

# 12.

We believe in the bodily resurrection of all men, the everlasting conscious bliss of all who truly believe in our Lord Jesus Christ and the everlasting conscious punishment of all whose names are not written in the Book of Life.

although children around our country celebrate the birth of Jesus by putting on nativity plays at school the second coming of Christ is a fact very few people know about. Yet was important is that both the first and second coming of Christ are equally as important events. The gospel of Grace was poured out at Jesus first coming, and through His atoning death we now have access to the hope of salvation. Yet it is the second coming which finalises the very gift of Jesus coming and together they are the bookend of this dispensation of Grace. the second coming of Jesus, which is after the Great tribulation period but preceding the millennial reign of Christ, is a prelude to the judgment of God. Revelation 20 tells us of the great white throne judgment, to which all men will stand before the Lord and the books of their lives will be read. the description is that of a courtroom, where in great forensic detail the guilt of each man and woman is established.

We know from such scriptures as, Romans 3:23, that all have sinned, and thus all are guilty. After the judgment of men those who are guilty, (which is all of us) are then to be cast into the lake of fire. The narrative of the rich man and Lazarus, which Jesus does not call a parable, describes an eternal torment, characterised by great thirst which cannot be quenched. this is the fate of all who have fallen short of the Glory of God. Romans 1:18-20 tells us that this is justified because the Lord has been revealed to them via creation and they have chosen to suppress the truth.

Yet it is because this fate is for all men, that the salvation of God is a gift, for we could not earn it. John 3:16 tells us that it was for love that the Lord stepped down to earth to make away for us to be with Him, when there was no way. Romans 5:1-2 tells us that through Faith that God can save us through Jesus atoning sacrifice then we are justified, meaning approved by God. This justification through Faith then furnishes with a hope for our future, a Hope, which means sure confidence, that we will be filled with the Glory of God. when Moses asked to see the face of God, His glory, The Lord said He could not for He would die, yet our hope is not just to see it but be filled with it.

That hope in being filled with God's Glory means we also are assured of three other things. one, that we must be perfected and this mortal body, which is an inheritor of original sin from Adam, must be replaced, a hope proved by Christ resurrection as our first fruits. Two, that we will be with the Lord in His heavenly Kingdom, meaning we will be in heaven with Him, eternally. Three we will be one with Christ, as His bride, sitting upon His throne with Him and in fulfilment of the promises of being Heirs of God.