



SUNDAY MORNING

AT BETHANY BAPTIST CHURCH

Title: The God of the Living

Passage: Luke 20:27-40

Speaker: Pastor Dan Preston

Introduction: Is there life after death? Most people hope there is, but many doubt it. They say the only thing we know for sure is the life we are now living. According to the worldview of secular humanism, our biology is our destiny. When our hearts stop beating, our minds cease to exist, and nothing is left of us. Some people said basically the same thing in the time of Christ. Some of them even tried to prove it to Jesus.

"Human destiny is only an episode between two oblivions." - Ernest Nagel

"But when Paul perceived that the one part were Sadducees, and the other Pharisees, he cried out in the council, Men and brethren, I am a Pharisee, the son of a Pharisee: of the hope and resurrection of the dead I am called in question. And when he had so said, there arose a dissension between the Pharisees and the Sadducees: and the multitude was divided. For the Sadducees say that there is no resurrection, neither angel, nor spirit: but the Pharisees confess both." (Acts 23:6-8)

"If brethren dwell together, and one of them die, and have no child, the wife of the dead shall not marry without unto a stranger: her husband's brother shall go in unto her, and take her to him to wife, and perform the duty of an husband's brother unto her. And it shall be, that the firstborn which she beareth shall succeed in the name of his brother which is dead, that his name be not put out of Israel." (Deuteronomy 25:5-6)

1. A Bad Question

It was a bad question because it was not a question at all.



SUNDAY MORNING
AT BETHANY BAPTIST CHURCH

It was a bad question because it used a biblical premise in order to advance an unbiblical conclusion

“Jesus answered and said unto them, Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God.” (Matthew 22:29)

“But if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen: And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain. Yea, and we are found false witnesses of God; because we have testified of God that he raised up Christ: whom he raised not up, if so be that the dead rise not. For if the dead rise not, then is not Christ raised: And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins. Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished. If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable.” (1 Corinthians 15:13-19)

Two points:

- A. It is helpful to remember that we have everything we need in Christ. In heaven, we will find complete satisfaction in our relationship with Him.
- B. In heaven, everything is perfected. This means our love will be perfected. So even though we are not married, we will be able to love others perfectly in a way we could not have in this life.

2. The Truth About the Resurrection

- A. Not everyone will go to heaven.

The only people who reach the blessings of the resurrection are the people that God considers worthy.

“And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith:” (Philippians 3:9)

- B. When God raises us from the dead, we will never die again.



SUNDAY MORNING AT BETHANY BAPTIST CHURCH

Eventually, even the best things in life must end, but our happiness in God will be endless. By the power of His resurrection, the glories of the coming age will continue forever.

C. God will raise us to be His children.

Jesus calls us the “children of the resurrection.” This is the highest status we can ever be given, and it applies to all who are accounted worthy.

God will not leave his children in the grave but raise them and bring them home to be with him forever.

3. The Proof of the Resurrection

How do we know that all this is really true? How can we be certain that without any merit of our own but only because God has counted us worthy in Christ, we will be raised to live forever with our Father in heaven?

God identified Himself with Moses as the God who made everlasting promises to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. The way He said it was significant:

“Moreover he said, I am the God of thy father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob...” (Exodus 3:6)

Conclusion: If God could not raise the dead, He would not be much of a God. But He is the God of the living, and raises the dead. Therefore, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob are alive and will continue to be alive forever. Everyone who comes to God through faith in Jesus Christ has the same resurrection life. We will be raised from the dead by the power of the living God so that we can glorify God and enjoy Him forever. He is the God of all people we love who, by faith, accepted Him during their lives and who have gone ahead of us into glory. Most importantly of all, have you accepted Him by faith?



Bethany Baptist Church • 4402 40th Street • Lubbock, TX 79414
806.799.2464 • churchstillworks.org • Dan Preston, Pastor