

Arise: The Resurrection Unveiled

Part Five

Introduction:

We brought nothing into this world, and it is certain that we can carry out nothing out. The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away, blessed be the name of the Lord.

Foreasmuch as it has pleased Almighty God to take from this world the body of (name of deceased), we therefore commit his/her body to the ground. Ashes to ashes, dust to dust, knowing that this earthly home of a physical body must be dissolved.

We therefore surround our hopes and lives to the Almighty God of mercy, the judge of all the earth who will do that which is right.

- ✓ Since the fall of 1985—hundreds of times
- ✓ Including 4 grandparents
- ✓ Hear the Gospel but forced to grapple with the reality of what is before me

A. Days gone by

1. Death and dying are a matter of theological reverence for church
2. Countless funerals in church/cemeteries in church backyards
3. It is only the church/believers adequately equipped to handle this matter—we believe in a new body
4. Given way to corporations/worldly ways

B. Memorials NOT funerals

1. Videos, eulogies all picturing that loved one in this life
2. Want to stamp out sadness
3. Don't want to acknowledge death
4. Stay away from solemnity—too hard, too painful
5. Even the “viewing” (recent American origin)
 - a. Made to look good—healthy
 - b. Dress them up
 - c. Make them comfortable
 - d. Better closure?

Part of our trying NOT to deal with sadness, death, mourning—yet Scripture:

Sorrow is better than laughter, for by a sad countenance the heart is made better. 4 The heart of the wise is in the house of mourning, but the heart of fools is in the house of mirth. Ecclesiastes 7:3-4 NKJV

C. We do all we can to avoid the reality of death

1. View—pretty up!
2. Memorialize!
3. Drop the burial service

(ILL) Mennonite Custom

- Males with shovel
- Familiar song

Low in the grave He lay Jesus my Savior! Waiting the coming day. Vainly they watch His bed Jesus my Savior! Vainly they seal the dead. Death cannot keep his prey Jesus my Savior! He tore the bars away!

Up from the grave He arose, with the mighty triumph o'er His foes, He arose the victor from dark domain and He lives forever with His saints to reign! He arose! He arose! Hallelujah, Christ arose!

D. Paul's—Mystery but certainty!

And as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly Man. 50 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption. 51 Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed. 1 Corinthians 15:49-51 NKJV

E. Context of our text

1. As believers we have Spirit of God in us. (NOTE: Spirit of resurrection)

But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us. 2 Corinthians 4:7 NKJV

2. We see suffering differently

We are hard-pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; 9 persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed — 2 Corinthians 4:8-9 NKJV

3. We see others differently

Therefore, from now on, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know Him thus no longer. 17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. 2 Corinthians 5:16-17 NKJV

IN THIS MESSAGE WE SEE DEATH DIFFERENTLY!

“For me to live is Christ, to die is gain.”

Believers approach to death!

(Borrow from Alistair Begg)

I. We Know!

For we know that if our earthly house, this tent, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. 2 Corinthians 5:1 NKJV

IMPORTANT TRUTH: Christian faith engages our minds! It is not about feeling-it is about what we know!

(ILL) Worship Service

“How are you feeling today? Are you excited about what’s in store for today?”

- ✓ Just argued with kids
- ✓ Just got a ticket
- ✓ Poured down rain
- ✓ Warm, cozy, mushy praise song!

NOT WHAT WE FEEL! WHAT WE KNOW!

Crown Him with Many Crowns

Crown Him with many crowns, the Lamb upon His throne; Hark! How the heavenly anthem drowns all music but its own! Awake my soul, and sing of Him who died for thee, and hail Him as thy matchless King through all eternity.

Crown Him the Son of God before the worlds began, and ye, who tread where He hat trod, crown Him Son of Man; who every grief hath known that wrings the human breast, and take and bears them for His own, that all in Him may rest.

Crown Him the Lord of life, who triumphed o'er the grave, and rose victorious in strife for those He came to save; His glories now we sing, who died, and rose on high, who died eternal life to bring, and lives that death my die.

Experience/emotions-ebb and flow-what we know!

We know:

- A. Like tents, our bodies are impermanent. (This earthly house tent)

(ILL) Camping for me-Wisconsin Dells

NOTE: Paul-a tentmaker and sagging

1. Our bodies are decaying
2. Solomon understood

Don't let the excitement of youth cause you to forget your Creator. Honor him in your youth before you grow old and say, "Life is not pleasant anymore." 2 Remember him before the light of the sun, moon, and stars is dim to your old eyes, and rain clouds continually darken your sky. 3 Remember him before your legs—the guards of your house—start to tremble; and before your shoulders—the strong men—stoop. Remember him before your teeth—your few remaining servants—stop grinding; and before your eyes—the women looking through the windows—see dimly. 4 Remember him before the door to life's opportunities is closed and the sound of work fades. Now you rise at the first chirping of the birds, but then all their sounds will grow faint. 5 Remember him before you become fearful of falling and worry about danger in the streets; before your hair turns white like an almond tree in bloom, and you drag along without energy like a dying grasshopper, and the caperberry no longer inspires sexual desire. Remember him before you near the grave, your everlasting home, when the mourners will weep at your funeral. 6 Yes, remember your Creator now while you are young, before the silver cord of life snaps and the golden bowl is broken. Don't wait until the water jar is smashed at the spring and the pulley is broken at the well. 7 For then the dust will return to the earth, and the spirit will return to God who gave it. Ecclesiastes 12:1-7 NLT

WE KNOW-bodies are impermanent

B. **This body is destined for destruction** (is destroyed)

1. No matter what we try to do to keep it going-it will be destroyed
2. Don't hasten its demise
3. But its demise is coming-all days written in the book before one of them came to be (Psalm 139)

C. **We have a house from God, not made with hands, eternal in the heavens**

1. Promise of Jesus-John 14:1-3
2. Don't grieve as those who have no hope (Thessalonians 4)

(ILL) Why people can be joyful in their death! THEY KNOW!

II. **We Groan** (not moan)

For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed with our habitation which is from heaven, 3 if indeed, having been clothed, we shall not be found naked. 4 For we who are in this tent groan, being burdened, not because we want to be unclothed, but further clothed, that mortality may be swallowed up by life. 5 Now He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who also has given us the Spirit as a guarantee. 2 Corinthians 5:2-5 NKJV

For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now. Romans 8:22 NKJV

NOTE: Ecclesiastes (we groan because)...God has set eternity in our hearts.

A. With frustration (at limitations)

B. With anticipation (for what lies ahead)

NOTE: Not afraid of death—we anticipate it!

1. We came in-sack of water, tight channel, slap on bottom

The Lord shall preserve your going out and your coming in from this time forth, and even forevermore. Psalms 121:8 NKJV

I will lift up my eyes to the hills — From whence comes my help? 2 My help comes from the Lord, Who made heaven and earth. 3 He will not allow your foot to be moved; He who keeps you will not slumber. 4 Behold, He who keeps Israel Shall neither slumber nor sleep. 5 The Lord is your keeper; The Lord is your shade at your right hand. 6 The sun shall not strike you by day, Nor the moon by night. 7 The Lord shall preserve you from all evil; He shall preserve your soul. Psalms 121:1-7 NKJV

C. Absence in church of honest groan

1. Make people feel bad for groaning
2. They hide their groan
3. Some won't join us because they groan

D. We know/we groan

1. Continuity/discontinuity of resurrection bodies
 - a. Eat, touch, feel
 - b. Pass through doors, disappear
2. Tension of knowing/groaning

E. Spirit helps us in our groaning

For we who are in this tent groan, being burdened, not because we want to be unclothed, but further clothed, that mortality may be swallowed up by life. 5 Now He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who also has given us the Spirit as a guarantee. 2 Corinthians 5:4-5 NKJV

1. Sometime we only have a groan

Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. Romans 8:26 NKJV

2. By spirit we cry "Abba Father"

NOTE: One who doesn't know God-cries, "Oh, God!" We cry, "Abba, Father!"

III. We Walk (by faith)

For we walk by faith, not by sight. 8 We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord. 2 Corinthians 5:7-8 NKJV

- A. Our walk toward home (with the Lord)
 - 1. Faith is strengthened in many ways
 - 2. Means of grace (scripture, worship, prayer, fellowship)
- B. Tension-I want to-I don't know what it will be like

(ILL) Jimmy-Who wants to go to heaven?

“Yeah, but I didn't know you were putting a grave together now!”

- C. Yet, Revelation 21 and 22-New creation-so beautiful
 - 1. If he did it once-we see beauty in fallenness
 - 2. How much better!

IV. We Must

For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad. 2 Corinthians 5:10 NKJV

“Our maker will one day place the sheep on his right and the goats on his left. This is a solemn truth that this frivolous age needs to hear.”

(ILL) Samuel Johnson-18th century

- A. This is an exam

(ILL) Online students-if no exam they will mess around

- B. We will all appear before the judgment seat of Christ

Conclusion: So we make it our goal to please Him

Therefore we make it our aim, whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to Him. 2 Corinthians 5:9 NKJV

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1. His purpose?

And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. 29 For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. Romans 8:28-29 NKJV

2. The reality?

But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord. 2 Corinthians 3:18 NKJV

3. The fulfillment

Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. 1 John 3:2 NKJV

We know
We groan
We walk
We must

(ILL) There is a Hope

*There is a hope that burns within my heart, that gives me strength for every passing day;
A glimpse of glory now revealed in meager part, yet drives all doubt away:
I stand in Christ, with sins forgiven; And Christ in me, the hope of heaven!
My highest calling and my deepest joy, To make His will my home.*

*There is a hope that lifts my weary head, A consolation strong against despair,
That when the world has plunged me in its deepest pit, I find the Saviour there!
Through present sufferings, future's fear, He whispers 'courage' in my ear.
For I am safe in everlasting arms, And they will lead me home.*

*There is a hope that stands the test of time, That lifts my eyes beyond the beckoning grave,
To see the matchless beauty of a day divine When I behold His face! When sufferings cease and sorrows die, And every
longing satisfied. Then joy unspeakable will flood my soul,
For I am truly home*