

We Believe: Week 8 Resurrection of the Dead

Pastor Peter Smith, 08-07-16

“And if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, then your faith is useless and you are still guilty of your sins. In that case, all who have died believing in Christ are lost! And if our hope in Christ is only for this life, we are more to be pitied than anyone in the world.”

-1 Corinthians 15:16-19

Death and Christians:

1. When we die immediately our spirit goes to Heaven

Jesus

“Jesus called out with a loud voice, “Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.” When he had said this, he breathed his last.” -Luke 23:46, NIV

All believers

“We are confident, I say, and would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord.” -2 Corinthians 5:8, NIV

2. Our bodies are asleep

“Then he said, “Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but now I will go and wake him up.” The disciples said, “Lord, if he is sleeping, he will soon get better!” They thought Jesus meant Lazarus was simply sleeping, but Jesus meant Lazarus had died. So he told them plainly, “Lazarus is dead.” -John 11:11-14, NLT

3. The resurrection brings:

- Eternal life for believers and
- Eternal separation for unbelievers

4. The resurrection takes fear out of death

What is the resurrected body like? Same and different

1. The same as a regular body

“He (Jesus) was buried, and he was raised from the dead on the third day, just as the Scriptures said. He was seen by Peter and then by the Twelve. After that, he was seen by more than 500 of his followers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. Then he was seen by James and later by all the apostles. Last of all, as though I had been born at the wrong time, I also saw him.”
-1 Corinthians 12:3-7, NLT

- They recognized Jesus
- They could touch him
- He ate food with his disciples

2. Different because it is spiritual

“(Our bodies are) buried as natural human bodies, but they will be raised as spiritual bodies. For just as there are natural bodies, there are also spiritual bodies...”
-1 Corinthians 15:44

“That Sunday evening the disciples were meeting behind locked doors because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders. Suddenly, Jesus was standing there among them! “Peace be with you,” he said.”
-John 20:19, NLT

- It will never die...It won't age, it won't get sick, no need for medicine, no more sunburn (!), no wrinkles, no more aches and pains.....

Our Life Timeline:

1. When death occurs

- a. A separation of our spirit and body takes place
- b. Believers are present with the Lord
- c. Unbelievers are held for judgment

“So you see, the Lord knows how to rescue godly people from their trials, even while keeping the wicked under punishment until the day of final judgment.”
-2 Peter 2:9, NLT

2. Our place in eternity is decided in this life

“each person is destined to die once and after that comes judgment”
-Hebrews 9:27, NLT

3. Separation from God is:

- Torment
- Punishment
- Eternal

4. Bible says: "Today is the day of salvation!"

5. Choose Jesus today