

God of new life, we have been united with you in life and in death through our baptism. Help us to trust in those promises that we might have hope in this life and in the world to come. We pray this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

A theology of resurrection is difficult since there are so many question marks and scripture does not paint a perfect picture or give us definite answers. However, we can use these verses and the lessons we've already had on resurrection to learn what we can know about it or at least how to think about it.

Day 1 Read Romans 6:1-5

1. In these verses and those verses preceding them Paul is speaking about sin and grace. A simplistic summary of his argument is that sin came into the world through Adam, and grace came into the world through Jesus Christ – through his death and resurrection.
 - a. In verses 3 & 4 what connection is Paul making between Baptism and Jesus and life and death?
 - b. Can you explain the connection Paul is making between Baptism and Jesus and sin and forgiveness?
- 2a. Verse 5 contains the promise of resurrection that we cling to. What does Paul say?
 - b. What do you think this verse means to us as people who hope for resurrection to life eternal?

Day 2 Read 1 Corinthians 15:1-58

3. There are two arguments Paul makes in this Chapter. The first argument in verses 12-34 is directed toward some Corinthian believers who, while they acknowledge that Jesus was raised from the dead, deny that there is a resurrection for the faithful as well.
 - a. In verses 21-22 what connection is Paul making between Adam and Jesus and resurrection?
 - b. Paul also seems to envision there being a kind of progression toward resurrection in the end times. What do verses 22-26 say about that “progression?”
 - c. Given that many of us have lost loved ones who have died. What comfort does Paul offer about his statement that the “last enemy to be destroyed is death?”
4. The second argument Paul makes in Chapter 15 deals with the Resurrection of the Body in verses 35-58. It is not clear whether anyone was arguing that or not, but Paul envisions someone arguing that so he speaks to it.
 - a. What agricultural item does Paul use to talk about the resurrection of the body and what connection does he make between that item and resurrection of the body?

b. From that connection, there's a change Paul proposes in verses 42-49. Paul describes that change by juxtaposing several ideas to describe the change. What does he say?

c. How does Paul talk about this change in verses 51-57?

Day 3 Read Mark 12:18-27

5. The Sadducees were a group in Judaism who did not believe in the resurrection. In order to try to trap Jesus they use the practice of Levirate Marriage to ask a question about the resurrection?

a. What situation/question do they present to Jesus?

b. What is Jesus' first argument/answer?

c. Jesus' second argument is rooted in the patriarchs. What does he say about how the scriptures witnesses to the resurrection?

Day 4 Read Revelation 7:9-17

6. Describe the vision of heaven that is presented in these verses?

7. What is the blessing that is presented for those who are gathered according to verses 15-17?

Day 5 Read John 21:1-5

8. What is it like according to these verses when all things are made new?

Day 6

9. What questions do you still have about Resurrection? We'll be talking about these in the large group session on Sunday, May 12th.