Basic Christian Doctrines Bible Study

"Therefore let us leave the elementary teachings about Christ and go on to maturity, not laying again the foundation of repentance from acts that lead to death, and of faith in God, instruction about baptisms, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment."
Hebrews 6:1-2 NIV

Lesson Seven – Resurrection of the Dead

1. What is the resurrection of the dead?

   a) Jesus was the first person to be resurrected from the dead. He was crucified, died and was buried. On the third day, He rose from the dead and was seen by many witnesses here on earth until He ascended into heaven (Acts 1).

   "… the men [angels at the tomb] said to them, 'Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen! …' " Luke 24:5b-6a NIV

   "For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures," 1 Corinthians 15:3-4 NIV

   b) When Jesus was resurrected from the dead, He opened the door for us to be resurrected from the dead and to receive eternal life. We will live forever with Him in heaven.

   "… In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade—kept in heaven for you, who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time." 1 Peter 1:3b-5 NIV

   c) Christians will receive a new body when we are resurrected from the dead.

   "So will it be with the resurrection of the dead. The body that is sown is perishable, it is raised imperishable; it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body." 1 Corinthians 15:42-44 NIV

2. What is the rapture?

   a) When Jesus returns to earth, Christians will be changed into immortal (eternal) beings and be called up into heaven with him.

   "For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever." 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 NIV

   "Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed— in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality." 1 Corinthians 15:51-53 NIV