

Home with the Lord ~ Lord's Day 22

Lord's Day 22 asks what comforts us in the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. When our bodies fail and those we love die, God tells us where His people go and what He will do for them.

1. What death means for the Christian

Paul calls the present body a tent (2 Corinthians 5). It serves us on our pilgrimage, but its seams wear out. "In this tent we groan." We feel age, illness, pain, and weakness. Scripture does not ask us to call death beautiful. Death is an enemy because it tears apart **body and soul**, which God made to belong together. We are whole human beings, not souls trapped in disposable bodies.

Yet for the believer, to be away from the body is to be at home with the Lord. Jesus told the thief, "Today you will be with me in paradise." At death our souls are immediately with Christ, conscious and secure in His presence. There is no wandering, soul sleep, or further payment for sin. We are home with Him, though we still await the resurrection. Paul longs to be "further clothed," because God intends to restore the whole person.

Scripture also speaks of conscious judgment for those who reject Christ as they await resurrection and final judgment. That is why the Gospel must be heard now. At death, each person goes to await the day when body and soul will be reunited, either in Christ or under judgment.

2. Your body will rise

When Christ returns, the dead will rise and stand before Him. God made the body good; His Son took a body, suffered and died in it, and rose in it. The risen Jesus could be touched and recognized, yet death had no claim on Him. He "will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body" (Philippians 3:21). This body matters to God. Do not despise it.

The Spirit who raised Jesus will give life to our mortal bodies (Romans 8). You will still be you, with your body restored beyond disease, decay, and sin. Paul says what is sown perishable is raised imperishable; what is sown in weakness is raised in power. We can grieve at a Christian's grave, for death is terrible. But Christ's empty tomb is God's pledge that the grave will not hold those united to Him. His resurrection declares that He has carried our sins and finished His saving work.

3. Life everlasting is home with the Lord

The Bible ends with a new heaven and a new earth: a city, river, tree of life, nations, worship, and service. God's renewed creation will be real and good. We need not imagine eternity as a ghostly existence or an endless wish to return to this life. The curse will be gone. There will be no failing bodies, wasted work, or sorrow that threatens every joy.

Scripture does not give us a travel itinerary. Yet it tells us that God's servants will serve and reign with Him. The world to come will hold purposeful life and more of His goodness to know. Still, the deepest joy is not the place itself: God will be there. The Father will give Himself to His people; we will see Christ whom we now trust by faith; and the Spirit will complete His work. No sin, doubt, or distance will stand between us and Him.

So take courage. Care for the body Christ will raise, and do not cling to this dying world as if it were the best He can give. The dead in Christ will rise, our lowly bodies will be made like His, and body and soul we will always be with the Lord. "Therefore encourage one another with these words" (1 Thessalonians 4:18).