

John 14 – Very great and precious promises. (8) Life. (refs for Bible study 24/1/19).

A little while longer and the world will see Me no more, but you will see Me. Because I live, you will live also. v19.

At funerals we often hear Jesus' comforting words: *"I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me, though he may die, he shall live..."* Jn.11v24-25 . The comfort is real. It's confirmed by the promise we are studying here.

The last enemy: We won't value the promise unless we understand the backdrop which is death. Death is the one great certainty. We must all die. It's *'the last enemy'*, 1Cor.15v26, *'the way of all the earth'*, Josh.23v14. *'Dust you are, and to dust you shall return'*, Gen.3v19. We die once then face judgment, Heb.9v27.

➤ Society has tried to marginalise death. But God wants us to face up to the issue and be prepared.

Jesus is alive: *'the world will see Me no more, but you will see Me. Because I live...'* The great fact of Jesus' resurrection is at the heart of the Gospel, 1Cor.15v3-4. Only this can account for the astonishing boldness and confidence of the Apostles, Acts 2v22-24, v32; 3v15; 4v10; 5v30. This is not some vague kind of spiritual life. He says *'you will see me'*. They saw, heard, touched the risen Lord. Greek is emphatic: *'I, I myself...'*. No mistake!

You also will live: *'Because I live, you will live also.'* Notice the link: *'because...'*. His life secures ours. His resurrection is the guarantee of ours. He promises you will *'live'*, not merely exist! He came that we might have life to the full, Jn.10v10 – beginning now and continuing eternally. Death may be a gloomy gateway, but beyond is a glorious paradise for believers, Rev.14v13. At death the soul goes into the immediate presence of Jesus, Lk.23v43, Phil.1v23. At the Last Day it will be clothed in a new and glorious body, Isaiah 26v19, 1Cor.15v51-52.

➤ This is a great comfort for the believer.

➤ But it's also urgent, vital, good news for those outside.

A line drawn: Had we been in charge we might have organised Jesus' resurrection differently – in front of a grand-stand of VIP's! But God, in his wisdom, didn't work like that, Acts10v41. He desires the response of faith. Jesus makes an important distinction, *'the world will see Me no more, but you will see Me'*. A line is drawn between *'the world'* and his followers (those who trust, know and love him). We can't always see where that line is, but God knows.

➤ How vital then to be sure are on the right side of that line! Is your trust in Jesus Christ alone? One day it will be too late to anything about it. *'If a tree falls to the south or the north, in the place where the tree falls, there it shall lie.'* Ecc.11v3.