

*This midweek study will explore the biblical doctrine of the resurrection.*

### Essential Doctrine: Resurrection

Both the Old and New Testament teach that one day believers will experience a resurrection of the body from the dead (Isa. 26:19; Ezek. 37:12-14; John 11). The promise of the resurrection is found in the resurrection of Christ from the dead, and will take place at the future return of Christ. Because Christ was the first fruits of the resurrection, Christians can be assured that their resurrection will be similar in nature, meaning it will be both bodily and glorious (Rom. 8:22-23; Phil. 3:20-21). The hope of the future resurrection gives Christians confidence that death has been defeated in the death and resurrection of Christ.

### 1 The resurrection completes the work of the first Adam in the last Adam (Gen. 1:28; Rev. 21:1-2).

- ▶ What was God's original plan for humanity?

#### Read Genesis 1:28.

- ▶ So what exactly were Adam and Eve originally supposed to do?
- ▶ How would things be different if Adam and Eve had successfully obeyed this command?
- ▶ What happened to this command when Adam and Eve failed? Does this command still have any relevance for us today?
- ▶ What will the final heaven be like when Jesus returns?

#### Read Revelation 21:1-2.

- ▶ According to this passage, where is "heaven" primarily located after Jesus' return? (Note: You may find it necessary to distinguish between heaven as it is now and heaven as it will be after Jesus' return. Right now, heaven is a spiritual realm. After Jesus returns, "heaven" will enter the physical realm.)
- ▶ Is Revelation 21:1-2 a picture of what would have happened if Adam and Eve had succeeded?
- ▶ Who finishes what Adam and Eve started?
- ▶ Where will we be in this new creation? If the new creation is a physical place, what kinds of things might we be doing there?

### 2 Our resurrection will be like Jesus': physical and glorious (1 Cor. 15:42-49).

- ▶ Why do Christians make such a big deal about the empty tomb?
- ▶ Do you think it's important to know Jesus' resurrection was physical, not merely spiritual?
- ▶ What about our resurrection? Will it be physical or just spiritual? Does it matter? Which would you prefer?

#### Read 1 Corinthians 15:42-49.

- ▶ How does Paul repeatedly compare our present bodies to our future bodies? Does this description get you excited for our resurrection?

- ▶ Paul calls the raised body a spiritual body, but he doesn't mean it's a spirit only. He means it's a physical body that is supernatural. Consider Jesus' physical resurrection. What supernatural things could His body do? What supernatural things might we be able to do?

### 3 The resurrection is to enable us to enjoy God more and more (1 John 3:2; Eph. 2:7).

- ▶ We just talked about the supernatural physical bodies we will have. Why do you think God will give us such supernatural physical bodies in the resurrection?

#### Read 1 John 3:2.

- ▶ Look carefully at the flow of John's logic. According to this verse, could we see Jesus like He is now? Why not? What is necessary for us to see Him like He is?
- ▶ What was John saying about resurrection bodies? What will happen to our capacity for wonder and joy and pleasure when we are resurrected like Jesus?
- ▶ Can you imagine what it would be like to see color for the first time after being born blind? Does this idea of being able to enjoy new experiences excite you?

#### Read Ephesians 2:7.

- ▶ Why do you think Paul said it would take ages for God to dispense the glorious riches of His grace to us?
- ▶ How do promises like these compel us to build up treasures in heaven now? What are some specific examples of storing up treasures in heaven?
- ▶ How do promises like these compel us to share the good news of Jesus with those who currently reject Him? How might you use these glorious promises to attract people to Jesus?

### WRAP IT UP

- ▶ Imagine someone said to you, "Ugh. Eternity in heaven. How boring. I don't want to be a wafting spirit in an eternal church service." Use today's lesson to respond to him or her.