

POINT GREY INTER-MENNONITE FELLOWSHIP

Web site: www.pgimf.org

November 4, 2018

J. Evan Kreider - "...and I believe in the resurrection of the dead, and in the age to come"

Worship Leader: Rosie Perera
Accompanist: Ruth Enns

Music Worship: J. Evan Kreider
Usher: Chris Skinner

Last Sunday Henry Neufeld compared two patterns for human flourishing based on the creation accounts in Genesis 1:24-31 and Genesis 2:18-25 (what Joseph B. Soloveitchik coined "Adam I and Adam II" in his book *The Lonely Man of Faith*). Adam I is about résumé values – the majestically utilitarian domination of one's environment in pursuit of professional and material success. Adam II is about eulogy values – Jesus modeled these by placing value in humility, sacrifice, relationships, and stewardship in meeting the needs of the world. As David Brooks writes about his 2015 book *The Road to Character*, may we develop moral depth while caring for others, without becoming proud. [KH]

The message can be heard in your favourite browser at
<https://pgimf.org/service/adam-1-and-2/>

O Wie Selig

Oh, how blest are ye whose toils are ended,
Who through death have unto God ascended!
Ye have arisen
From cares which keep us in prison.
- Text to accompany the prelude to the service

PGIMF News - Upcoming Services

November 11 Thomas Bergen
November 18 Veronica Dyck
November 25 Janet Boldt
December 2 Rosie Perera

Mark series: Jesus the Authoritative One
Hebrews 10:11-25
TBA
Watching & Waiting

Friday Group Meets on Nov. 9 at 10:00 at the education building behind Peace Church on 52nd. We'll discuss Chapter 2 of "Inspired" on Deliverance. All are welcome.

Wider Church

Regent College Regent continues its Interface Faith & Science Series of public lectures with Jens Zimmerman challenging a reductionist model of human identity in a lecture entitled *Who am I? Personhood, Consciousness and Transhumanist Values* Tuesday November 6 at 7:30 pm in the Chapel at Regent College. Return Wednesday evening at 7:30 with Ron Dart exposing us to George Grant: *Canada's C.S. Lewis*. All lectures free.

Symphony of Hymns This fundraising concert for MCBC's church health connections and outreach ministries takes place Saturday November 10th at Sherbrooke Mennonite Church (7155 Sherbrooke St., Vancouver) at 7:00 pm and features Gail Suderman, Calvin Dyck and Christopher Lee on the clarinet. Offering taken.

MCC-BC Through MCC's Christmas Giving projects, you can bring joy to the people you love and transform lives around the world. Each gift comes with a card that explains the gift you've given. Choose from gift options that will be meaningful to friends, teachers, co-workers or family! Visit www.mccbc.ca/christmas today.

Westcoast Symphony Angela Ruthven and the symphony invite you to a concert of English composers including Britten and Vaughn Williams with the Vancouver Bach Choir. Saturday November 17th at 8 pm at Christ Church Cathedral (690 Burrard St., Vancouver) or Sunday November 18 at 2:30 pm at Centennial Theatre (2300 Lonsdale Ave., North Van). Admission by donation at the door.

RECORDING THE SERVICE

Please note that we record the response time after the sermon. You are encouraged to share your thoughts as fully as you feel led with the proviso that no privacy can be guaranteed. The response time will not be posted to the website. You are encouraged to bring forth private issues during the time of sharing and prayer, which will not be recorded.

Moderator—Veronica Dyck (604-290-1627); **Worship**—J. Evan Kreider (604-228-1217);
Congregational Care—Lois Funk (604-992-8213); **Recording Secretary**--- Andre Pekovich (604-879-0007);
Music—Ruth Enns (604-987-7430); **At Large**—Travis Martin (604-603-7843); Chan Yang (778-681-1475);
Finance — Doug Medley (604-328-2980); **Congregational Co-ordinator** — Janice Kreider (604-228-1217)

SELECTED BIBLE PASSAGES¹ SPEAKING ABOUT LIFE AFTER DEATH

Passages suggesting there is no afterlife

Isaiah 26 [poetic]
[c. 8th-7th centuries BCE]

O LORD our God,
other lords besides you have ruled over us,
but we acknowledge your name alone.
¹⁴ The dead do not live;
shades do not rise—
because you have punished and destroyed them,
and wiped out all memory of them.
¹⁵ But you have increased the nation, O LORD,
you have increased the nation; you are glorified;
you have enlarged all the borders of the land.

Psalms 115:16-18 [poetic]
[date unknown]

¹⁶ The heavens are the LORD's heavens,
but the earth he has given to human beings.
¹⁷ The dead do not praise the LORD,
nor do any that go down into silence.
¹⁸ But we will bless the LORD
from this time on and forevermore.
Praise the LORD!

Ecclesiastes 9:5 [poetic]
[c. 450-200 BCE]

For the living know that they will die;
but the dead know nothing.
And they have no more reward,
for the memory of them is forgotten.

Passages suggesting that we shall be with God (without mentioning awaiting resurrection)

Ecclesiastes 12:7 [poetic]
[c. 450-200 BCE]

And the dust returns to the earth as it was, and the spirit
returns to God who gave it.

Romans 8:38
[c. 55-58 CE]

³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor
angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come,
nor powers, ³⁹ nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in
all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of
God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Matthew 5:8 [poetic]
[c. 80-90 CE]

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

Luke 10:20
[c. 80-100 CE]

Nevertheless, do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are
subject to you, but rejoice that your names are written in
heaven.

Luke 23:43
[c. 80-100 CE]

And he [Jesus on the cross] said to him, "Truly, I say to
you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

John 10:27-28
[c. 90-110 CE]

My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow
me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish.
No one will snatch them out of my hand.

John 13:36

Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, where are you going?"
Jesus answered, "Where I am going, you cannot follow
me now; but you will follow afterward."

Revelation 14:13
[c. 64-96 CE?]

¹³ And I heard a voice from heaven saying, "Write this:
Blessed are the dead who from now on die in the Lord."
"Yes," says the Spirit, "they will rest from their labors, for
their deeds follow them."

¹ Dates for these ancient writings are always approximate and strongly debated. Underlining is editorial, for ease of identifying lines of interest.

Passages predicting the resurrection of the dead (including those awaiting resurrection)

Isaiah 26:16-21 [poetic]
[c. 8th-7th centuries BCE?]

¹⁶ O LORD, in distress they sought you,
they poured out a prayer
when your chastening was on them.
¹⁷ Like a woman with child,
who writhes and cries out in her pangs
when she is near her time,
so were we because of you, O LORD;
¹⁸ we were with child, we writhed,
but we gave birth only to wind.
We have won no victories on earth,
and no one is born to inhabit the world.
¹⁹ Your dead shall live, their corpses shall rise.
O dwellers in the dust, awake and sing for joy!
For your dew is a radiant dew,
and the earth will give birth to those long dead.
²⁰ Come, my people, enter your chambers,
and shut your doors behind you;
hide yourselves for a little while
until the wrath is past.
²¹ For the LORD comes out from his place
to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity;
the earth will disclose the blood shed on it,
and will no longer cover its slain.

Daniel 12:1-4
[2nd century BCE]

“At that time Michael, the great prince, the protector of your people, shall arise. There shall be a time of anguish, such as has never occurred since nations first came into existence. But at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone who is found written in the book. ²Many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. ³Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever. ⁴But you, Daniel, keep the words secret and the book sealed until the time of the end. Many shall be running back and forth, and evil shall increase.”

2 Maccabees 12
[Apocrypha, c. 124 BCE]
[Passage cited by Catholics for believing in Purgatory]

³⁹ On the next day, as had now become necessary, Judas and his men went to take up the bodies of the fallen and to bring them back to lie with their kindred in the sepulchres of their ancestors. ⁴⁰ Then under the tunic of each one of the dead they found sacred tokens of the idols

of Jamnia, which the law forbids the Jews to wear. And it became clear to all that this was the reason these men had fallen. ⁴¹ So they all blessed the ways of the Lord, the righteous judge, who reveals the things that are hidden; ⁴² and they turned to supplication, praying that the sin that had been committed might be wholly blotted out. The noble Judas exhorted the people to keep themselves free from sin, for they had seen with their own eyes what had happened as the result of the sin of those who had fallen. ⁴³ He also took up a collection, man by man, to the amount of two thousand drachmas of silver, and sent it to Jerusalem to provide for a sin offering. In doing this he acted very well and honorably, taking account of the resurrection. ⁴⁴ For if he were not expecting that those who had fallen would rise again, it would have been superfluous and foolish to pray for the dead. ⁴⁵ But if he was looking to the splendid reward that is laid up for those who fall asleep in godliness, it was a holy and pious thought. Therefore he made atonement for the dead, so that they might be delivered from their sin.

Mark 12:24-27
[c. 66-70 CE]

¹⁸ Some Sadducees, who say there is no resurrection, came to him and asked him a question, saying, ¹⁹ “Teacher, Moses wrote for us that if a man’s brother dies, leaving a wife but no child, the man shall marry the widow and raise up children for his brother. ²⁰ There were seven brothers; the first married and, when he died, left no children; ²¹ and the second married the widow and died, leaving no children; and the third likewise; ²² none of the seven left children. Last of all the woman herself died. ²³ In the resurrection, whose wife will she be? For the seven had married her.”

²⁴ Jesus said to them, “Is not this the reason you are wrong, that you know neither the scriptures nor the power of God? ²⁵ For when they rise from the dead, they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven. ²⁶ And as for the dead being raised, have you not read in the book of Moses, in the story about the bush, how God said to him, ‘I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob’? ²⁷ He is God not of the dead, but of the living; you are quite wrong.”

Matthew 27:50-53
[c. 80-90 CE]

⁵⁰ Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last. ⁵¹ At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, and the rocks were split. ⁵² The tombs also were opened, and

many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised.⁵³ After his resurrection they came out of the tombs and entered the holy city and appeared to many.

Luke 14:13-14

[c. 80-100 CE]

¹³ But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. ¹⁴ And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."

John 5:25-29

[c. 90-110 CE]

²⁵ "Very truly, I tell you, the hour is coming, and is now here, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. ²⁶ For just as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself; ²⁷ and he has given him authority to execute judgment, because he is the Son of Man. ²⁸ Do not be astonished at this; for the hour is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice ²⁹ and will come out—those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation.

John 6:41-51

⁴¹ Then the Jews began to complain about him because he said, "I am the bread that came down from heaven."

⁴² They were saying, "Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How can he now say, 'I have come down from heaven'?" ⁴³ Jesus answered them, "Do not complain among yourselves. ⁴⁴ No one can come to me unless drawn by the Father who sent me; and I will raise that person up on the last day.

...

⁵² The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?" ⁵³ So Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. ⁵⁴ Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day; ⁵⁵ for my flesh is true food and my blood is true drink. ⁵⁶ Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them.

John 11:17-17

¹⁷ When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. ¹⁸ Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, ¹⁹ and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. ²⁰ When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. ²¹ Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²² But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." ²³ Jesus said to

her, "Your brother will rise again." ²⁴ Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." ²⁵ Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life.^[f] Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, ²⁶ and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" ²⁷ She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world."

John 14:1-5

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. ² In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. ⁴ And you know the way to the place where I am going." ⁵ Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" ⁶ Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷ If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him."

1 Corinthians 6:14

[c. 50 CE]

¹³ "Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food," and God will destroy both one and the other. The body is meant not for fornication but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. ¹⁴ And God raised the Lord and will also raise us by his power.

1 Corinthians 15:50-55

⁵⁰ What I am saying, brothers and sisters, is this: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. ⁵¹ Listen, I will tell you a mystery! We will not all die, but we will 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 will be changed. ⁵³ For this perishable body must put on imperishability, and this mortal body must put on immortality. ⁵⁴ When this perishable body puts on imperishability, and this mortal body puts on immortality, then the saying that is written will be fulfilled:

"Death has been swallowed up in victory." [poetic]

⁵⁵ "Where, O death, is your victory?"

Where, O death, is your sting?"

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

[c. 52 CE]

¹³ But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. ¹⁴ For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through

Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. ¹⁵ For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. ¹⁶ For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. ¹⁸ Therefore encourage one another with these words.

Acts 24:14-16
[c. 80-90 CE]

¹⁴ But this I [Paul] admit to you, that according to the Way, which they call a sect, I worship the God of our ancestors, believing everything laid down according to the law or written in the prophets. ¹⁵ I have a hope in God—a hope that they themselves also accept—that there will be a resurrection of both the righteous and the unrighteous. ¹⁶ Therefore I do my best always to have a clear conscience toward God and all people.

Hebrews 9:24-28
[c. 63-64 CE]

²⁴ For Christ did not enter a sanctuary made by human hands, a mere copy of the true one, but he entered into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf. ²⁵ Nor was it to offer himself again and again, as the high priest enters the Holy Place year after year with blood that is not his own; ²⁶ for then he would have had to suffer again and again since the foundation of the world. But as it is, he has appeared once for all at the end of the age to remove sin by the sacrifice of himself. ²⁷ And just as it is appointed for mortals to die once, and after that the judgment, ²⁸ so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin, but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.

Hebrews 11:32-35

³² And what more should I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets— ³³ who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, ³⁴ quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. ³⁵ Women received their dead by resurrection.

Romans 6:1-5
[c. 55-58]

What then are we to say? Should we continue in sin in order that grace may abound? ² By no means! How can we who died to sin go on living in it? ³ Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴ Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

⁵ For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.

Revelation 14:13
[c. 64-96 CE?]

¹³ And I heard a voice from heaven saying, “Write this: Blessed are the dead who from now on die in the Lord.” “Yes,” says the Spirit, “they will rest from their labors, for their deeds follow them.”

Final Judgment

Others were tortured, refusing to accept release, in order to obtain a better resurrection.

Matthew 13:36-43
[c. 80-90 CE]

³⁶ Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.” ³⁷ He answered, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; ³⁸ the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, ³⁹ and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. ⁴⁰ Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. ⁴¹ The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, ⁴² and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³ Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!

Matthew 25:31-46

³¹ “When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. ³² All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates

the sheep from the goats,³³ and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left.³⁴ Then the king will say to those at his right hand, ‘Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world;’³⁵ for I was hungry and you gave me food . . .⁴¹ Then he will say to those at his left hand, ‘You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels;’⁴² for I was hungry and you gave me no food, . . .⁴⁵ Then he will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.’⁴⁶ And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

2 Peter 3:8-10

[c. 60-130 CE, possibly 80-90 CE]

⁸But do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day.⁹ The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance.

¹⁰But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

Revelation 20:11-15

[c. 64-96 CE?]

¹¹Then I saw a great white throne and the one who sat on it; the earth and the heaven fled from his presence, and no place was found for them.¹² And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Also another book was opened, the book of life. And the

dead were judged according to their works, as recorded in the books.¹³ And the sea gave up the dead that were in it, Death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and all were judged according to what they had done.¹⁴ Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire;¹⁵ and anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was thrown into the lake of fire.

Revelation 21:1-6

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more.² And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

“See, the home of God is among mortals.

He will dwell with them;

they will be his peoples,

and God himself will be with them;

⁴he will wipe every tear from their eyes.

Death will be no more;

mourning and crying and pain will be no more,

for the first things have passed away.”

⁵And the one who was seated on the throne said, “See, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.”⁶ Then he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life.

Other passages foretelling judgment and punishment

Luke 16:19-30

[c. 80-100 CE]

¹⁹“There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day.²⁰ And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores,²¹ who longed to satisfy his hunger with what fell from the rich man’s table; even the dogs would come and lick his sores.²² The poor man died and was carried away by the angels to be with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried.²³ In Hades, where he was being tormented, he looked up and saw Abraham far away with Lazarus by his side.²⁴ He called out, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am in agony in these flames.’²⁵ But Abraham said, ‘Child, remember that during your lifetime you received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner evil things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in agony.’²⁶ Besides all this,

between you and us a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who might want to pass from here to you cannot do so, and no one can cross from there to us.’

2 Thessalonians 1:5-12

[c. 80-115 CE]

⁵This is evidence of the righteous judgment of God, and is intended to make you worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you are also suffering.⁶ For it is indeed just of God to repay with affliction those who afflict you,⁷ and to give relief to the afflicted as well as to us, when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels⁸ in flaming fire, inflicting vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.⁹ These will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, separated from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might,¹⁰ when he comes to be glorified by his saints and to be marveled at on that day

among all who have believed, because our testimony to you was believed. ¹¹To this end we always pray for you, asking that our God will make you worthy of his call and will fulfill by his power every good resolve and work of faith, ¹²so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Revelation 21:5-8
[c. 64-96 CE?]

⁵ And the one who was seated on the throne said, “See, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this, for

these words are trustworthy and true.” ⁶Then he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life. ⁷Those who conquer will inherit these things, and I will be their God and they will be my children. ⁸But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the polluted, the murderers, the fornicators, the sorcerers, the idolaters, and all liars, their place will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death.”

Mennonite Church Canada, Confession of Faith (1995)

Article 24, the Reign of God (biblical references omitted)

. . . We believe that, just as God raised Jesus from the dead, we also will be raised from the dead. At Christ’s glorious coming again for judgment, the dead will come out of their graves”—those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation.” The righteous will rise to eternal life with God, and the unrighteous to hell and separation from God. Thus, God will bring justice to the

persecuted and will confirm the victory over sin, evil, and death itself.

Commentary, Note 3, par. 3:

The New Testament says much about the resurrection. It speaks much less frequently and clearly about the state of persons between the time of their deaths and the resurrection. Yet, we who are in Christ are assured that not even death can separate us from the love of God (Romans 8:38-39).

The MB Confession of Faith (1999)

The Last Days

In these last days, between the first and second coming of Christ, the church carries out its mission in the world. Believers often endure suffering and persecution because of their witness to Christ. In spite of opposition by evil powers, the church is assured of the final victory of Christ’s kingdom. These last days come to an end with Christ’s return.

Death

Since Christ destroyed the power of death through his resurrection, believers need not be afraid of death, the last enemy. Christ’s followers go to be with the Lord when they die. When Christ returns, they will be raised and receive new bodies. Believers who are alive at Christ’s coming will be transformed and will also receive new and glorious bodies, fit for life in God’s eternal kingdom.

Judgment

When Christ returns, he will destroy all evil powers, including the Antichrist. Satan and all those who have rejected Christ will be condemned to eternal punishment in hell, forever separated from the presence of God. Believers must appear before the judgment seat of Christ to have their lives examined and their labours rewarded. By God’s grace, they will enter into the joy of God’s eternal reign.

The New Creation

All God’s children will be united with Christ when he appears and will reign with him in glory. Pain, sorrow, and death will be abolished and the redeemed will be gathered into the new heaven and new earth, where together with the angels they will worship God forever. God will make all things new and God will be all in all. This is the blessed hope of all believers.