

Those Who Sleep In Christ

Those who have hope in Him, should not sorrow :-

1st Thessalonians 4:13-18:

But, I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep; lest you sorrow as others who have no hope: for if we believe that Jesus died and rose again; even so, God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus. For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, and remain until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who are asleep. For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven, with a shout with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we, who are alive and remain, shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air. And thus, we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words.

John 14:2,3:

In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.

2nd Corinthians 5:1:

For we know that if our earthly house, this tent, is destroyed; we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

They Should Be Looking forward To The New Heavens :-

Isaiah 65:17:

For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth; and the former shall not be remembered, or come to mind.

Isaiah 66:22

For as the new heavens and the new earth, which I will make, shall remain before Me, says the Lord.

1st Corinthians 2:9

But as it is written: Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man; the things which God has prepared for those who love Him.

2nd Peter 3:13:

Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

Revelation 21:1:

Now, I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth has passed away, also there was no more sea.

Revelation 21:27:

But there shall by no means enter it, anything that defiles or causes an abomination or a lie, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life.

The Victory And Conquering Death : Eternal Life With Christ :-

Romans 8:37-39:

Yet in all these things, we are more than conquerors through Him Who loved us. For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angles, nor principalities, nor power, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ our Lord.

1st Corinthians 15:20-22:

But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since by man came death, by man also came the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive.

1st Corinthians 15:42-44:

So also is the resurrection of the dead. The body is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption. It is sown in dishonor; it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness; it is raised in power. It is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body.

1st Corinthians 15:45-47:

And so it is written, the first man Adam became a living being; the last Adam became a life-giving Spirit. However, the Spiritual is not first, but the natural, and afterward the Spiritual. The first man was of the earth, made of dust, the second Man, is the Lord from heaven.

1st Corinthians 15:49,50:

And as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly Man.

Now, this I say, brethren that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does corruption inherit incorruption.

1st Corinthians 15:51-57:

Behold I tell you a mystery; we shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed- in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So, when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up into victory."

O, Death, where is your sting? O, Hades, where is your victory?

The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law, but Thanks be to God Who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

2nd Timothy 1:9,10:

Who has saved us, and called us with a Holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began, but has now been revealed by the appearing of our Savior Jesus Christ, Who has abolished death, and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

Believers Do Not Die, But Pass From Death To Eternal Life :-

John 5:24:

Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears my word and believes in Him Who sent Me, has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.

Colossians 1:13:

He has delivered us from the power of darkness, and translated (conveyed) us into the kingdom of the Son of His love.

Hebrews 11:5:

By faith Enoch was translated (taken away or conveyed), so that he should not see death, and was not found, because God had translated him.

1st John 3:14:

We know that we have passed from death to life.

Personal Thoughts :-

(1) In the New Testament, the Holy Scripture talks about death as being sleep. This is obvious in 1 Cor. 15:20-22, 1 Cor. 15:51-57, and in 1 Thess. 4:13-18, as mentioned above.

In 1 Cor. 15:20-22, the Holy Scripture says " But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep." He did not say that Christ was the first fruits of those who were raised from

the dead as most of us think. But it is clear that He says “of those who have fallen asleep.”

And if we look at the biblical facts, we find that Jesus Christ was not the first fruits of those who were raised from the dead (although His resurrection was different in many ways from theirs), because we know that He (Jesus Christ) Himself Had raised three persons from the dead: the daughter of Jairus (Mark 5:22 & Luke 8:41), the son of the widow of Nain (Luke 7:11), and Lazarus the brother of Mary and Martha (John 11:1) I strongly believe That Jesus Christ had raised so many from the dead, but these were the three persons mentioned in the four gospels, and we know that there were many other things that Jesus did but was not mentioned in the Holy Scripture (John 21:23)

So, our Lord Jesus Christ, as we concluded, was not the first fruits of those who were raised from the dead, but the first fruits of those who slept. As if the Holy Scripture stresses on the fact that after the first coming of Jesus to earth, there is no more death, but it is sleeping. And so, He is truly the first fruit of those who slept.

- (2) The Holy Scripture talks also about death as being translation or passing from one status to another, this is obvious from the references mentioned above. This means that, when time comes for us not to be seen anymore (as what happened to Enoch), God translates us or takes us to a path where we are not seen on earth, but we are seen in another place, and that is heaven. This proves that we are not dead as per our earthly way of thinking, but we are alive and are seen by Him and all the other saints who passed that same path before us. And we in turn are going to see those who shall pass the same path as we did, i.e. those who were made not to be seen anymore on earth. Since this is so, then let us hurry to pass through that living experience and taste the glory of God in our translation.
- (3) As for this translation or passing from this life to an everlasting life, it is a true and sure thing that actually happened to every believer in our Lord Jesus Christ. Listen to what the Holy Scripture says in John 5:24 “Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes in Him Who sent Me, **has** everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but **has passed** (translated) from death to life. Please notice here that the Holy Scripture did not say **will have** or **will pass**, as if this is going to happen in the future, but it already **has**. Isn’t that what had happened when Jesus died on the cross? What a great and pleasant assurance!!
- (4) As for what God has prepared for the believers, it is sure and no doubt about it, for He promised to go and prepare a place for them in John 14:2, and fulfilled His promise in 1Cor. 2:9 and in 2 Cor. 5:1 as mentioned above.