

Cindy Curley's Memorial

Fred Coulter—September 6, 2014

This is going to be a special memorial service for Cindy Curley. The funeral was held several weeks ago, and we're very happy that Harry is here. With this memorial service I want you to all see the work that Cindy has done for the Church, and also, on that displace, is a carved eagle clock that Cindy did. She was very, very artistic.

All of those covers that you see there on the books, Cindy did ever one of them. So, we're very thankful for what she did and that will always be a lasting remembrance and memorial. Well, the thing that we all understand, and this is where we get our comfort and hope. That is there is a resurrection that is coming. Jesus said that the day is coming when ***all will hear His voice! They will be made alive!*** Those who have done good to a resurrection of life; those who have done evil to a resurrection of judgment. It's going to be a spectacular day!

Paul writes extensively about the resurrection. It was quite amazing that even during Paul's time, when he wrote this there were some saying that there was no resurrection. Later, in 1-Tim. some were saying that 'the resurrection has past.' But here's the promise that we have. We know that it's given to every one of us to die. That's just part of the way that it is physically.

1-Corinthians 15:20: "But now Christ has been raised from *the* dead..." It says in Rev. 1 to John, 'behold I was dead but I am alive evermore.'

"...He has become the Firstfruit of those who have fallen asleep" (v 20). So, God views our death as *asleep*, because He's going to raise us from the dead.

Verse 21: "For since by man *came* death, by Man also *came the* resurrection of *the* dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. But each in his own order: Christ *the* Firstfruit; then, those who are Christ's at His coming" (vs 21-23).

That is going to be a great and marvelous day when that happens. Let's look at the Scriptures where Paul gave them to help comfort. We will go into about the comfort that God has give to us through the resurrection. We know that whenever someone dies—even in the faith—there is grief that comes. In some circumstances there is great grief. So, we need to pray and ask for Harry's comfort and Harry's recovery from this, because great grief affected his health situation, and it has been very, very difficult for him. Harry, we're raying for you everyday. We know that God is gracious, loving and kind, and that He will work things out.

1-Thessalonians 4:13: "But I do not wish you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, that you be not grieved, even as others, who have no hope." That hope is the resurrection of the dead. That is sure! That is absolute, because God cannot and will not lie. ***He has promised that if we die in the faith we will be raised!***

Verse 14: "For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, in exactly the same way also, those who have fallen asleep in Jesus will God bring with Him." We have to meet Him in the air, be on the Sea of Glass, before we *come with* Him. This is a summary verse telling us what's going to happen.

Verse 15: "For this we say to you by *the* Word of *the* Lord, that we who are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall in no wise precede those who have fallen asleep, because the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with *a* shout of command, with *the* voice of an archangel and with *the* trumpet of God; and the dead in Christ shall rise first; then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in *the* clouds for *the* meeting with the Lord in *the* air; and so shall we always be with *the* Lord. Therefore, encourage... [comfort] ...one another with these words" (vs 15-18).

This is going to be a day that is going to startle the whole world. It's going to be at a time that they won't expect it to happen. Jesus tells us how it's going to be. The false prophets come along and say, 'Christ is over here; Christ is over there; go look and see; He's here.'

Guess what? I got a paper written by someone who said, 'I know a man who has seen the resurrected Christ.' I just got it last week.

Jesus said, 'Don't believe them, because here's how it's going to happen, Matthew 24:27: "For as the light of day, which comes forth from *the* east and shines as far as *the* west, so also shall the coming of the Son of man be." That's when the heavens are rolled back like a scroll. Then there's going to appear the sign of the Son of man.

Have you ever wondered why in Malachi 4:2 ^[transcriber's correction] says: "But unto you who fear My name, the **Sun** of Righteousness shall arise..."—upon you? Some people look at that—I know, I did—why is that not Son? Why is that **Sun**? Because that is describing the sign of the Son of man; it is going to be like a second sun out there in the universe. So, when the resurrection takes place, this whole world is going to be on absolute shock and disarray! That's will be out there.

Matthew 24:30: "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 upon the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. 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*" (vs 30-31).

That's God's view looking down on the earth. They are brought *up* in the resurrection. We don't know exactly how it's going to take place. Is God going to use all the different time zones and have it come in waves all around the earth for that day? *We don't know!* But I think that the whole world is going to see that, and they're going to be totally dismayed.

At that time, when we're raised and we meet Christ on the Sea of Glass in the air, that is going to be the greatest joyous time ever! Everything that we have lost in this physical life will seem like nothing. And to be together again with husbands/wives we've lost, children we've lost. All of us are confronted with death:

- sometimes very sad
- sometimes very rapid
- sometimes very unexpected

But nevertheless, the only One Who is going to undo that is Christ, because He said, 'I have the keys of the grave and death.'

So, we'll be grieved for a short time. But we will focus on the resurrection and the Word of God. We're going to remember Cindy in a very special way for Harry.

If you could come up here, Harry, we have something special for you... [presentation of gift]

We are sure that that will be in a prominent place and encourage Harry everyday. Cindy is awaiting the resurrection, and Harry will continue to grow in grace and knowledge and understanding, and look forward to be reunited with her in the resurrection.

We're very grateful for what she has done, and we thank all the brethren that make it possible, and thank you Harry.

Scriptural References:

- 1) 1 Corinthians 15:20-23
- 2) 1 Thessalonians 4:13-15
- 3) Matthew 24:27
- 4) Malachi 4:2
- 5) Matthew 24:30-31

Scripture referenced, not quoted: Rev. 1

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