

A Word from Our Preaching Pastor:

Sunday, October 25, 2009

But we do not want you to be uninformed, brethren, about those who are asleep, so that you will not grieve as do the rest who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus. I Thessalonians 4:13-14

The extravagant promise of grace is that those who die in the Lord shall be raised again to life! Indeed, the hope of the Christian is not that we will rise to some far-off spiritual plane to live forever as disembodied spirits, nor even — as some seem to believe — that we can advance to the rank of angels and “earn our wings” by doing good deeds. No, the Christian’s hope far transcends these vainly imagined myths! The Christian’s hope, so firmly rooted in the promise of Scripture, is that we will be raised from the dead literally and bodily, like Jesus, to enter into a whole new realm of a joy-filled and physical life where we will know and delight in the presence of God forever.

It is to this promise that Scripture bears such a continual witness. Consider, for example the promise of **1 Corinthians 15:51-52**

Behold, I tell you a mystery, we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed, 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 will be changed.

Or the assuring comfort Job received in **Job 19:25-27**

“As for me, I know that my Redeemer lives, And at the last He will take His stand on the earth. Even after my skin is destroyed, Yet from my flesh I shall see God; Whom I myself shall behold, And whom my eyes will see and not another.

With such promises, church, let us be encouraged. Our God will not abandon us to the grave, but will raise us up on the last day that He might lavish the fullness of all His promises on us in Christ, forever and ever, Amen!

To Him be the Glory!

Pastor Scott