

## LGC Statement of Faith #8 – “The Bodily Resurrection...”

*[We believe] In the bodily resurrection of the dead; of the believer to everlasting life with the Lord in heaven, and of the unbeliever to everlasting judgment and separation from God.*

(2 Thessalonians 1:6-10; 1 Corinthians 15:12-58; Luke 16:19-31; 23:39-43; John 5:24-29; 14:1-3)

**To fully appreciate the significance of both bodily resurrections (everlasting life/everlasting judgment) we need to understand the severity of physical death and its related sufferings.**

- = Physical death is the result of sin, but it is not the final *everlasting judgment*. (Rom. 5:12; Heb. 9:27)
- = “All is vanity....” “Our outer self is wasting away....” (Ecc. 1:14; Psalm 90:9-11; 2 Cor 4:16-18)
- = While Christians have the hope of eternal life—the weight of glory, we still experience the effects of sin’s *curse*. We are not exempt from the suffering that accompanies physical death. (Romans 8:18)
  - It is not *un-spiritual* for believers to suffer and grieve because of physical death:  
Consider Jesus, the apostle Paul and C.S. Lewis.

**Life in this fallen, sin-cursed world gives us *slices of heaven and glimpses of hell*.**

- = Our earthly experiences—good and bad—give us insights into the “*unseen*” realities of heaven and hell.
  - *Slices of Heaven*
  - *Glimpses of Hell*
- = The Bible helps us to understand through metaphors and symbols:
  - Feasting and rest (e.g., Psalm 23; Revelation 19)
  - “...Cast him into the outer darkness...there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.” (Matt 22:13)

**Physical death and its related sufferings are not God’s final judgment (called “the second death” in Revelation.) But we should view these things as His *loving discipline*.**

- = For the unbeliever... (Psalm 90:9-12; Ecc 1:14; Rom 6:23; Psalm 103:13-18)
  - To come to a spiritual understanding of their mortality and to see the vanity in their earthly life
  - To see death as the consequence for their sin against a just and holy God
  - To develop a *reverent fear* of the Lord—a fear that gives us the desire to run **to** Him, not **from** Him
- = For the Christian...
  - To increasingly conform us to the image of Christ (Romans 8:28-29)
  - To keep our minds, hearts and conduct set on heavenly things—the *things above* (Col. 3; Psalm 90:12)

**Because of the power of the Gospel and our hope of the resurrection, our earthly lives are no longer *vanity and striving after the wind*! The Christian life has meaning and purpose!**

- = **1 Corinthians 15:58** - Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain. (ESV)
- = Even the mundane things of life are important, as we are called to do them for the glory of God. (1 Cor 10:31)
- = We are called to share the Gospel, giving others “the reason for the **hope**” we have. (1 Peter 3:15; 2 Peter 3:9)
- = We can serve our fellow believers with our gifts for the strengthening of the Church. (1 Cor 12:7; 14:12)

**2 Cor. 4:16-18** - So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. 17 For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, 18 as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal. (ESV)