



Life Everlasting

Revelation 21v1-6; 22v1-5

This Sunday we are concluding our sermon series on the Apostles Creed by exploring the Christian hope - the resurrection of the body and life everlasting. This hope is absolutely vital, not only for the end times, but for our day-to-day lives right now.

Connect

1. Think about some of the best movie montage scenes you've ever seen (For example, Rocky running up the stairs in Philadelphia) What other scenes come to mind? What is usually the turning point before these scenes? What is the result after the scene?
2. Do you consider yourself a naturally hopeful person? Why or why not?
3. On Sunday Paul said that how we live now is completely determined by what we believe about the future. Do you believe this? Why or why not?

Engage

Read: Revelation 21v1-6; 22v1-5

1. Revelation is apocalyptic literature. Apocalyptic literature differs from regular narrative or simple poetry, because it juxtaposes all kinds of different metaphors together. What metaphors stood out to you in these verses?
2. US Supreme Court Justice, Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr. once said, "*I see no reason for attributing to man a significance different in kind from that which belongs to a baboon or a grain of sand.*" Without a hope in the afterlife, what basis is there for saying human beings are any more valuable than rocks?
3. The secular view of the future is that there is nothing after this life. How do we see this mentality playing itself out in the world today? How can we embody our hope for the future and show the world an alternative way of life?

4. Read Ephesians 1v18. Paul tells the Ephesians that he prays for God to give them the Spirit of wisdom and revelation so that the eyes of their heart may be enlightened in order that they may know the hope to which they have been called. What is that “hope” and how can we begin to understand it?
5. If you’re going to have the kind of hope that really helps you face your life, it has to be a hope that is optimistic and yet a hope that is realistic. How does the already-but-not-yet nature of the Christian hope provide this?

Application

1. There is a concept called “embodied belief” which holds that the things we believe most deeply are the things that we embody (i.e. impact how we live). What do your embodied hopes and fears tell us about what we believe most? What are you most anxious about? Excited about?
2. Holocaust survivor Victor Frankl wrote, *“Life in a concentration camp exposes your soul’s foundation, only a few of the prisoners were able to keep their full inner liberty and inner strength. Life only has meaning in any circumstances if we have a hope that neither suffering, circumstances or even death can not destroy.”* What are some things you are placing your hope in that “suffering, circumstances or death” could destroy?
3. How does the idea of an eternal future in a restored creation reshape our lives? What are some ways that our lives are tangibly affected by this future hope? If our hope is a material hope, restored creation, then how do you become the kind of person who God can entrust with significant responsibility in the age to come?

Prayer

THE APOSTLE'S CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
the Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord:
Who was conceived of the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead. The third day He arose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty, whence
He shall come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy universal church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting