

## **Jesus' Resurrection and Our Resurrection**

The New Testament repeatedly tells us how things are going to turn out for those who are believers in Jesus. Today's passage is one more that does just that. Because Jesus was raised from the dead, we can have the certain hope that we will experience the same type of resurrection that He did. And this knowledge changes everything. It doesn't mean that we won't have difficulties or hardships in this life, but it does mean that we can live with a kind of confidence knowing how things are going to turn out. People who know how things are going to turn out can even experience joy - true joy - in the midst of suffering.

**Opening Discussion:** Do you like to know how a book or movie turns out in the end before you read or watch it? Why or why not?

### **Read Romans 8:9-11**

1. What does verse 9 lead us to conclude about a believer's relationship with the Holy Spirit?
2. What does it mean that the Spirit of God "dwells in" us (v. 9)? And, from what you understand of the Bible, what is the significance of this truth?
3. What does Paul mean when he says that "the body is dead because of sin" (v. 10)?
4. Though our body is now dead because of sin, what hope for the future does Paul teach in this passage for believers?

Steve said:

Paul tells us here in Romans 8 that the same God who raised Christ from the dead will also raise us from the dead “through the Spirit who dwells in [us].” Why should we believe this claim? Given that anybody can say anything about the future, why should we believe Paul’s claim? Since this is a claim we can’t test and prove, is it plausible?

5. Why should we believe this claim that God will raise our mortal bodies?
  
  
  
  
  
6. Suppose you have a friend who is open, but skeptical about the resurrection of Christ. What would you tell him or her about why you are confident that it is true?

Steve said:

We can walk through this life with confidence that our salvation will one day be complete. We really do know how things will end up for those who believe in Jesus. It’s been said that “if you live long enough you will suffer.” You just will. Many of you here today are facing incredibly difficult circumstances with your health (mental or physical), strained or broken relationships, battles with the flesh, etc. This confidence in your eventual resurrection doesn’t minimize or trivialize what you’re going through; but it does put your suffering in its proper context.

7. What do you think it means that “confidence in your eventual resurrection . . . [puts] your suffering in its proper context”? What is the proper context?
  
  
  
  
  
8. Have you experienced this truth that confidence in your eventual resurrection puts your suffering in its proper context? If so, how?