

Episode #631 The Why Question 16: Christ Is the Resurrection

- I. One of the most difficult questions we must ask ourselves regarding God, life, and the world is the “why” question. We who believe that there is a God Who is all-good and all-loving and Who made the world must answer why then this world is such a terrible place and in such a mess.
- II. One of the most terrible tragedies we face in life is the tragedy of death. As we face the deaths of those near and dear to us, particularly when those deaths are sudden and tragic, we ask the why question and seek an answer.
- III. In previous studies, we saw that God created us initially not to experience such tragedy.
 - A. Genesis 2:16-17. Adam and Eve were in a perfect environment wherein it was not necessary for them to know calamity, yet they were given a way to know it if they decided no longer to trust God.
 - B. Ecclesiastes 9:11. Since the fall of man, things no longer happen for a good and right reason, but time and chance decide the end of us all.
 - C. Romans 8:28. God works through terrible things to bring good out of them, but that does not deny that they are indeed terrible things.
- IV. In John 11, we see the Lord Jesus Christ at the funeral of a dear friend, and we learn what His answer is to death.
 - A. John 11:1-5. A terrible sickness of a dear friend of the Lord Jesus.
 - B. John 11:11-15. The Lord views Lazarus’ death as being like a sleep that He can wake him out of.
 - C. John 11:17-19. With him dead so long, it seems like a hopeless case.
 - D. John 11:20-27. In the Lord’s conversation with Martha, He reveals what He teaches as the hope in death. What hope does He point to? Resurrection.
 - E. John 11:28-37. The Lord does not hesitate to weep at the death of Lazarus and all the pain it caused his living relatives, even knowing His plan! We too can be sure that grief is appropriate at a loved one’s death.
 - F. John 11:38-42. The climactic scene unfolds: the Author of life on the one side, the power of death on the other.
 - G. John 11:43-44. The Lord faces off with death and wins. This demonstrates just what the Lord meant by resurrection.
- V. How does one attain the hope of resurrection?
 - A. John 11:26. The Lord’s answer: to be one of those believing in Him. How is that accomplished?
 - B. John 20:30-31. The book of John was written for this purpose: so that we would believe Who Jesus is.
 - C. I Corinthians 15:1-4. The work Christ did was on behalf of sinners, so that we can be saved and stand in this.
- VI. Revelation 21:3-4. We have an ultimate hope, even at the death of a loved one: that God will wipe away even these cruel tears by resurrection.
- VII. Conclusion: death is one of the most terrible calamities at which we desperately ask the “why” question. While we might not have answers as to just why a certain tragic death happened, we can know the glorious answer to the sorrow of death, the hope that Christ held out when He attended a tragic funeral: the hope of resurrection.