

In this situation, human wisdom has no comfort to offer. Human wisdom cannot promise that we will ever see our loved one again. Christianity, however, can present a great fact. Jesus Christ died, but God raised Him from the dead.

The resurrection of Christ is proof of our own resurrection. The verse with which we began our meditation stated that He has "become the firstfruits of them that slept." Walking through an orchard, you see a fine apple hanging from a tree. It is the firstfruits. It is proof that other fruits are coming. The time of harvest is at hand.

We do not know when the "harvest" of human beings will come. Some day Jesus Christ will suddenly return from heaven. He will come with ^{a shout,} ~~the trump~~ ^{and with the trump of God!} ~~of God and the shout~~ of the archangel, and the dead in Christ will rise first. ^{N (1 Th 4:16)} The resurrection of Christ is the proof that we also will rise from the dead.

The Christian should not despair when he sees his loved ones departing this life. We must not sorrow as others do. We know that we will see our loved ones again. Jesus Christ Himself gave proof of it when God raised Him from the dead.

The Sacrifice Accepted

No aspect of the resurrection of Christ is more important than the fact that it shows that God has accepted His sacrifice.

Every man who has ever lived, if he has thought honestly, has realized that he himself is a sinner and that he deserves nothing good at the hands of the Creator of the universe. All of us are filled with evil and selfishness. We do the things we ought not to do and we leave undone the things we ought to do. Simple logic would tell us that, if we are to be honestly and fairly judged according to our deeds, nothing but misery can possibly behead of us.

The Bible tells us that when Jesus Christ died on Calvary's cross, He -- the