



The Shepherd's Voice

by Fr. Joe Rees

November 5, 2013

“God of the Living!

“But that the dead are raised, even Moses showed, in the passage about the bush, where he calls the Lord the God of Abraham and the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob. Now he is not God of the dead, but of the living, for all live to Him.” Luke 20: 37-38.

Here is the most convincing conviction of Jesus' Word to us about life after death. “All live to Him.” In other words all return to God. We meet our Creator. We also meet our Judge. God loves us but He has given us a whole lifetime to work out what we believe about Him and His purpose for living. He is not God of the dead. Therefore, those who are judged not capable of continuing within His Kingdom of Heaven, they will surely live outside of heaven throughout eternity. All will live...it's just where we will live!?!

Jesus speaks to this group of Sadducees (who claim there is no resurrection of the dead) and refutes their position and reason for being in that class of their religious society! These antagonists set up Jesus with points of Levitical law concerning “whose wife will she be? For all seven men had married her?!” Jesus says brilliantly... it's not like that in heaven! He says, “...for they cannot die anymore...!” In heaven, there will be no more death, we will be equal to angels (but don't become angels!), we are forever the sons and daughters of the Father (a perfect family, with perfect family relationships), in perfect harmony! In that place there is no jealousy or possessiveness, so one does not need to be in the covenant of marriage because each person will be in the perfect covenant of love with our Lord. Perfect Love sharing completely in that Love. In

fact, probably nothing will be known as “Mine”. People in heaven will love one another so perfectly that there is no need for marriage, just as Jesus says. Sure wish that we could live in perfect love now. There would never be any tiring of people, boredom with a spouse, eyes that latch on to someone else because they are ‘more beautiful’ than the other...because all will be perfectly beautiful (no aging in heaven). No temptations for sex because likely that's not needed anymore. I imagine we will be more beautiful than the most beautiful time we've ever had on earth. We'll all just enjoy one another. So, in Jesus' Kingdom, all seven of her husbands, if the Lord finds them worthy to enter into heaven, will enjoy sweet fellowship with her and one another. No jealousy, no regrets, no rejection, no fear.

However, note what the Lord says, “but those who are considered worthy to attain to that age and to the resurrection from the dead...,” indicating we must pass through His gate. It is the gate of His scrutiny, His judgment, His final Word upon our lives...a pass/fail...final vote by the Judge. But He isn't capricious nor is He unfair. He cannot be coerced, or conned. He knows the truth of our lives before we get there. We have had ample time to decide. But, did we, do we decide when the time is right, when He has presented His Way to us?? Jesus says, “if you have seen Me you have seen the Father” and “I am the way, the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.”(Jn 14: 6ff). He also says...“If you believe in Me, you have eternal life!”...“He who hears My word and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life.”(Jn 5:24) He judges with pure justice, all will hear His Voice...they will come forth from the graves

and “those who have done good to a resurrection of life, those who have done evil to the resurrection of judgment.” (Jn 5: 29). True ‘good’ is not merely good deeds that make people feel good. True good, is having the Lord Jesus, our God, at the center of your being so that all you do is done to glorify Him and increase His Kingdom on earth as it is in Heaven. Jesus says, “There is only one who is good, God alone.” Thus, He is the judge of those who are living the life of Christ...or not. Facades are all too familiar. Being a Christian by stating it in a national poll is typical, but living life by doing Christ from your heart is altogether another thing. As we say, ‘it’s where the rubber meets the road.’

This week many of us will be hosting at our homes the Billy Graham video, The Cross, in which Billy, one more time for his 95th birthday, clearly states the Gospel of Jesus Christ. He boldly asks the question, ‘will you receive Christ into your hearts?’ Pray for us. We’ll be asking

people to make a commitment for living according to faith in Jesus Christ. It’s an opportunity to have the Lord hear their responses so that He’ll know them by their faith in Him, and He’ll have that in His book when the judgment comes, when they will pass through the Gate—Jesus. Will they have the assurance of “attaining to that age and resurrection into His eternal heaven?” We who believe in Jesus know that we are assured. We will rise. We will spend all eternity with Him who saved us from sin and death and gave us life with Him in heaven. We live to Him.

“All will live to Him”...one way or another. Choose this day Whom you will believe in and serve with worship.

Praying for all of us on this journey of faith in Jesus.

In His Love,

Sunday Servers

November 10, 2013			9:00 a.m. Service
First Reader	Job 19:23-27a		Doug Hall
Psalm Reader	Psalm 17		Josiah Gilman
Second Reader	2 Thessalonians 2:13-5:5	Second Sunday	Randy Stewart
Intercessors		One Service	Mitch Dubski
Lay Euch. Ministers			Trish Stewart, Josiah Gilman
Acolytes			Mitch D (C); Kalani C (T1); Kai C (T2)
Welcomers			Jane Rost, Anna Teixeira
Ushers			Ted Vallas, Jackie Lansing, Ray Seibold
Vestry Person of Day	Alfred Focke		
Healing Ministers			Ann & JR Fox
Announcer			Jani Dubski
Counters			Cline Handy & Michael Murphy

Save the Dates!

SMILE! We are having our pictures professionally done for the new pictorial directory at Grace. The photographer will be here on December 5, 6, & 7th You will be called to make an appointment or check our website for a link to make your appointment online.

Pledge Cards

If you haven't already done it, please turn in you're anonymous pledge card on Sunday so we can have some basis on which to plan next year's budget.

This Week at Grace

November 5, - November 12, 2013

Tues. November 5

11:30 a.m. Rector's Bible Study
4:30 p.m. Healing prayer and Eucharist at CHC
7:00 p.m. Fr. Joe's Teaching on Revelation

Wed. November 6

8:30 a.m. Morning Prayer & Eucharist
9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting

Thurs. November 7

Fr. Richard's day off
7:00 a.m. Bible Study
11:30 a.m. Healing Eucharist at CHC
7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Fri. November 8

Fr. Joe's day off
10:00 a.m. Morning Prayer at CHC
6:30 p.m. Evening Prayer & Healing

Sat. November 9

8:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study
10:00 p.m. Praise Team rehearsal

Sun. November 10

25th Sunday after Pentecost

7:30 a.m. Spoken Eucharist Service
8:45 a.m. Nursery opens
9:00 a.m. Children's Church
9:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist with combined choir and praise team

Mon. November 11

Office Closed for Veteran's Day

Tues. November 12

11:30 a.m. Rector's Bible Study
4:30 p.m. Healing prayer and Eucharist at CHC
7:00 p.m. Fr. Joe's Teaching on Revelation

Bible Readings this Weeks

Job 19:23-27

Psalms 17

2 Thessalonians 2:12-3:5

Luke 20:27-38

We are using the English Standard Version of the Bible and the Lectionary from the Book of Common Prayer (Year C)

Upcoming Events

Nov. 13 Soaking Prayer, 6:30pm
Nov. 15 A Time of Liturgical Contemplation, 7:00pm
Nov. 28 Thanksgiving Service at Grace, 10:30am
Nov. 28 Thanksgiving Dinner at Grace, 11:30am
Nov. 29 Church Office Closed.
Nov. 30 Decorate the church, 10am
Dec. 5,6 & 7-Pictures taken for new directory.
Dec. 15 Angel Tree Party—2:00pm
Dec. 22 Children's Christmas program & Party
Dec. 24 Christmas Eve services—5 & 10 pm
Dec. 25 Christmas Day service—10:00am



Operation Christmas Child

"The Shoebox Ministry"

Fill a shoebox with small gifts for a boy or a girl and mark the box with the age group of the selected items. There will be more information available on Sunday. If you cannot fill a shoebox, please consider donating money towards the \$7.00 per box that it costs to ship the boxes. Every bit helps.

Angel Tree Ministry

We still have the names of children of incarcerated parents available for you to buy gifts for the child. We will have a party for the children as they come to pick up their gifts on December 15th. Your help with the party is needed. See Tina Murphy for more information.