken from you into heaven, **will come back in the same way** you have seen him go into heaven."

As we have studied, Jesus was resurrected into a new physical body and appeared to many. Then in this physical body before their very eyes, He was taken up in a cloud and the promise was given that He would return the same way to gather us.

1 Thes. 4:16-18 (KJV)
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. [18] Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

Then we return to 1 Cor 15 and read this
1 Cor. 15:51-54
Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but **we will all be changed**-- [52] in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, **at the last trumpet**. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. [53] For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality. [54] When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: "**Death has been swallowed up in victory.**"

Victory in Jesus. Jesus alone.

John 6:29
Jesus answered, "The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent."

May you truly do as written in Romans
Romans 10:9-10
That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," **and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead**, you will be saved. [10] For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.

I ask, have you believed or has it been just a mind set or understanding of the mind. But know this, if you believe and desire to enter the kingdom of God and receive the free gift of God, eternal life with Him, it is possible. It starts with agreeing with God that we are desperately in need for forgiveness and reconciling with Him. So first repent from your sins, turn from the sin of unbelief and sinful life and turn toward God and believe that He exists and that Jesus, the One and Only Son of God died for your sins and was raised from
the dead and ask His forgiveness and make Jesus Lord, ruler, King of your life and you will receive eternal life and be saved.

If you have done this from your heart, with sincere desire, it says in the Word that those who call upon the Lord shall be saved. You are now reborn, that is to say born of God with the seed of God in your spirit and eternal life with God is now yours.

Call me or find a bible believing church and go to the pastor and tell him of your decision (this is your confession) and ask to be baptized because of your confession.

Praise God and celebrate.
The following is only an extended study of a couple of passages above

Now I could stop here, but I am compelled to do a little line upon line teaching from the two passages from 1 Thess 4:16-18 and 1 Cor 15:51-54.

As stated in the Isa 28:9-10, it is important to have every line and precept fit and not be forced. Otherwise there is a major problem of correctly dividing the Word of God. I hope to successfully demonstrate a little of this concept if the Lord so permits.

In 1 Thes 4:16 you can see that Jesus will return with the sound of the trumpet. Line upon line then reveals in the 1 Cor 15:52 it reveals it will be the last trumpet. If we then go to Revelation 8:1-2 the seventh seal was opened and seven angels were given seven trumpets.

Rev. 8:1-2
When he opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour.
[2] And I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and to them were given seven trumpets.

So the last trumpet is the 7th Trumpet. You will find it is sounded in Rev 11:15 and confirms King of kings and Lord of lords has taken His Kingdom

Rev. 11:15
The seventh angel sounded his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, which said:
"The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he will reign for ever and ever."

And in vs 18 it declares that Jesus, God's wrath has now come

Rev. 11:18
The nations were angry; and **your wrath has come**.
The time has come for judging the dead, and for rewarding your servants the prophets and your saints and those who reverence your name, both small and great--and for destroying those who destroy the earth."

And in the following chapters up to chapter 16 it explains many things but it continues and reveals that the seventh trumpet has finally released seven angels with seven last plagues that is the wrath of God

Rev. 16:1
Then I heard a loud voice from the temple saying to the seven angels, "Go, pour out the seven bowls of God's wrath on the earth."

**With Jesus’s coming at the seventh trumpet**, it brings the wrath of God and this is at the end of the final 3 ½ years where Satan had poured out his wrath on earth and is called
the great tribulation in Matthew 24:21 (seen later)

Rev. 12:12 (KJV)
Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabiters of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time.

And then in Rev. 12:17
And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.

Just another note about this time of God’s wrath ‘in that day’. God is a jealous God and will not be partners with Satan as it is expressed in Isa 2:11 & 17.

Isaiah 2:11 (NIV)
The eyes of the arrogant man will be humbled and the pride of men brought low;
the Lord alone will be exalted in that day.

Isaiah 2:17 (NIV)
The arrogance of man will be brought low and the pride of men humbled;
the Lord alone will be exalted in that day.

In Rev 12:17, these are the saints of God, the Christians who have the testimony of Jesus Christ. And the dragon is Satan and Satan has given power to the beast as seen in this next verse:

Rev. 13:5 (NIV)
The beast was given a mouth to utter proud words and blasphemies and to exercise his authority for forty-two months...
[7] He was given power to make war against the saints and to conquer them. And he was given authority over every tribe, people, language and nation.

Rev. 13:10 (NIV)
If anyone is to go into captivity, into captivity he will go.
If anyone is to be killed with the sword, with the sword he will be killed.
This calls for patient endurance and faithfulness on the part of the saints.

Note this is speaking of the saints because they are still present during the time of the wrath of Satan and for a period of 3 ½ years.

Again I say - FAITH is activated by what we believe from God’s word. So being certain of what is not seen, the resurrection of our bodies, is important especially in the trial and hardships we will face in these end times.

The final period of 3 ½ years or 42 months (see Rev 12:14 and 13:5) begin once the beast takes power. We find that Jesus returns after this time in Matt 24
Matthew 24:21
For then shall be **great tribulation**, such as was not since the beginning of the world
to this time, no, nor ever shall be.

Matthew 24:29-31
**Immediately after the tribulation** (see vs 21) of those days shall the sun be darkened,
and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers
of the heavens shall be shaken: [30] And then shall **appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven**: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of
man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. [31] And he shall send his
angels with a great **sound of a trumpet**, and **they shall gather together his elect** from
the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

Now notice line upon line. The trumpet again is identified and the sound to gather the
saints, the elect and from Revelation the seventh trumpet is the last trumpet which brings
the wrath of God at the end of the great tribulation, Matt 24:21.

That is not all, because now I want to go back to some of the verses in the study of the
resurrection. Remember what was said about Jesus’ coming. It would be the same as it
was as when He left. We will be able to SEE him in the clouds as all did when He
ascended. They were gazing into the sky until a cloud hid Him from their sight. So it will
be on is return.

What **many** say about this event is false or untrue teaching. Let us look at it now.

1 Cor. 15:51-52
Behold, I shew 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**.

Line upon line. I want you to see. **The change** to imperishable and to immortality is in a
twinkling of an eye. NOT the gathering. It will be the same as when Jesus left, all will see
and He will gather us into the clouds before He pours out HIS WRATH.

This will encroach on much of the teaching you have heard. But I have discovered the
questions that come from the line upon line review must be joined with the other verses
not to ignore them but to gain a better and more complete understanding of the particular
doctrine that is being studied.

As Rev 13:10 says "**endurance and faithfulness**" then we read why in Isaiah 7:9b
If you do not stand firm in your faith,
you will not stand at all.' "

Though I have touched on another doctrine, the rapture, you see it is not separate from the
resurrection of the dead. IT IS THE SAME. This is why it is call the first resurrection in Rev
20:4-5

Rev. 20:4-5
I saw thrones on which were seated those who had been given authority to judge. And
I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony for Jesus and

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I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony for Jesus and

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because of the word of God. They had not worshiped the beast or his image and had not received his mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ a thousand years. [5] (The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended.) This is the first resurrection.

The First Resurrection is the FIRST, The First means the First. This does not say the first of many events, but the First. Christ was the firstfruits of the First Resurrection to assure us that He is returning for us.

The First resurrection brings to life those souls that died because of the testimony of Jesus Christ and the Word of God. The resurrection of the dead is for an earthly and eternal existence to rule and reign with Christ here on earth and then with Christ when the New Jerusalem comes down from heaven to earth after the 1,000 year period.

It is the FIRST resurrection and there is not a resurrection before the FIRST. A resurrection as shown in the study is “of the dead’ the body raised to life, eternal life. It is not a vanishing in a twinkling of an eye of the resurrected dead. Instead we will be seen by the world in the greatest event since the creation. And then we will be with Jesus Christ, the Lion of Judah, the King of kings as the seven bowls of God’s wrath will be poured out to destroy the wicked and as Jesus takes His rightful place in Jerusalem with us at His side - in a physical body for this physical earth.

I tell you the truth, when the graves are opened by the power of God’s resurrection of the dead, there will be the body, NOT the soul and spirit alone, for those dead in Christ are already in spirit and soul with Jesus. The resurrection of the dead puts the dead back into a glorified body to rule and reign on earth, not heaven where a body is not needed.

I pray this line upon line has enlightened you to see some truths of God’s Word more clearly and to experience the process of line upon line, precept upon precept in hope of reaching another step of understanding and maturity in our Lord and Savior. Also to continue or start a study you may have interest in, never neglecting each line when it is presented or found. That each verse or line might fit with preciseness and not be forced or twisted to make fit. And when they do not fit, continue in the humbleness to seek the truth. Of course, ALWAYS with the teacher of teachers, the Holy Spirit, that has been given only to the saints that believe.

I close remembering the words of the apostle, Paul, in hope we might make the same proclamation when it is time for our momentary departure (death), with the understanding of the importance of the resurrection of the dead, for without it we will be above all “Most Pitable of Men”

2 Tim. 4:7-8

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. [8] Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day--and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

MARANATHA!