



Hope Beyond the Grave

By Jeff Bedwell on September 20, 2021

TODAY'S READING: John 5

I read of a cemetery in Hanover, Germany, with an unusual gravestone. A woman who did not believe in the resurrection directed in her will that her burial place be made so secure that just in case there was a resurrection it could not touch her. Huge slabs of granite were fastened together with heavy steel clamps and placed over her grave. Engraved on the marker were these words: "This burial place must never be opened."

In time, a small seed germinated just beneath the edge of the stone. As it grew into a tree and its trunk got bigger, the heavy slabs were gradually shifted, and the steel clamps were wrenched from their sockets. Those massive pieces of granite could not withstand the dynamic life-force within that small seed.

Man cannot thwart the purposes and resurrection power of God. Jesus said that all who are in the graves will hear His voice and come forth, some to the resurrection of life and others to the resurrection of condemnation (vv. 28-29). There will be no exceptions—not even those drowned at sea or cremated. The re-creation of human bodies poses no problem to the One who spoke the world into existence out of nothing.

Everybody is going to spend forever somewhere! Will your resurrection be one of joy or one of judgment? What about the resurrection of your loved ones and friends? Today, let us thank God for the hope we have in the life, death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ! Let us redouble our prayers for those who do not know Christ as personal Lord and Savior. Let us renew our commitment and availability for God to use us to reach out to those around us with the love and truth of Jesus Christ.

PRAYER: Father, thank you for the hope that we have in Christ Jesus that disease, disaster and even death cannot take away. Use me to point others to the hope that is found only in the saving work of Jesus Christ.

TOMORROW'S READING: John 6

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