



Death & Resurrection:

Bodies, Souls, & Christian Hope

Schedule



- February 14: The Kingdom of God (Heaven) Now... and finally.
- February 21: The Christian Funeral

Review

Nicene Creed

- We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen
- What if we looked every day for how God was bringing about this new world?

Rest in Peace



The Thief on the Cross

Luke 23:42-43 ⁴² Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom."

⁴³ (Jesus) replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

Our Hope is in Jesus

John 11:24-27 ²⁴ Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." ²⁵ Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. **Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, ²⁶ and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.** Do you believe this?" ²⁷ She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world."

Resurrection – Our ultimate destination

Saved from what? – Death, Meaninglessness, Sin, Evil...

Saved for what?

Ephesians 2:8-10 ⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God-- ⁹ not the result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰ For we are what he has made us, **created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.**

The Kingdom of God

Mark 1:14-15 ⁴ Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, ¹⁵ and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

Thy Kingdom come – Thy will be done.

The Will of God...

Missio Dei – Mission of God

God's mission is to bring his kingdom to bear on our lives and the life of the world.

What does this mean?

God loves, saves, blesses, and makes holy the things and people of this world... where do you see it?

God's Mission – Our Mission

1. God builds/brings/inaugurates God's kingdom
 1. God makes it happen
2. Often God uses God's church as an instrument of his love.
 1. Our mission is to participate in God's mission.



Getting ahead of ourselves...

What is resurrection hope now?

1 Corinthians 15:58 ⁵⁸ Therefore, my beloved, be steadfast, immovable, always excelling in the work of the Lord, because you know that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

Romans 8:21 ²¹ the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God.

Resurrection Hope

“What you do in the Lord is not in vain. You are not oiling the wheels of a machine that’s about to roll over a cliff. ... Every act of love, gratitude, and kindness; every work of art or music inspired by the love of God and delight in the beauty of his creation; every minute spent teaching a severely handicapped child to read or to walk; every act of care and nurture, ... all of this will find its way through the resurrecting power of God into the new creation that God will one day make.” (NT

Wright, Surprised by Hope. 208)

In contrast to popular assumptions

- Not Rapture
- Not 1000 years of destruction
- Not only about saving disembodied souls
 - Say this prayer, do these things... so you won't burn in hell.
- Not about progressing toward heaven.

Paul Tillich



"Salvation does not destroy creation; but it transforms the old creation into a new one. Therefore we can speak of the new in terms of renewal: the threefold 're,' namely, re-conciliation, re-union, and re-surrection."

Paul Tillich

- We all live in the old state of things, and the question asked of us by our text is whether we also participate in the new state of things. We belong to the Old Creation, and the demand made upon us by Christianity is that we also participate in the New Creation. We have known ourselves in our old being, and we shall ask ourselves in this hour whether we also have experienced something of the New Being in ourselves.

Paul Tillich

- We want only to communicate to you an experience we have had that here and there in the world and now and then in ourselves is a New Creation, usually hidden, but sometimes manifest, and certainly manifest in Jesus who is called the Christ.

What does it mean to live in the new Creation?

1 Corinthians 13:12

¹² For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known.

What does it mean to live in the new Creation?

Justice - God's intention to set the world right

Two Ditches:

1. The world is so bad that there is nothing that can be done about it until the Lord returns. (Quietism)

By Faith... Live consciously between the Resurrection of Jesus in the past and the making of God's new world in the future.

2. We can bring about the kingdom with the right programs and leaders. We can make the world a better place. (Social Gospel)

Justice

- **Luke 1:46-55 Magnificat – God is already turning the world upside down!**
- We must reject the arrogance that says we can build the kingdom without God's help. We must also reject defeatism that says nothing can be done... this is our calling – to be engaged in the life of the world now which is part of the world to come.
- **Inaugurated Eschatology** - is the belief that the end times were **inaugurated** in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, and thus there are both "already" and "not yet" aspects to the Kingdom of God.

Justice

- What are issues of Justice that need to be engaged in our world today?

What does it mean to live in the new Creation?

- Beauty
- What things are truly beautiful in our world?
How do we lift up and encourage beauty
when we see it?

What does it mean to live in the new Creation?

- Evangelism = Sharing Good News
- “The power of the gospel lies not in the offer of a new spirituality or religious experience, not in the threat of hellfire (certainly not in the threat of being “left behind”), which can be removed if only the hearer checks this box, says this prayer, raises a hand, or whatever, but in the powerful announcement that God is God, that Jesus is Lord, that the powers of evil have been defeated and that God’s new world has begun.” (SBH, 227)

Evangelism

“ But how can the church announce that God is God, that Jesus is Lord, that the powers of evil, corruption, and death itself have been defeated, and that God’s new world has begun? Doesn’t this seem laughable?

Well, it would be if it wasn’t happening. But if a church is working on the issues we have already looked at... then suddenly the announcement makes a lot of sense.

Mission of the Church

- It's not about asking: "What works? What's new? What will make us relevant?"
- It IS about asking: "What is our context? Who are the people around me? What are the needs here? Where is God in all this?"

—Cathy Kirkpatrick, quoted in [The Out of Bounds Church](#)