

HEAVEN

MESSAGE: CHARLIE MENG

MUSIC: SHAWN HOELSCH

DATE: JANUARY 2, 2022

HEAVEN: Our Confident Reality Of A New & Better Life After Death Resurrected Bodies

Review

1. God is renewing us inwardly – even as we face physical decline. (2 Cor 4:16-18)
2. When death comes for the believer, we are ushered into absolute life with Jesus. (2 Cor. 5:1-5)
3. We can await death courageously in faith. (2 Cor 5:6-10)

The authenticity of Jesus's resurrection is historically sound.

1 Cor. 15:3 *“For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, **4** that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, **5** and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. **6** Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. **7** Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. **8** Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me.”*

Because Jesus rose from the grave, we have confidence that we will as well.

1. Jesus' resurrection serves as a guarantee that we will follow suit.

1 Cor. 15:20 *“But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. **21** For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. **22** For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive.”*

2. We will receive our resurrected bodies when Jesus returns.

1 Cor. 15:23 *“But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ.”*

Phil. 3:20 *“But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, **21** who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself”*

3. Our resurrected bodies...

- a. ... cannot deteriorate or be destroyed.

1 Cor. 15:52 *“in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. **53** For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality.”*

- b. ... will be redeemed from sin and its consequences.

1 Cor. 15:54b *“then shall come to pass the saying that is written: ‘Death is swallowed up in victory.’ **55** ‘O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?’ **56** The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. **57** But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”*

Because of this confident hope, we engage in kingdom work until he returns.

1 Cor. 15:58 *“Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.”*

Reflection & Discussion

1. How does your future immortality change how you think about your work in the world?
2. Jesus' resurrection serves as the “firstfruits” for our understanding of what's in store for us. How does this influence how you live now?

SONGS

“FOUND IN YOU” - Paul Baloche and Andi Rozier

“GOD IS FOR US” - J Ferguson, J Tealy, J Robinson, R Thompson, M Farren, T Kleyn, J Reeves

“BUILD MY LIFE” - Brett Younker, Karl Martin, Kirby Kable, Pat Barrett, and Matt Redman

“REIGN ABOVE IT ALL” - Ethan Hulse, Hannah McClure, Jess Cates, and Paul McClure

BUDGET

GIVING LAST WEEK: \$128,510.22

WEEKLY NEED: \$35,272.00

YTD GIVING: \$1,930,884.08

YTD GENERAL NEED: \$1,834,144.00