

John 11:21-27

Then Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died.

"But even now I know that whatever You ask of God, God will give You."

Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again."

Martha said to Him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day."

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live.

"And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?"

She said to Him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that You are the Christ, the Son of God, who is to come into the world."

Precious Life

Can you answer this riddle? What is worth more than all the wealth of this world, yet is free? What is deserved by no one, yet offered to everyone? What cannot be bought or earned, yet has already been purchased? The answer is found in this verse of scripture: "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

There is nothing more precious than eternal life, the privilege of being made spiritually alive to the true God of creation and enjoying His fellowship forever. So precious was this to the apostle Paul that he declared all his "religious attainment" worthless in comparison: "If anyone else thinks he has reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for legalistic righteousness, faultless. But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord," (Philippians 3:4-8 NIV).

The Bible teaches that this eternal life cannot be purchased by personal sacrifice, or earned by doing good. God declares that "All have sinned and fall short of His glory." As a result of sin, man has no spiritual buying power whatsoever. God states "The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." This gift, though free, cost God dearly. In love, Christ voluntarily left His home in heaven to become the sinless God-man that He might pay the penalty of sin by dying on the cross. To God, the cross cost the personal agony of separation of Father and Son, to Christ the cross cost the personal suffering of shame and death as "He became sin for us". Nevertheless the great price was paid and the proof of this payment was Christ's resurrection from the dead.

Now, to each person, Christ is saying "I am the resurrection and the life, he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live; and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?"

Won't you, in the sorrow and regret of your sins, ask Christ to be your personal Saviour today and receive eternal life, the priceless yet free, the undeserved yet offered, the "unbuyable" yet completely paid for, Gift of God.

What is my response:
