

In the Barn!

Barneys Newsletter



No. 16 – July 10th



Good News: Bunnings Sausages Returning!

community groups to run it for the day as way of raising money. And so it was sad to see it suspended.

Its rumoured return suggests life appears to be moving to some sort of normalcy after the CoVid lockdowns of early 2020. As we, and especially the wardens plan the return of church later this month, it is with great hope that we will not endure another lockdown period similar to that gripping Melbourne at the present time. Governments as well as ourselves create plans in the midst of uncertainty of what will happen with infections continuing to threaten the nation.

The overall feeling I've gotten

This year has provided me plenty of good reasons to go to Bunnings. As I have gone, one of the visible things missing from Bunnings this year has been the sausage sizzle. I have never bought a sausage sandwich at Bunnings (because I don't carry cash), but I sure noticed when it was suspended in March. Bunnings, though not officially running the stall, allows

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The Hope of Resurrection Bodies

by Elise Brake

Have you ever wondered what our bodies will be like in eternity? The Bible promises us that, as Christians, we look forward to a resurrected life without pain, suffering or tears as everything will be made new (Rev 21:4). But what will this new creation look like – and how will we exist in it? While some aspects of this question may not be able to be answered, there is a lot the Bible does teach us about what our resurrection will look like – and we see it in Jesus' own resurrection.

As Nicky shared with us last week, Jesus resurrection from the dead is what guarantees our freedom from sin and death. If Jesus had not risen from

the dead, there would be no hope that we too would enjoy a resurrection after our death. But as 1 Cor 15:20 says: "Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the first-fruits of those who have fallen asleep." We see in Jesus resurrection a foretaste of what we too will enjoy when we are given resurrection bodies. Jesus walked around in a body and appeared physically to people after his death – he was recognisable, though changed.

Paul helpfully uses the imagery of a seed to describe how we too will enjoy a physical resurrection in 1 Cor 15 (specifically v.35-44). Our bodies now are like seeds which are perishable (i.e. they will die), sown in the dishonour of sin, subject

to weakness and decay just as the natural world we live in is subject to decay (Rom 8:20-21). We are like the first Adam, who was a natural man with a natural body, meant to live under God's good rule but choosing to rebel and live with the consequences of sin and death. However, in Jesus (the last Adam), we will receive new, physical bodies that have been spiritually transformed and will be imperishable, raised in glory and in power (v. 42-44). Jesus, the true Adam, lived perfectly under God's rule and through his death and resurrection, destroyed sin and death. In him we have the secure hope of a glorious, physical resurrection in eternity.

So will our new resurrection bodies look the same as our bodies do now? What about the saints who have died before us, whose bodies have decayed or become dust? Well, Paul is clear that "flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable" (v. 50). Our bodies now are not suited for eternal glory. We will all be transformed when Jesus returns – whether we are alive on earth in that moment or have

"fallen asleep" in death. No one who has put their faith in Jesus will miss out on a new, glorious resurrected body!

Not only this, but we know that in Jesus, death itself has already been defeated, as has sin. He writes: When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: "Death has been swallowed up in victory" (v.54). Jesus has already won victory over sin and death at the cross, but this victory will be finally realised when he returns and brings in the new creation.

We will all be transformed when Jesus returns...

Implications

1. We should see the decay our bodies experience with age as a pointer to the glorious reality of the resurrection. There is no shame in aging!
2. We can have hope, that the pain and suffering we experience in our bodies now will not be forever. We look forward to our new, transformed bodies!
3. We do not have to fear death – Jesus resurrection has freed us from slavery to sin and death. We can eagerly anticipate the glorious eternity we shall all share!



6 months this week, but I've done so building a fair degree of flexibility into those plans in case circumstances change without

much notice. This has been somewhat frustrating. But reflecting upon the circumstances in light of God's word has helped put things in perspective. In Deuteronomy we read:

"If you say to yourself, 'These nations are greater than I; how can I drive them out?' do not

be afraid of them. Be sure to remember what the LORD your God did to Pharaoh and all Egypt: the great trials that you saw, the signs and wonders, the strong hand and outstretched arm, by which the LORD your God brought you out. The LORD your God will do the same to all the peoples you fear."

(Deuteronomy 7:17-19)

As Israel stood at the edge of the promised land, they stood as a small refugee nation against many entrenched and secure nations larger and more powerful than themselves. God's word came as many feared an uncertain future in an uncertain land. God wanted Israel to remember what he had done in the past as they pondered the future. And God kept His promises to Israel and brought them into the promised land.

In amongst all the uncertainty of life at present, we need to remember our hope is not built on unsure foundations. In Jesus' resurrection, God has given us certainty of a better future and guaranteed it through His Spirit. Bunnings cooking sausages may give us some hope for certainty today, but the circumstances of our lives can change in a moment. The truly good news is Christ has secured our tomorrow beyond the grave, and that can never be taken away!

In Christ,
Adam.

speaking to different people about their plans for the later half of this year is one of fatigue mixed with some frustration. People are making plans knowing they can be all thrown out tomorrow as circumstances change. This constant uncertainty tires people. Personally, I've had some time to plan for the next

Find-A-Word - Life & Hope

Bunnings	Faith	Knowing	Sailing
Certainty	Frustration	Life	Seedling
Circumstances	God	Perspective	Trust
Corinthians	Grave	Resurrection	Write
Deuteronomy	Hope	Right	Wrong
Eternal	Jesus	Romans	

N S H U C K Y D S U A U H M S
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