

RESURRECTION OF BODY/ETERNAL LIFE...WEEK EIGHT

Statement...Creed ends as it began: focusing on God, asking us to place OUR TRUST IN GOD, not only in this life but in the life to come. As God is trustworthy in our living, he can be trusted in our dying. We should live as those who are PREPARED TO DIE.

Resurrection of Body...not a 1-TIME EVENT that happened only to Jesus, but a PRELUDE to ours. If resurrection was more of this life, multiplied by infinity, it would not be heaven. Our destiny isn't the "outcome of a virtuous life" but "a sign of God's faithfulness". God diffuses death of its power. The God who made his LOVE VISIBLE by BECOMING FLESH, died to show us what LENGTHS love would go. We will be changed. There will no more scars or battles with guilt/shame, no more anger/regrets, no broken relationships. Whatever has plagued us will be gone.

WHAT IS HEAVEN LIKE...we all have questions: we speculate about WHERE IT IS, HOW BIG IT IS, or WHO'LL BE THERE. What will we do in eternity? Will we see loved ones? Heaven isn't a paradise where we get everything we were denied here. It isn't a place an astronomer can find on a map; it is the fulfillment of RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD that begins now and lasts forever. Heaven is about relationships defined by love; relationships that make us whole/holy; that not even death can destroy. In heaven, we become the people God dreamed we'd be. We finally see reality, not just in a mirror dimly.

A PREPARED PLACE...only once did Jesus part the curtain to give us a glimpse of what heaven will be like.

DO NOT LET YOUR HEARTS BE TROUBLED. I AM GOING TO PREPARE A PLACE FOR YOU, SO THAT WHERE I AM, YOU MAY BE ALSO.

Imagine: heaven isn't mass-produced; it is a prepared place, tailor made. This world wears like a BORROWED SHIRT; it doesn't quite fit us. The Disciples didn't need to know HEAVEN'S LOCATION or its GUEST LIST. All they needed to know was that the ONE WHO LOVED THEM more than HIS LIFE had already gone there...to prepare a place for them/us.

ETERNAL LIFE...Eternity isn't a GRAND PRIZE for a LIFE WELL-LIVED, but the treasure of a FANTASTIC GIFT. It isn't a measure of time, time stretched to infinity. It is consummation of a RELATIONSHIP. Whatever it is like, we should practice it now.

ETERNITY IS NOW IN SESSION, HEAVEN STARTS NOW.