

Opening Scripture

Psalm 92

Opening Prayer

Mission Moment:

SEPTEMBER MISSION OF THE MONTH
NEW HOPE SHELTER

The Waynesboro New Hope Shelter was established in 1998 to provide temporary housing for the homeless from Franklin, Fulton and Adams Counties. New Hope Shelter offers food and lodging to men, women and children. It operates year round and serves about 150 people a year of which one third are children. Every resident is provided encouragement and the tools necessary to find employment and permanent housing.

New Hope Shelter has a Thrift Shop located at 25 S. Potomac St., Waynesboro. They appreciate donations of gently used items, including furniture, appliances and clothing. The income generated through the Thrift Shop is used to operate New Hope Shelter. The Shop is open Mon – Thurs, 10 – 5, Friday 10 – 6, and Saturday 10 – 4. They will pick up donations. Please call to make arrangements for pick up. (717-762-5840)

If you would like to give a financial gift to support the ministry of the New Hope Shelter, you can send your gifts to the **New Hope Shelter, 25 S. Potomac St., Waynesboro, PA 17268**

Scripture

John 5:16-30

Message

Resurrection and Judgment

We have a sign in front of our Church, where we can announce upcoming events and invite people to join us for special activities. We also use it to announce upcoming sermon titles. If you live in our community, you have likely driven by the Church and seen our sign. One of our members – Louis – helps with the sign. I give him the information and he puts it together. It's a lot of work and I appreciate Louis helping with this. This week I gave him the sermon title and he put it on the sign. As I went out to look at the sign, I smiled at the message. It wasn't intended to be humorous, but perhaps some people may have taken it that way. I wonder what people thought as they drove by. Here is a picture of the sign from this week:

***RESURRECTION & JUDGMENT
THIS WKEND, HERE OR ONLN
GERMANTOWNCOG.ORG***

We had to do some abbreviating to get everything on, but you can understand it. I smiled at the sign because I wondered if the people driving by who saw our sign were thinking that we were announcing that the **RESURRECTION AND JUDGMENT** were going to take place **THIS WEEKEND, HERE OR ONLINE!** I haven't received any emails or comments from people asking if that was our intent. It wasn't. It was just a Sermon Title. We at Germantowncog.org do not have any insider information about when the Resurrection or Judgment are going to take place. We do not know. Jesus says that no one knows the times or dates for future events that the Father has set by His own authority. Only the Father Himself knows.

That's been the point of the last few sermons. We believe that someday in the future, God will intervene in History and bring about the Consummation of all things. We don't know when that day is going to come. Nor do we know the time of our death, when our end will come. The emphasis of our recent studies has been that we must be prepared, so that when the end comes we will be ready. There is an **URGENCY** to the Gospel message. The Bible does not teach that there will be a second chance after we die, or after God intervenes. We must grasp the urgency of making decisions about what is important. We must make the decision to make Jesus our Savior while we have time. If the **RESURRECTION AND JUDGMENT** would take place this weekend would we be ready?

We believe that the coming of Jesus into the world ushered into the timeline of the world a period known as the LAST DAYS. We are in the Last Days. But we also believe that there is a LAST DAY coming. Sometimes we refer to that LAST DAY as the Consummation. It is **the end of all things. It is the FINISH for life in this world as we now know it.** In Revelation 21:4, we read that **He who sat on the throne (GOD) said, “Behold, I am making ALL THINGS NEW.”** The consummation refers to that time when God will make all things new. Last week, I mentioned that there are 4 events that will take place as a part of this Consummation.

1. **The Return of Jesus**
2. **The Resurrection of the Dead**
3. **The Judgment**
4. **The Ushering in of a New Heaven and New Earth**

I mentioned that these events do not all happen at once. Their fulfillment is spread out over some period of time. We don't know how long that period of time will last. Last week we talked about the Return of Christ, or the Second Coming. I said that the Second Coming ushers in the beginning of this Consummation when all of these events take place. It's the next event that will take place as God is **“Making all things New.”** Today I want to talk about #2 and #3. As I said last week, I am talking about these events only in Broad Terms. Many people have written books going into fine detail about these things, giving timelines, talking about things like a Great Tribulation, the appearance of the Antichrist, the Millennium, etc. There is a wide variety of understanding and interpretation about the Last Events among Christians. I simply want us to have a basic understanding of these events. I want us to know that **these events are anticipated** in the Bible. I want us to understand what they mean. And I want us to understand the **importance of being prepared when this Consummation takes place.**

In this passage from John 5, Jesus talks about these two events – Resurrection and Judgment. Jesus actually talks about 2 “Resurrections” in this passage. The first is a Spiritual resurrection. Vs. 24: **“Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life.”** The Bible teaches that all people have sinned. We have chosen to live our lives on our terms, choosing our way, rather than submitting to God's way. The consequence of sin is Death. It is a spiritual death – separated from God. Paul says that as long as we are in sin, we are dead in our trespasses and sins. But when we choose to respond to God's gracious offer of salvation by exercising our faith in Jesus we are saved. Jesus says that we have crossed over from death to life. We are challenged by Jesus' words to reflect and ask ourselves if we have experienced this transition from death to life.

Then Jesus talks about a 2nd resurrection – a Physical resurrection. Vs. 28-29 - **28 “Do not be amazed at this, for a time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice 29 and come out—those who have done what is good will rise to live, and those who have done what is evil will rise to be condemned.** In the beginning when God created humans, He created them to have a physical body. Our bodies were created from the dust of the ground. Then he breathed into the body the breath of His Spirit and humans became living beings. **We are complete as a physical body and a spirit.** As a result of sin entering the world, the physical body now is subject to death. The Bible teaches us that at death the spirit departs from the body. The body disintegrates, returns to dust. The spirit goes to the place of departed spirits. Jesus told a story about a rich man and a poor man named Lazarus. At the time of their death the spirit of the rich man – who was not righteous – went to a place of suffering and torment. But the spirit of poor Lazarus went to a place of comfort. Now here is this passage, Jesus teaches that at some point in the future, the physical bodies of all people will come out of the grave. They will be resurrected.

In last week's message, we learned that when Jesus returns, the dead in Christ – that is those believers in Jesus who have died – will rise first. If their spirits have been in His presence as we learn from the story of the Rich Man and Lazarus, now their bodies will be resurrected and they will be complete – Body and Spirit as God intended.

But Jesus also says that not only will the righteous be resurrected, He says that ALL who are in their graves will come out. He specifically says those who have done evil – the unrighteous will be raised along with those who have been righteous. The Old Testament prophet Daniel also speaks about resurrection. **12 “At that time Michael, the great prince who protects your people, will arise. There will be a time of distress such**

as has not happened from the beginning of nations until then. But at that time your people—everyone whose name is found written in the book—will be delivered. ² Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake: some to everlasting life, others to shame and everlasting contempt.

It appears from the teaching of the Bible that these resurrections – the righteous and the unrighteous – do not occur at the same time. But all will be raised. This resurrection then is followed by a time of Judgment. In the book of Revelation we are told about this Judgment. ***Revelation 20:11-15: ¹¹ Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. The earth and the heavens fled from his presence, and there was no place for them. ¹² And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books. ¹³ The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what they had done. ¹⁴ Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death. ¹⁵ Anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was thrown into the lake of fire.***

Facts about the Judgment:

- The Bible teaches us that God is the Sovereign Creator of the world. He is the Creator of all people. **All people** are accountable to Him. This time of judgment does not only include Christians, but all people.
- This Judgment is based on our works. It is sobering for us to realize that a record is being kept of all our lives. Nothing that we have done goes unnoticed. We are accountable for everything
- Our works manifest the faith in our hearts.
- There is a 2nd book – the Book of Life. The names of believers are recorded in this 2nd book. Is your name recorded in that Book?

Conclusion: Life in this world is not all there is. There is another world, after we leave this one. What happens in this life will determine our destiny in the next world.

John 3:16 – ***For God so loved the world that He gave His One and Only Son, that whoever believes in Him, will not perish but have everlasting life.***

If you have never put your faith in Jesus as the Son of God, as your Savior, I encourage you to do so today.