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Class: John

I AM Paper

Blessed Resurrection

“Jesus Said to her, ‘I am the resurrection and the Life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live.’”¹ This verse is found in John 11:25, but what is the context of the situation? What does this reveal about Christ deity? And, is there a connection between the Old Testament and what Christ is claiming here? As one looks at the context, revelation of deity, and the connection with the Old Testament, one can grasp the full significance of this verse.

What is the setting of this verse? Even though the verse within its self says enough, it is always positive to look at the context. So what is the context? Chapter eleven of John, is where the account of Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead. In verses one through three, the problem is described. Mary, the one who had anointed Jesus’ feet with oil and wiped them with her hair, brother was sick. In verses four through five we are shown the connection that Jesus has with the situation. In verses six through eleven we are shown Christ’s omniscience, he fully knows everything that is going on. In verses twelve through nineteen we are given the setting for which the power of God can be displayed through Christ. Now, in verses twenty through twenty-six do we find our blessed resurrection, Martha goes out to meet Jesus Christ and soon learns that the resurrection is through Jesus Christ, not anyone else or anything. She also learns that Jesus Christ has power over life and death.²

¹ New Testament and Psalms, National Publishing *All verses come from this book*

² For an better understanding of the break down of the Chapter: Elmer, Towns: Page 105-115 The Gospel of John: Believe and Live AMG Publishers, 2002 Chattanooga, TN

Now that we have a basic understanding of the context, let us look at what possible lessons one can learn through this great statement. What significance does this verse have? In John Gills Exposition of the Bible he states this about the verse, “Signifying, that he was able of himself to raise men from death to life, without asking it of his Father; and that he could do it now, as well as at the general resurrection; at which time Christ will be the efficient cause of it; and which will display both his omniscience and his omnipotence...”³. The first part of this verse shows Christ’s omniscience. What does it show in regards to his omniscience? If Christ is referring to his own resurrection, then it shows that he knows what is going to happen in the future. But I think that this statement is referring to something more. In 1 Corinthians 15:20 states that Jesus Christ is the first fruits of what is to come. In this chapter in 1 Corinthians, Paul states that if Christ had not risen from the dead, then our faith would be futile. The connection of Christ with the resurrection is vital to the Christian faith. What about his omnipotence? Christ is shown to be all-powerful with this statement with the fact that he backs this statement up with calling Lazarus from the dead, later on in the chapter.

In Matthew Henry’s commentary we find this statement about the verse, “For the *soul*; here is the promise of a *blessed immortality*. He that *liveth and believeth*, who, being united to Christ by faith, lives spiritually by virtue of that union, he shall *never die*. That spiritual life shall never be extinguished, but perfected in eternal life.”⁴ The connection that this verse has with the Old Testament is that, God promises life in the old testament, and here we find that promises is being met through Christ. John 3:16 states, that he who believes in Christ shall not perish but have everlasting life. This is along the same lines. In this verse, Christ states that he who

³ John Gills Exposition of the Bible
<http://www.biblestudytools.net/Commentaries/GillsExpositionoftheBible/gil.cgi?book=joh&chapter=011&verse=025&next=026&prev=024>

⁴ Matthew Henry’s Complete Commentary
<http://www.biblestudytools.net/Commentaries/MatthewHenryComplete/mhc-com.cgi?book=joh&chapter=011>

believes in, though he may die, will live. What a great hope this gives to the whole world, the hope of life beyond this life.

With knowledge of the context, and understanding of the verse, the connection with the promises made in the Old Testament, it is safe for one to conclude that this verse gives a blessed resurrection. The reason that it is blessed, is because we do not deserve it, but instead God in his ultimate love gave the ultimate sacrifice so that the ultimate gift to those who believe, and that is a resurrection into life. This is a great and blessed resurrection that is claimed in verse twenty-five of chapter eleven in John.

Work Cited:

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John Gills Exposition of the Bible

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Matthew Henry's Complete Commentary

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