

Because I Live

by Linville Dunaway, Corinth Christian Church

John 14:19, "Yet a little while, and the world seeth me no more; but ye see me: because I live, ye shall live also." Jesus has been telling the apostles about his leaving them, but that they would not be abandoned. He would dwell within the believer and be there to comfort and to guide them. Our faith in Christ Jesus and his resurrection gives us strength to face life and even death. As he said we will live because he lives, having overcome death.

As the Lord overcame death and the grave he shows mankind that he truly has the power to grant eternal life to everyone that comes to him in faith. Paul spoke of this in **1 Corinthians 15** saying, "Now if Christ be preached that he rose from the dead, how say some among you that there is no resurrection of the dead? But if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen: And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain." But Paul went on to say that Jesus did arise from the tomb and that "Now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept. For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead."

Since our Savior conquered death and arose to die no more, we can have hope in him forever. When we face trials and trouble here we know that we have the promise of life in heaven because he saves those who put their trust in him. He will receive those who have come to him in faith and forgive them. This is why we have such a blessed hope, because he lives. The Apostle Paul said it best in the **First Corinthians chapter 15:16-17,** "For if the dead rise not, then is not Christ raised: And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins." Jesus did arise from the grave and we will live because of him.

Because Jesus conquered death we have more than just the promise of life in the future. We have help now in this life because he lives and blesses us today. He is not just a future hope, but a real help now. If we sincerely live for the Lord and tell him our cares and trials he answers our prayers. I am glad that we don't have to face death alone, but I'm just as glad and thankful that we don't have to face this life alone either. This doesn't mean, as some teach, that if we confess Jesus as Lord, that we won't have trials here in this life, for we will. It means that whatever comes to us in life we won't face it alone, as they that have no hope.

"Because I live," is what Jesus said and for all the world

that has several meanings. Sure, it means that we have the promise of life eternal, and help and guidance now, but it also means that he will come back to judge the earth. People who don't believe and those who actually hate the Lord will not be forgotten at the Judgment. "And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints, To execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against him," **Jude 1:14-15.** He will judge the world and everyone will give account of the life that they have lived. "For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God. So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God," **Romans 14:11-12.** I know that a lot of people laugh at the ideal of God's judgment of the earth, but it will happen whether man believes it, or not. Jesus lives and he will come back just like he promised.

He came to earth the first time like God said he would through the prophets. Few people were looking for his coming, but he came anyway. Today there seem to be few people who really look for his coming, but when the time is right he will come back as God's word tells us.

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THE SWORD OF GOLIATH!
IT WAS AHIMELECH, THE HIGH PRIEST OF NOB, WHO GAVE TO DAVID THE SWORD OF GOLIATH WHEN THE FUTURE KING OF ISRAEL WAS FLEEING FROM KING SAUL AND HAD NO WEAPON WITH WHICH TO DEFEND HIMSELF! (1 SAM. 21:1-9). AHIMELECH ALSO GAVE DAVID THE SHEW BREAD TO EAT WHICH WAS ONLY TO BE EATEN BY THE PRIESTS - BY LAW! SO ENRAGED WAS KING SAUL BY THIS THAT HE ORDERED AHIMELECH AND EIGHTY FIVE OTHER PRIESTS KILLED! (1 SAM. 22:18-23) IT IS NOT KNOWN IF DAVID USED THE SWORD THROUGHOUT HIS CAREER, BUT MORE THAN A THOUSAND YEARS LATER JESUS USED THE INCIDENT AS A DEFENSE AGAINST THE PHARISEES (MARK 2: 23-26).



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