

Respond to this sermon quote and quote from CS Lewis in his book *Miracles*:

[Sermon] "This physical form you and I live in now is the gift of a generous God. It is a gift are meant to steward carefully and with gratitude for as long as we live in it; but the good news is that these bodies are not our permanent means of movement. They are, in a sense, merely training vehicles – a preparation and hint at what is to come."

[CS Lewis] "These small and perishable bodies we now have were given to us as ponies are given to schoolchildren. We must learn to manage them faithfully: not that we may some day be free of horses altogether, but that some day we may ride bareback, confident and rejoicing, those greater mounts, those winged, shining and world-shaking horses which perhaps even now expect us with impatience, pawing and snorting in the King's stables. Not that the gallop would be of any value unless it were a gallop with the King; but how else— since He has retained His own charger—should we accompany Him" on the glorious rides that will be commonplace when we are in heaven?

Describe the hope we have in *resurrection*:

How does (or should) the gospel and resurrection impact our life NOW and the days/years ahead of us?

GETTING THE GOSPEL: Reflect on these many realities of the gospel:

- The sacrifice of Jesus on the cross wiped away the sin and guilt that blocked you from communion with your Creator. If you will admit your need, believe in his grace, and commit yourself to following him, you can **Get right with God (*justification*)**. If you've never sought Christ in that way, do it today.
- Through this restored connection, God's life will then begin to flow through and regenerate your character. He can help you progressively **Overcome your character flaws (*sanctification*)**. You can become a whole new creation.
- Now you don't have to navigate through life on guesswork anymore. God's Word and Holy Spirit are like a GPS that enables you to **Set your course by reliable truth (*revelation*)**.
- The more you pay attention to that guidance, the more you start viewing other creatures and this whole creation with God's eyes. You see them as the priceless works of art that they are and you begin to **Participate with God in his work of reclaiming and renewing the world (*redemption*)**. Wherever you go, you seek to foster communities of love, mercy, and justice where people can flourish as they were intended to.

- And when you cross the finish line one day, you know that while your race here is over, your life is just beginning. Because of Jesus, you will Enjoy life beyond death (*resurrection*). You will run and not be weary. You will gallop with God in a way that will make your best time here on earth seem like the life of a snail.
- But the news is gooder still. As I'll talk about in my Thanksgiving message, when you are around the Great Banquet table with God, he will accomplish the final transformation. You will not only be eternally alive. You will Love with the greatest love of all (*glorification*).

How does understanding the gospel this way change or impact how you have previously thought about the gospel?

NEXT STEPS

- Continue to reflect on the gospel and how it is (and should be) impacting your life.
- Take time to note (written or processed with a friend) what you are learning and how your life is being impacted.