

The Resurrection of the Body and Cremation – Part 1

Our Savior Lutheran Church and School, Lansing, MI

Wednesday Bible Class

*It's the end of the world as we know it...
... and I feel fine.*

A Fundamental Truth - **"But in fact, Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep."** (1 Corinthians 15:20)

Our Christian faith about salvation, redemption, and eternal life, is grounded in the historical event of Jesus' resurrection. His life, death, and resurrection are the foundation for our faith and hope. In Christ we live, and apart from Christ we die eternally.

What are the alternatives?

- Muslims - at the whim of Allah we enter paradise
- Hindus - reincarnation based on karma
- Buddhists - nirvana and disintegration of the self
- Animists - the "grey world"
- Atheists - "turn off the computer"

Christian faith - *"I believe in the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen"*

John 11:25, **"I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me will live, even if he dies. And whoever lives and believes in me will never perish."**

All of Jesus' _____ show what will happen to the body in the Kingdom of God.

Gnosticism Then and Now

Gnostics were influenced by Greek philosophy and a dualism of the spiritual and physical realms. They had a sharp divide between the two, and saw the spiritual as good and physical as bad. This is also called a "platonic dualism" named after the Greek philosopher Plato, as articulated by Aristotle. Gnosticism reduces the physical world (and physical body) to trappings that the soul must escape. It denies the goodness of the physical creation and the physical body.

What does Jesus' resurrection say about our bodies?

1. our bodies are _____ to God.
2. our bodies are _____ by Christ.
3. our bodies are _____ of the Holy Spirit.

1 Corinthians 15 - the Great Resurrection Chapter of the Bible

Christ's Resurrection is Foundational (1-34)

1. Witnesses to the Resurrection
2. Christ is the First fruits
3. Death is the Final Enemy

The Resurrection Body (35-49)

1. from perishable to imperishable
2. from dishonor to glory
3. from weakness to power
4. from natural to spiritual
5. from dust to heaven

The Change in a Twinkling of an Eye (50-58)

1. The trumpet will sound
2. The dead will be raised
3. We will be changed

Jesus' Resurrection Power

"I also saw the dead, great and small, standing in front of the throne, and books were opened. Another book was also opened, which is the Book of Life. The dead were judged by the things written in the books, according to what they had done. The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and Death and the Grave gave up the dead that were in them, and they were judged, each one according to what he had done." Revelation 19:12-13

"Many who are sleeping in the dust of the ground will awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame, to everlasting contempt. Those who have insight will shine like the brightness of the sky, and those who bring many to righteousness will shine like the stars forever and ever." Daniel 12:2-3

"As for me, I know that my Redeemer lives, and that at the end of time he will stand over the dust. Then, even after my skin has been destroyed, nevertheless, in my own flesh I will see God. I myself will see him. My own eyes will see him, and not as a stranger. My emotions are in turmoil within me!" Job 19:25-27.

So what happens when we die?

1. our bodies and soul are _____
2. our bodies decay and turn to _____
3. our soul rests with _____
4. we await the Day of _____