



His Word Is Truth!

This article is written by Pastor Tom Eckstein of Concordia Lutheran Church in Jamestown. "His Word is Truth" will appear in this paper every 3rd Monday.



Today I continue my series on the Apostles' Creed with the following line from the third section: **"I believe ... in the resurrection of the body,..."** The Holy Spirit uses God's Word to convict us of our sin against God. The Holy Spirit also uses God's Word to bring us to faith in God's Son, Jesus the Christ, whose death on the cross in our place makes it possible for our sins to be forgiven. *This "forgiveness of sin" also assures us that our **bodies** will be resurrected when the resurrected Jesus returns in visible glory. We will then live with God forever in*

the New Creation He will give us on that day!

But why do we need a *NEW* Creation? The obvious answer is that the present Creation is broken and twisted by our sin against God (see Genesis 3:17 and Romans 8:20-21). That's why there is so much suffering and death in the world. However, things were not this way **"In the beginning..."** When God first created the universe and all life it was "very good" (see Genesis 1:1-2:3). *Adam and Eve, the first humans, were made in God's image. They had no sin, and there was no suffering or death in the world. Adam and Eve along with their descendants were meant to live forever with God in the perfect world He had made!*

Sadly, God's "very good" Creation was perverted when the devil (a rebellious angel) tempted Adam and Eve to doubt God's Word and take control of their own lives (see Genesis 3:1-6, John 8:42-44 and 2nd Corinthians 11:2-3). God said that the penalty for such sin is death! Adam and Eves'

physical death would come hundreds of years later. However, the very day they doubted God's Word they experienced spiritual death. To have "spiritual death" means that they no longer loved God or trusted His Word. *We have inherited this "spiritual death" from Adam, and so we must also face physical death – which is God's sign to us that we have sinned and that we need a Savior (see Romans 5:12-21 and 1st Corinthians 15:22).*

The Good News is that God's eternal Son came into the world to save us from our sins against God (see Matthew 1:21 and 1st Timothy 1:15-17). **This Good News also means that He came to save us from both spiritual and physical death!** *(See John 11:17-44, Ephesians 2:1-10, 1st Corinthians 15:20-58 and 1st Thessalonians 4:13-18).* Just as Jesus' physical body rose from the grave (see Luke 24:1-48), God will raise our physical bodies from the dust when Christ returns in glory. This is what the Apostle Paul means by "spiritual body" in 1st

Corinthians 15:42-50. The word "spiritual" in this passage does NOT mean "non-physical," as some wrongly teach. Instead, Paul uses the word "spiritual" to refer to the work of God. *He will give us new physical bodies on the day of resurrection!* (See Romans 8:22-25)

However, the bodies we have in this *fallen world* are dead and dying because of our sin against God. This is what Paul means in 1st Corinthians 15:51, where he writes: **"...flesh and blood cannot inherit the Kingdom of God,..."** He does NOT mean that there will be no physical resurrection! Instead, Paul is stressing that our present sinful bodies will perish. In contrast, when Christ returns God will give us IMPERISHABLE physical bodies along with an IMPERISHABLE New Creation where we will live with the Lord forever!! (See 1st Corinthians 15:51-58, 1st Thessalonians 4:13-18, 2nd Peter 3:8-13 and Revelation 21:1-5).

Sadly, those who live and die

clinging to their sin and rejecting Christ will be resurrected only to face judgment and eternal separation from the God who loves them. However, those who live and die rejecting their sin and clinging to Christ will be resurrected to hear God say: **"Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the Kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world."**

The hope of *"the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting"* is possible because of Jesus and all He has done for us sinners who deserve only physical and spiritual death. We rejoice in the hope found in Hebrews chapter 2, which reads: **"Since the children have flesh and blood, [Jesus] too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil — and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of**

death ... For this reason he had to be made like his brothers in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people."



Please read the next "His Word is Truth" on Monday, November 19th! Pastor Eckstein will conclude his series on the Apostles' Creed with the last line of the 3rd article: "...the life everlasting. Amen!"

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