

Talk Eight

THE RESURRECTION OF THE BODY AND LIFE EVERLASTING

The Rev'd Mike Raiter

Leaders: choose some, but not all of the following questions. Email me with any questions. Mark.

Week 8 – The resurrection of the body, and life everlasting

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, **the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.** Amen.

1. Is there anything that stood out for you from the message? Anything new to you?
2. Do you find it to be true that people everywhere, share a fear of death and of what happens when we die?
3. Why have some argued that we might as well 'eat, drink and be merry, for tomorrow we die'? Why would many (including most of us), find that approach dissatisfying?

The foundation of our hope in the resurrection body

4. What gives us confidence that we will not be a mist floating across the clouds of the universe?
5. What can we learn from Jesus' resurrection body?

The nature of the resurrection body

6. In 1 Cor 15 and 2 Cor 12, Paul struggles to describe the nature of our future body – just as we would find it hard to describe a computer to him! Paul uses pictures. For example, the relationship between our bodies now and our bodies in eternity, is analogous to the relationship between a seed planted and what arises from it. What do you make of this analogy? (See around the 14 min part of the talk.)

Mike shared another analogy – our complex body, which arose from sperm and egg! Yet there is a clear unbroken line between the two. God can make a heavenly body from our present DNA!

7. Do you recall how Mike described our new body? We will be glorious and empowered – and fully energised by the Spirit. How do you react to this? What will you most look forward to with your new body?

The character of our eternal life

8. There is much speculation about the character of life in eternity – much of which is quite spurious! We are not told! Mike pictured the wedding feast of the lamb. Picture language helps. We will be with God and Jesus – worshipping face to face forever. Is this something you can look forward to?

So what for the here and now

9. Read 1 Corinthians 15:58 and play the talk from the 22-minute mark. Discuss these three points:
 - a. Don't let people tell you that this life is all there is, or that you'll be some eternal ghost!
 - b. Don't stop until you drop – always give yourself to the work of the Lord!
 - c. Remember – in the light of eternity – nothing we do for Jesus now is worthless!

What will you personally take from this study?

What has been the highlight of the entire series for you that has impacted you? Share with the group.