

Mount Olive Wednesday Night Bible Study and Prayer Meeting

August 12, 2020

John 5: 25 - 26

25 Verily, verily, I say unto you, The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live. 26 For as the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself;

Verse 25

“Verily, verily, I say unto you, The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live.”

*Pastor Tom reminded us again that ‘Verily, verily’ means we need to pay attention! (We have seen this at least 3 times in Chapter 5 alone)

*Then he asked several introductory questions for discussion:

What do you believe happens at death?

-soul leaves the body and goes to Jesus for judgement

Has anyone seen a soul leave a body?

-Rev. Larry Rowe told Pastor Tom to watch for this as someone dies. It is instantaneous, as soon as the last breath is taken the body becomes empty like a shell. The mouth drops and you can almost see that nothing is there. The apostle Paul said it this way -”When we are absent from the body, we are present with the Lord.”

What happens to the body?

-ashes to ashes, dust to dust, committed to the ground, it sleeps

What do we believe will happen to the body?

-it will be reunited as a glorified body to the soul

Pastor Jon noted that a Christian doctor asked dying patients to be weighed before death and at the moment after their last breath. He found an instantaneous weight loss. The soul had gone to the Lord.

Several added that they heard of the tradition of leaving a window open after someone died to allow the soul to go to heaven.

*Pastor Tom continued. All of us will experience a physical death unless we are still alive when Jesus returns.

Colossians 2: 8 - 12

“8 Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ. 9 For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily. 10 And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power: 11 In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ: 12 Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.”

*Paul is warning us to beware of poor ideas trying to influence us...and not towards Christ. Pastor Tom recalled the song, “Ain’t No Grave Gonna Hold Me Down” as well as one about something going on in the graveyard. Then he asked us about cremation - discussion concluded that nothing is impossible with God. He put us together in the first place and He can put us together for the last time!

Karen Eppley asked - When does the body meet up with the soul? Immediately or at a later time.

I Thessalonians 4: 13 - 15

“13 But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. 15 For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep.”

*Paul did not want them to be misinformed or to sorrow with no hope. If we believe that Jesus died and rose, then those that sleep God will bring them to Him.

*To answer Karen’s question:

If we’re alive and Jesus returns then verse 16 says the dead will rise first and then verse 17 says then those that are not dead will be caught up (Latin root of this phrase is the root for the word ‘rapture’. But no where in the Bible is the word rapture used)

[The English word comes from a Latin word, rapio, which means to seize or snatch in relation to an ecstasy of spirit or the actual removal from one place to another.] Found on Bible.org

Examples of others who were carried away include, Enoch, Elijah and in Revelation Chapter 4, John. In Chapters 1 - 3, the churches are described, then John is caught up in Chapter 4 but after that no mention is made of the churches again in Revelation.

Therefore, since we all want to be in Heaven, we need to comfort others with the HOPE of these words in John 5:25.

In the Old Testament, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and others have gone to *sleep* (buried). In John 11:11, Jesus says that Lazarus *sleeps*, but this is not the resurrection of the dead.

In the book of Job, through all of his trials, Job still manages to say, "But I know on the last day, my redeemer lives." The hope of the resurrection is mentioned in this book which could possibly be the oldest book of the Bible (because there is no reference to the Temple)

Verse 26

"For as the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself;"

*Because life came from God, He is the source of life. But death comes from sin, our rebellion against God. The wages (payment) of sin is death.

*The bad things in the world are not God's Will but are the results of our rebellion. But God does have a plan to fix this named, Jesus.

*English author, Leslie Weatherhead, wrote the book The Will of God during the bombing of London in WWII. His concept was that God's intentional will was also a will to remedy sin.

*Physical pain can cause our spiritual eyes to be opened through tests or trials. Without a test you don't have a testimony! As Ken Turgeon has said - calm seas do not make a good sailor. Therefore, how we react or respond to the COVID situation will be our TESTimony!

We need to remember this as we pray that God will give us an answer to get the church back indoors.

*God is in control. He has a plan and is up to something as well as provide a way THROUGH this situation.

Discussion followed on how tough times make us more compassionate toward others because we have gone through them ourselves.

To summarize verse 26, we learned that God gave us life, we lost it because of sin, but Jesus (Son) came to restore that life.

More discussion planned for next week.

*May the Lord watch between me and thee,
While we are absent one from the other.*