

It's A Wonderful Life - "Our Future"

1 Corinthians 15, Romans 8:18-22, 1 John 2:2

December 22, 2024

What you believe about the future determines how you live.

1 Corinthians 15:20-23

20 But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. 21 For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. 22 For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. 23 But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ.

Firstfruits.

1 Corinthians 15:37-38

37 And what you sow is not the body that is to be, but a bare kernel, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. 38 But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body.

Genesis 1:11-13

11 And God said, "Let the earth sprout vegetation, plants[e] yielding seed, and fruit trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind, on the earth." And it was so. 12 The earth brought forth vegetation, plants yielding seed according to their own kinds, and trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. 13 And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

The fruit determine the seeds.

1 Corinthians 15:42-44

42 So will it be with the resurrection of the dead. The body that is sown is perishable, it is raised imperishable; 43 it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; 44 it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body.

The Biblical hope for complete restoration includes our bodies.

1 Corinthians 15:51-53

51 Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be

changed. 53 For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality.

Leviticus 25:9-11

9 Then you shall sound the loud trumpet on the tenth day of the seventh month. On the Day of Atonement you shall sound the trumpet throughout all your land.

10 And you shall consecrate the fiftieth year, and proclaim liberty throughout the land to all its inhabitants. It shall be a jubilee for you, when each of you shall return to his property and each of you shall return to his clan. 11 That fiftieth year shall be a jubilee for you; in it you shall neither sow nor reap what grows of itself nor gather the grapes from the undressed vines.

1 Thessalonians 4:16

16 For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

Jesus' return inaugurates a forever jubilee.

Romans 8:18-22

18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. 19 For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. 20 For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope 21 that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. 22 For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now.

1 John 3:2

2 Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is.

Seeing Jesus will be so awesome and captivating that we will change and be like him.

Jesus is our destination and fulfillment.

C.S. Lewis said it this way "if we find ourselves with a desire that nothing in this world can satisfy, the most probably explanation is that we were made for another world."

The finish then informs how we should live now.

Life Group Discussion Questions

- What did God say to you through His Word during our Sunday gathering?
- What are some common thoughts about what heaven will be like?
- What are reasons that the heaven doesn't always influence our daily lives?
- Some have said that you could be so heavenly minded that you are no earthly good. How might the opposite be true, that the more heavenly minded you are the more your present life is changed?
- Discuss the C.S. Lewis quote. In what ways have you tried to find satisfaction in this world? What is Lewis hinting at regarding satisfaction's elusiveness?
- Jesus is our destination and our fulfillment. What are some steps you can take to stay excited and looking forward to your future?
- Consider one way you can encourage someone in your Life Group over the next few days as we celebrate the birth of Jesus and our future hope.