

ADVENT DEVOTIONAL



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2021

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Order of Worship
21 November 2021
The Twenty-Sixth Sunday after Pentecost
(Reign of Christ)

We Gather to Worship God

Welcome
Worship in Song
Call to Worship
Worship in Song

We Listen to the Scriptures

Prayer
Sermon Series: Heretic-Facing Misguided Beliefs
Sermon: Part 3 - "Heaven Is Important,
But It's Not the End of the World"

We Come to the Table

Prayer of Confession and Consecration
The Lord's Prayer
We Eat and Drink Together
We Celebrate the Eucharist in Song

We Go to Live in the Reign of God

Community Life
Doxology
Blessing and Sending

NEW HOPE CHRISTMAS BLESSING

*Collecting items for families in need
Nov. 14th through Dec. 5th*

Visit the
Christmas tree
in the church
lobby to pick
up a tag for
needed gifts



Questions?
Contact the
church office
(717) 774-6444
or
office@tablelifechurch.org



Our mission is to learn the way of Jesus together as we invite others to join us at His Table.

Our Common Practices

We Gather

- We gather for worship more often than not.
- We gather in smaller groups to connect, learn, and grow.
- We create hospitable space for one another.

We Grow

- We attend the means of grace daily. (i.e. We attend to the presence of God through Scripture reading and meditation, prayer on behalf of others and myself, breath prayer, spiritual reading and study...).
- We nurture our faith.
- We attend to relationships that promote growth.
- We develop and learn as human beings made in the image of God.

We Give

- We are a generous people who give our time and resources to the mission of God and the world.
- We tithe as the means through which our community enjoys fiscal health so as to minister generously.

We Go

- We follow Jesus into the world as His healing presence.
- We help the vulnerable among us.
- We go into the world offering Jesus' invitation to gather at His Table.

Heretic

Part 3: "Heaven Is Important, But It's Not the End of the World" Pastor Jeffrey Wolfe

What has been your view of the Afterlife? What has contributed to this view?

1. What has been the historical Christian view of the Afterlife?

- a. The Apostle's Creed states: "We believe...in the _____ of the body and the life _____."
- b. The Early Church's primary focus was on the coming of the New _____ and the New _____.

Revelation 21:1-2 "Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ² And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband."

2. The Apostles rooted their teaching on the Afterlife or as N.T. Wright more correctly states it.... "The life after the afterlife" in the redeeming work of Christ.

- a. The focus was to proclaim the certain _____ that the salvation God in Christ has started will be completed in the whole of creation.
- b. To put it another way, what God began in Genesis 1 & 2, but was broken by _____ will be renewed and restored and made whole again.

Romans 8:19-21: "For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God."

3. When did Heaven become such a focus for After-life discussion?

a. The Enlightenment period became the height of a shift away from a focus on the _____ of God's Kingdom to a emphasis on escaping to another place.

b. Western _____ teaches that matter (the body) and spirit (or soul) are separate.

c. Gnostics as early as the New Testament period taught that _____ was the escape from the corrupt body to a higher form of existence.

d. This is refuted by the Apostle John in his first letter when he writes:

1 John 1:1-2 "We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life—this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us—"

4. What we call heaven is only a temporary stop on the way to _____ revelation of God's ultimate reign on earth.

a. Heaven is not so much a physical place but the realization that God's _____ is being experienced.

b. To say that a loved one is in Heaven is to say that they are in the _____ presence of God.

c. There are only _____ major texts which give any indication of what happens after death occurs (Luke 23, John 14: 2; 2 Corinthians 5:8-9)

d. Paradise is the blissful _____ where God's people rest prior to the resurrection.

Big Idea: _____

Doggy Bag: Something to take home and chew on!



1. How has your view of what happens next shaped the way you live your life?
2. How might placing an emphasis on the coming of the New Heaven and Earth change the way you live today?
3. What do you think about when you consider salvation for all of creation & not just humans?
4. Why does it matter that the Church believes in a bodily resurrection?
5. How might this impact the way we think about death?