

Kootenai Communicator

April
2020

The monthly newsletter of Kootenai Community Church, Kootenai, Idaho

Important Dates <<<

April

12 Resurrection Day, and Pancake Breakfast

Expounding the Scriptures, Exhorting the Saints,
Exalting the Savior

ALL ACTIVITIES SUBJECT TO CHANGE - PLEASE BE ALERT TO EMAIL AND TEXT NOTIFICATIONS!

Resurrection Part 3 The Resurrection of the Cosmos

By Jim Osman, Pastor/Teacher

Everyone is resurrected. Everyone gets a new body! Both the righteous and the wicked will receive a body in which they will spend eternity. Perhaps you have never thought in those terms before, but after reading the first two articles in this series, I hope the reality of that is starting to impress itself upon your thinking.¹

If the righteous get a new body in which to spend eternity, then where will we be? What will that eternal state be like? Will it be a physical place or a spiritual realm of sorts? These questions will be answered as we look at what the Bible says about a third resurrection, the resurrection of Creation.

The Purpose of Creation

God did not create matter simply to throw it away in the end. The purpose of this creation is to show forth the glory of the Creator. Even in its present fallen state, "The heavens are telling of the glory of God; and their expanse is declaring the work of His hands" (Psalm 19:1). However, this creation is only a glimpse at the glory of God, and a marred one at that.

God gave you a body that you might glorify Him with it (1 Cor. 6:19-20). As John Piper aptly notes, "God created the universe and all that is in it as an emanation or manifestation of the fullness of His glory."² God is not backing out of that plan. He will see that intention through to its realization. God will glorify Himself through human beings, human bodies, and through a perfect creation.

Once again, Christianity does not view matter as inherently evil. Again, Piper writes, "Christianity is not a platonic religion that regards material things as mere shadows of reality, which will be sloughed off as soon as possible. Not the mere immortality of the soul, but rather the resurrection of the body and the renewal of all creation is the hope of the Christian faith. Just as our bodies will be raised imperishable for the glory of God, so the earth itself will be made new and fit for the habitation of risen and glorified persons."³

But I Like This World!

During the summer months, I enjoy waking up to a pot of fresh-brewed coffee as the sun is just coming up over the mountains. A couple of times a week, I pour some coffee, slip on my shoes, and take a leisurely stroll around my yard.

I see the birds flitting from tree to tree. The dew on the ground, the gentle breeze, clean air, and the warmth of the sunshine in the coolness of the morning are all reminders to me of God's goodness, grace, and glory. I walk through my garden marveling at the design and care of God in His creation as plants grow and prepare to produce food. I walk through the fruit trees examining the progress of the harvest. I thank God.

During some of my morning strolls, I can almost find myself thinking, "How could creation be any better than this?" Then I have to remember that this creation is marred, twisted, and dominated by sin. It lies under a curse (Romans 8:20) and groans to be free from it. All around me I can see death, disease, and the disfigurement of something glorious. My peaches have scabs, my tomatoes fight blight, my cherry trees will be a home for worms, and my apple trees produce twisted, gnarled, and deficient fruit. These are the effects of sin and the curse.

Yet I still love creation. I love this world. It is beautiful in so many ways! Could it possibly get better than this? Yes! Most certainly! And it will. In fact, we live in the shadowlands. It is a mere image, a shadow of the beauty and glory that is to come.

The Resurrection of Creation

God's intention is to make His eternal dwelling among men on a new earth. Revelation 21 describes an enrapturing picture of that future magnificence:

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and there is no longer any sea. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice

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from the throne, saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them, and He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be any death; there will no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away" (21:1-4).

What does John mean when he says that the first heaven and the first earth passed away? Does he mean that this earth on which we live will cease to exist?

Part of the answer is given to us by Peter in his second epistle where he writes:

But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up. Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be destroyed by burning, and the elements will melt with intense heat! But according to His promise we are looking for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells (2 Peter 3:10-13).

We are looking for a new heaven and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. Before there will be a new heaven and a new earth, this one must "pass away." Peter tells us that this creation will be "burned up." Three times he says that there will be a destruction of this present world. Notice the wording,

- v. 10 - "elements will be destroyed with intense heat"
- v. 11 - "all these things are to be destroyed"
- v. 12 - "the heavens will be destroyed by burning"

Does this mean that the earth we live on and the heavens we live under will be totally done away with? Will God start over with a totally new creation? How are we to understand the terms "destroyed," "burned up," and "pass away?"

Recreation or Regeneration?

John's description of "a new heaven and a new earth" does not describe a place that is "totally other" than this present earth, but rather a renewed universe.

The word **new** (*kainos*) means "new in quality," "different," or "unlike anything previously known."⁴ If Peter and John wanted to speak of something that was new in origin or time, they would have used "*neos*" instead of "*kainos*." Therefore, the expression **new heaven and new earth** "means not the emergence of a cosmos totally other than the present one, but the creation of a universe which, though it has been gloriously renewed, stands in continuity with the present one."⁵

Further, the word "destroyed" used by Peter does not have to mean "put out of existence." Instead, it may mean that there is such a change in them that their present condition passes away. As John Piper remarks,

We might say, "The caterpillar passes away, and the butterfly emerges." There is a real passing away, and there is a real continuity, a real connection. . . We might say, "The flood destroyed many farms." But we don't mean they vanished out of existence. . . . And so what Peter may well mean is that at the end of this age there will be cataclysmic events that bring this world to an end as we know it - not putting it out of existence, but wiping out all that is evil and cleansing it by fire and fitting it for an age of

glory and righteousness and peace that will never end.⁶

So, does Scripture describe a complete disappearance of the old before being replaced by the new or a renovation of the old resulting in the new? Revelation 21:5 says that "he who sits on the throne said, 'Behold, I am making all things new.'" The most natural way of taking that statement is to understand that the Lord is promising a complete renovation of the existing creation.⁷

What Does Paul Have to Say?

Paul's description of the grand hope for the material world and our bodies shows us what is in store for this earth. It is not a total annihilation, but a regeneration.

We see this in Romans 8:19-23:

For the anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now. And not only this, but also we ourselves, having the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our body.

In that passage there are two things that Paul promises will be redeemed: creation and our bodies. Let me take those in reverse order.

We have already looked at the promise in Scripture of the resurrection of our body. Paul is well aware that we are shackled to "this body of death" (Rom. 7:24). The longing of the child of God is for the "redemption of our body" (8:23). We "groan" and "wait eagerly" for this final redemption.

Paul applies the same language to creation. Notice the imagery Paul uses:

- v. 20 - creation subjected in hope

Due to Adam's sin, God placed the entire creation under a curse, in hope, knowing that someday He would remove that curse and redeem this creation.

- v. 21 - creation to be set free from its slavery to corruption

As Piper writes, "*Therefore creation is not appointed for annihilation. It is destined for liberation.*" Clearly, Paul cannot be saying that this creation will be destroyed in the sense of annihilated or ceasing to exist. Rather it will be set free from its corruption. The curse will be removed and the futility will be destroyed. It will cease to exist as we currently know it. It will pass into its glorious liberty. The old will pass away being purged by fire. He will make all things new.

- v. 22 - creation groans

This creation does not groan under the curse, eagerly waiting for annihilation. It groans under the curse, eagerly waiting its regeneration. Like us, it longs to be set free from its bondage and experience its ultimate redemption - liberation from sin.

v. 23 - we ourselves groan. . . waiting eagerly. . . for the redemption of our body.

There is an obvious and essential connection in the passage between the redemption for which creation groans and the redemption for which we groan. Just

Continued on page 7



**Sunday
School
begins
at 9:30**

Sunday School <<<

4TH-6TH GRADE SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS: What an intelligent group of young people we have in this class! And what a large group! We have had up to 23 students in class in the past month! We need that upstairs finished soon! The 4th - 6th grade Sunday School class is taught by Diane Rich, with Kathy Conger and Holly Haymond assisting. We are studying the book of Genesis and learning so much! God's grace to man is so evident in this book, from the fall in the Garden of Eden, to the flood, and in His promises to Abraham and his descendants. This class is full of children who want to be in class, who desire to know more of God's Word, and who want to be trained. We may even have a future pastor in this class! What a joy it is for the teachers each week! Please pray for all of the teachers and the children in our Sunday School classes.

>>> Update from our Elders

Dear Kootenai Church Family,

As you have been watching events in this world unfold around the Covid-19 virus, you have probably been expecting the elders at Kootenai to make some tough decisions. We have had to do that very thing in the last couple of days. Here is the bottom line: we have decided to cancel Sunday morning worship services for March 22 and 29.

Here are some of our reasonings and concerns that led to this decision.

First and foremost, this appears to be a judicious action for the safety and health of our congregation as well as our community. Though we do not buy into the hype and panic currently peddled by the media, we do not think that ignoring the situation is a good option either. Since governing agencies and health providers are recommending no gatherings in excess of 10 people, we are going to abide by that for the next couple of weeks. It very well may be that our action is an overreaction to a non-threat. At the same time, it is possible that it is not an overreaction and we would prefer to err on the side of caution.

Second, taking this action is not a denial of nor lack of trust in the sovereignty of God. We do believe that God is sovereign and also that He uses the means of wisdom and human action and responsibility to accomplish His sovereign purposes. We can believe in the sovereignty of God and still wear seat belts and lock our doors at night. This is a precaution of the very same kind.

Third, we are not guilty of "forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some" (Hebrews 10:25). I have seen this hyper-critical response online to other church bodies who have opted to cancel services. That is not a valid concern. We are NOT in the habit of forsaking our assembly. We are not doing this because we fear persecution or because worldly attractions and priorities have captured our affections. Our concerns are not worldly or selfish by any measure. Rather, we believe that there could be a threat to the health of our congregation.

Though we are not meeting for the next two weeks, that does not mean that we are not "the church" or that we don't have concern for or responsibilities to one another. We want to make sure that those in our church body who have physical needs receive the help or care that they need. If you are in need of help or assistance in some way, please reach out to one of our deacons. You can send an email through the church website and we will do what we can to mobilize assistance.

A number have asked about online streaming options in lieu of the worship services and we will do what we can to provide some teaching on Sunday mornings through our various online channels. Our twitch channel (<https://www.twitch.tv/kcchurch>) will be active these next two Sunday mornings. Jim will be at the church and will be live streaming some teaching at our normal service times (Sunday School - 9:30, Worship Service - 10:45).

As of now, we have to assess all our church activities in light of the most current events. We will continue to evaluate the situation and respond in a manner we believe will be in the best interest of the saints at Kootenai. Decisions about worship services beyond March 29 as well as Resurrection Sunday Breakfast, and our Spring Conference will be made as we get closer to those events. Check your email for updates.

Finally, we want you to know that this was not an easy decision to make. There is no good option in this situation. There is no decision we could have made that would not open us up to criticism from some quarter. We wish to assure you of our love for this church body and our love for our worship times together. We are praying for you, your families, and our nation during this time. We trust in a sovereign God Who, we are certain, will use this for His glory and our good. Take every opportunity you have to share the good news of the gospel. We don't fear death and we should not respond in panic like those who do. Let our measured calmness be a testimony to our trust in God and love for others.

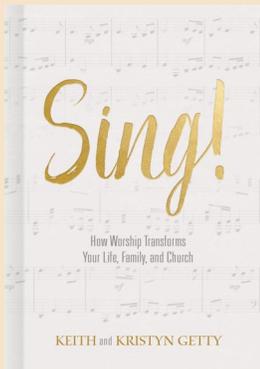
May the love of God, the grace of Christ, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be yours in the fullest measure.

Jim Osman
Cornel Rasor
Dave Rich
Jess Whetsel

**"You who fear the Lord, trust
in the Lord; He is their help
and their shield." / PS 115:11**



>>>Garden of Readin'



Sing!
 How Worship Transforms Your Life, Family, and Church
 by Keith and Kristyn Getty

Singing together transforms our lives, our families, our churches, and our witness. As Christian musicians and hymn writers, the Gettys explore how Christians are created, commanded, and compelled by God to sing, whether in church, with friends and family, or in our personal worship time. Includes special considerations for pastors, elders, worship leaders, musicians, producers, and songwriters.

Please contact Jenny Leo (208-610-2520) about donations or any library-related matter.

Women's Ministry <<<

Register by April 26

2020 Ladies' Retreat
 May 15-16

At beautiful
Camp Lutherhaven
 Featuring author
Susan Heck

The Lord is my strength and my song; He has given me victory. This is my God, and I will praise Him --my father's God and I will exalt Him! Exodus 15:2



CAN YOU HELP?
COLLEGE/MILITARY CARE PACKAGES

There is a need for someone to take on the ministry of collecting, packaging, and mailing care packages to those from our church who are in college or the military. If you are interested in this, please contact Diane Rich.




GET CONNECTED

Prayer Chain - Email Jennifer Barba if you would like to be added to the church Email Prayer Chain. barba@nctv.com
Weekly Email Update - Pastor Jim sends out a weekly update of things you want to know. Go to the church website, www.kootenaichurch.org, and click on the "Subscribe to our Newsletter" link.
Emergency Email (such as church closures) - Email Marcia Whetsel to be added to this list. secretary@nctv.com
Emergency Texts (again, such as church closures) - Please sign only one member up from each family. Sign up for this on the church website. <https://kootenaichurch.org/sms/>
 Or, use the following QR Codes from your smart phone to locate things quickly.

KCC Facebook Page



KCC Podcasts



KCC Activity Board



KCC Weekly Update



Student Ministries <<<

ALL ACTIVITIES SUBJECT TO CHANGE - PLEASE BE ALERT TO EMAIL AND TEXT NOTIFICATIONS!

APRIL DATES

- 1 Guys' and Girls' Bible Studies, 7:30-9 p.m.
- 8 Youth Group @ KCC, 7-9 p.m.
- 15 Guys' and Girls' Bible Studies, 7:30-9 p.m.
- 22 Youth Group @ KCC, 7-9 p.m.



Location Information

- Guys' Study - meet at Matt and Shelli Cowell's home
- Girls' Study - meet at Anna Bottcher's home
- Youth Group - meet at the church

>>>Kootenai Thunder

kootenaithunder.com

For the most current information, please check our website and Facebook page.



JUNIOR HIGH SEASON

What a fun Junior High season! We had a great turnout and many fun games. The kids learned so much and we are grateful to all the volunteers who make things happen.

Our Junior High season ended abruptly this week without our usual end-of-year tournament. The players and families were disappointed but we had no alternative given the current shutdowns.



AWARDS BANQUET

AS YOU MIGHT EXPECT, THE DATE AND DETAILS ARE CURRENTLY ON STANDBY. KEEP AN EYE ON YOUR EMAIL NOTICES FOR DETAILS.



SCHOLARSHIP DONATIONS:
 There is a scholarship fund for families that are unable to afford the player fee. If you would like to donate specifically to that, contact Diedre Osman.

>>>College and Career Ministries

College and Career Ministries CHANGES!

Brad and Jenny Stevens want to give you all an update on the College and Career group. Initially, their thought was to have a social and Bible study aspect to the group. However, it has turned out to be primarily a Bible study group. There does not seem to be enough consistent interest to sustain a group of just young adults. They've decided to continue the Bible study, but open it up to any age who would like to attend. The prayer is that this will meet the needs of those already attending as well as build the fellowship of people who live in the Cocolalla area.

NEW BIBLE STUDY

Dates: 2nd and 4th Tuesdays

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Where: Stevens' home
255 Kelly Creek Rd., Cocolalla

What: Read and discuss approximately one chapter of Acts

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Church News <<<



The Holy Land Crossroads Biblical Tour November 9-19, 2020

*11 days to the Land of
Jesus with Evangelist
Justin Peters
and Pastor
Dave Cunningham*

Contact Pastor Jim Osman if you are considering participating in this life-changing adventure.

SPRING EQUIPPING CONFERENCE 2020

**MAY
29-30**

FRIDAY 6PM-8PM
SATURDAY 9AM-4PM



FEATURING PAUL TAYLOR



Paul is an international speaker on creation, evolution, Genesis and apologetics. He travels to speak on the subject, and has previously spoken throughout the UK and Europe. Paul has formerly worked for Answers in Genesis (UK) and for Creation Today (based in Pensacola, FL). Paul has also addressed conferences throughout America, sharing platforms with major speakers.

Cost

Before April 30
\$50 Single
\$70 Family
- with Promo Code
After April 30
\$60 Single
\$80 Family
May 1-28
\$70 Single
\$90 Family
At the Door
\$75 Single
\$100 Family

MID-WEEK BIBLE STUDY

Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m.
at the church

Studying the book
of JONAH



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as our bodies will not be thrown away and cease to exist, but will be resurrected to a new, sinless, glorious, and eternal state, so will the creation which also groans and waits for that day of redemption.

*"What happens to our bodies and what happens to the creation go together. And what happens to our bodies is not annihilation but redemption: 'We await the redemption of our bodies.' Our bodies will be redeemed, restored, made new, not thrown away. And so it is with the heavens and the earth."*⁸

Physical Bodies in a Physical Heaven

Perhaps you used to think of heaven as some nebulous ghostly place where spirits wander around together, passing through each other; a place where you would reach out to shake someone's hand only to find nothing to grasp. Do you picture clouds with ghost-like figures floating through a vast expanse of sky? Bring your thinking down to earth. Literally. God is going to resurrect, redeem, restore this universe - this world - just like He will your body. You will live here! You will walk on grass - heavenly grass - and feel it on your feet. You will walk on streets, stand by rivers, see mountains, trees, people. There will be a city with gates that you will walk through. You will eat with Paul, Peter, and John. You will be able to walk, run, jump, swim, stand, sit, kneel, and SING!

There will be no sun or moon, for the glory of God will illumine it. There will be no night. The river of life will be here alongside the tree of life. If you think this world is beautiful, wait till you see it after God makes it all new! This world is nothing compared to the eternal state. This world has been cursed by sin, infected by thorns, destroyed by the flood, and ravaged by war, bloodshed, and man's abuse. Yet, it is still beautiful.

We will be raised in a physical body which will dwell on this physical earth (made new) for all of eternity, and our God will make His dwelling with us on this redeemed earth. We will get a new heaven and a new earth!

Allow me to indulge in a little "sanctified speculation." I want to have a garden on the new earth. I'll be able to tend it without having to worry about weeds! Weeds won't exist without the curse. It will grow REALLY well within perfect conditions. I'll be able to garden all year long. I'll never get sore. I'll never get blisters.

I want to have not one or two peach trees, but a field full of peach trees. I get lost in wonder when I eat a peach off my peach tree. Imagine what a home-grown peach will taste like when it's not under the curse! Apples, cherries, nectarines. I won't have to spray any of the trees!

Won't it be nice to be able to go swimming without the risk of drowning? Want to go mountain climbing and not have to fear falling and dying? Ever wonder what it would be like to snuggle up next to a lion and take a nap? That would be cool!

I want to play football. I think there will be football in heaven since it is God's sport. I know it is God's sport since it is played with eleven men on the field, and eleven is the number of the disciples minus the traitor. With my glorified body, maybe I won't be picked last!

I want to get better at darts and ping pong and learn to ride a skateboard.

Will we really be able to do all this cool stuff on the new earth? Perhaps. Or maybe all these great things that we enjoy now will be too boring and trifling to occupy our time then.

Maybe all these things we think are so great now are merely shadows of the greatness to come.

I close with an excerpt from a poem written by John Piper titled "Justified Forever":

*And as He spoke, the throne
Of God came down to earth and shone
Like golden crystal full of light,
And banished, once for all, the night.
And from the throne a stream began
To flow and laugh, and as it ran,
It made a river and a lake,
And everywhere it flowed, a wake
Of grass broke on the banks and spread
Like resurrection from the dead.
And in the twinkling of an eye
The saints descended from the sky.
And as I knelt beside the brook
To drink eternal life, I took
A glance across the golden grass,
And saw my dog, old Blackie, fast
As she could come. She leaped the stream -
Almost - and what a happy gleam
Was in her eye. I knelt to drink,
And knew that I was on the brink
Of endless joy. And everywhere
I turned I saw a wonder there.
A big man running on the lawn:
That's old John Younge with both legs on.
The blind can see a bird on wing,
The dumb can lift their voice and sing.
The diabetic eats at will,
The coronary runs uphill.
The lame can walk, the deaf can hear,
The cancer-ridden bone is clear.
Arthritic joints are lithe and free,
And every pain has ceased to be.
And every sorrow deep within,
And every trace of lingering sin
Is gone. And all that's left is joy,
And endless ages to employ
The mind and heart, and understand,
And love the sovereign Lord who planned
That it should take eternity
To lavish all His grace on me.*

*O, God of wonder, God of might,
Grant us some elevated sight,
Of endless days. And let us see
The joy of what is yet to be.
And may Your future make us free,
And guard us by the hope that we,
Through grace on lands that you restore,
Are justified for evermore.*

Without Wax-
Jim Osman, Pastor/Teacher

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Kootenai Community Church

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www.kootenaichurch.org

FOOTNOTES FROM MAIN ARTICLE

¹Part 1 of this series focused on the resurrection to life for believers and the redemption of our body. Part 2 focused on the resurrection to damnation faced by unbelievers who will spend eternal punishment in a body. The first two articles in this series can be accessed at our website: www.kootenaichurch.org. It is not my intention in this series to discuss in detail the timing of these events, but instead to focus on the nature of these events. For more information on my eschatological views of when these resurrections take place, see our doctrinal statement titled "We Believe: The Doctrinal Statement of Kootenai Community Church," also available at our website.

²Piper, John, *Future Grace* (Sisters: Multnomah Books, 1995), 373.

³Piper, 374.

⁴MacArthur, John, *The MacArthur New Testament Commentary: 2 Peter and Jude* (Chicago: Moody Publishers), 131.

⁵Hanegraaff, Hank, *Resurrection* (Nashville: Word Publishing), 87.

⁶Piper, 376.

⁷Thomas, 439.

⁸Piper, 378.

⁹Read Revelation 21-22 for this grand picture of the eternal state



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Resurrection Sunday, April 12

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

8:30-9:45 a.m.

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BE ALERT TO EMAIL AND TEXT NOTIFICATIONS!



DETAILS

- Breakfast is cooked and served by the men in our church and will consist of eggs, ham, pancakes, coffee and juice.
- If you would like to help in any way, serve, or donate food, please contact Thomas Leo at 208-818-0590.
- **Please sign up** for your family (and any others coming with you on that Sunday) at the **Welcome Table** or call the church office.