

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.

Discussion Questions

- Of the blessings in eternity, which ones are the hardest for you to wait for now?
- How can you grow in faith now while the visible blessings of eternity aren't here yet?

Day 5 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

At the beginning of the Bible Adam and Eve were placed in a special garden where they were to dwell with God. They walked and talked with Him face to face. When Adam sinned the special presence with God was lost. At the end of the Bible the promise of that presence is once again restored. Revelation 21:3 *And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God.* The catechism tells us that the final blessing of the resurrection is *the enjoyment of God to all eternity.* We've talked about the new bodies we will be given. We've considered how we will be publicly acknowledged by our God and given a final 'not guilty' verdict because of Jesus's death for us. It is important to remember that the blessings we receive are wonderful gifts, given from the hand of the most wonderful Gift-Giver. Never forget that it is God's presence that is your greatest blessing! 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 *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. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord.*

Discussion Questions

- Are you prone to start paying more attention to the gifts of God and forget about God himself?
- Spend some time praising God for his glory and looking forward to His presence.

Baptist Catechism

Family Worship Guide



West Oaks Baptist Church

(in preparation for Sunday, June 23rd, 2024)

Baptist Catechism Question #41

Q: What benefits do believers receive from Christ at the resurrection?

A: *At the resurrection believers, being raised up in glory, shall be openly acknowledged, and acquitted in the day of judgment, and made perfectly blessed, both in soul and body, in the full enjoyment of God to all eternity.*

Suggested Memory Verse

1 Corinthians 15:54-55 *When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory." "O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?"*

Day 1 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

A common question for many people is, “what will happen when I die?” Some people think they will go forever to a spiritual heaven and never have a physical body again. Some people believe they will be reincarnated into new bodies as new people (or animals or even bugs!). More recently there have been famous Atheists who claim there is no afterlife. They say the resurrection is a made-up story to help people feel better or to control them with religion. Peter Hitchens and Richard Dawkins are two such famous atheists. As Christians, however, we know that God will raise the dead in the last day when Jesus returns. The Bible tells us that everyone knows they will last forever, in either heaven or hell. Ecclesiastes 3:11 *[God] has put eternity into man’s heart*. Moreover, everyone who has access to the Bible knows from God’s Word that there will be a resurrection in that last day. This is why Paul asks King Agrippa in Acts 26:8 *Why is it thought incredible by any of you that God raises the dead?* King Agrippa had access to the Jewish scriptures which tell of the resurrection and eternal life. The truth from both nature and the Word of God is that there will be a resurrection. The important question for each person to ask is whether you will be resurrected to life with God or to judgement because of your sins. Only if you are saved by Jesus will you have eternal life!

Discussion Question

- How do we know there will be a resurrection of the dead?
- How does knowing God will raise the dead change how we live now?
- Is the resurrection something you are looking forward to? Why or why not?

Day 2 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

Christians know that God will raise them from the grave when Jesus returns on Judgement Day. The question many of us have is, “what sort of bodies will we have?” While we don’t know exactly what our bodies will look like at the resurrection we are given several wonderful truths about them. They will be actual physical bodies. We know this because Jesus has a physical body with which he ate with his disciples. There are some important differences between our physical bodies now and our new bodies then. We are used to our bodies being frail and dealing regularly with weakness, infirmity, and sickness. Not so at the resurrection! 1 Corinthians 15:43 *It is sown in weakness; it is raised in power*. We are used to bodies that will all one day die and decay. In the resurrection we will have eternal bodies that will never die! 1 Corinthians 15:42 *What is sown is perishable; what is raised is imperishable*. We are also used to struggling with bodies that are given to sin. We desire what we shouldn’t. We recoil from what is good and right. When Jesus raises us from the grave we will have bodies that are perfectly holy and fit for heaven. 1 Corinthians 15:44 *It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body*. All of this we will have because we will be made like Jesus. Philippians 3:21 *[He] will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body*.

Discussion Questions

- Why do you think we will be given physical bodies at the resurrection?
- What are some differences between our bodies now and our new bodies then? What are you most excited about?

Day 3 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

On the day of judgement Jesus will gather all the people of the earth and there will be a great judgement. Revelation 21 speaks about that day like a public court room. God will sit on the judgement seat, open the books of everyone’s deeds, and He will judge everyone publicly. That will be a horrible day for those who don’t believe in Jesus. For Christians that day will be very different. We will stand there knowing we have sinned. We will know we deserve to be judged. But God won’t judge us. The words He will say to us publicly for all to hear will be, “well done my good and faithful servant”. Revelation tells us there is another book called the book of life. If your name is in that book you will be saved. The catechism says that on judgment day all of His people will be openly *acknowledged* and *acquitted*. Christians will be openly acknowledged to belong to God. Hebrews 2:11 *[Jesus] is not ashamed to call them brothers*. Jesus will acknowledge us before the angels and before God himself. Not only will we be publicly acknowledged, the catechism also says we will be acquitted. This means that though we deserve to be judged guilty, God will instead judge us as innocent and righteous in His sight. He will do this because Jesus paid the price for our sins on the cross. Jesus was judged on the cross so that you and I could be acquitted and go free.

Discussion Questions

- Can you imagine the terror of being judged by God publicly for your sins?
- How do you think it will feel different on that Day if you believe in Jesus?

Day 4 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

What does it mean to be blessed? Perhaps you think of material blessings; a nice car, a big house, a good job, plenty of money. Perhaps you think of people; family, friends, a spouse, kids. If you are a Christian you are likely becoming aware that though these can all be blessings, true blessing is something that is a little more hidden. True blessing has to do with your relationship to God, rather than how many good things you have in this life. Jesus taught about this in the Sermon of the Mount. In Matthew chapter 5 he begins by teaching who are really blessed; the poor in spirit, those who mourn, the merciful, those who are persecuted, etc. We find that often the most blessed people aren’t those who look blessed outwardly. When Jesus returns, though, things will be very different. Those hidden things will be made clear for all to see. The catechism says Christians *will be made perfectly blessed, in both in soul and body*. Blessing now is a matter of faith but when Jesus returns all blessing will be a matter of sight as well. We will be blessed with spirits that are freed from sin, and bodies that are perfect in holiness. Moreover, when Jesus returns we will be blessed because we will finally see him face to face. 1 John 3:2 *Beloved, we are*