

Theme: The Apostle's Creed - "Resurrection of the body"

"Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies." (Romans 8:23)

"But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep." (1 Corinthians 15:20)

"But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body." (Philippians 3:20-21)

Indeed, "The bodies of men after death return to dust and see corruption; but their souls, which neither die nor sleep, having an immortal subsistence, immediately return to God who gave them. The souls of the righteous, being then made perfect in holiness, are received into the highest heavens, where they behold the face of God in light and glory, waiting for the full redemption of their bodies. The bodies of the just, by his Spirit, unto honor, and be made conformable to His own glorious body." (From the *Westminster Confession of Faith* Chapter 32.)

Therefore, we believe that Christians' bodies will be resurrected in addition to having immortal souls. Not only so, but the resurrected body will be uncorrupted, glorious, strong, spirit-filled, and heavenly. One that will be like that of Christ's glorious body.

Reflection:

1. Have I found meaning in the toils and groans in my life, knowing the hope that comes with the resurrection of the body?
2. Am I welcoming the Lord's second coming with steadfast faith, a living hope, and love that is patient?

Prayers:

1. Praise the Lord! Minister Jeffrey Hwang has accepted the position of Cross Bridge Minister.
2. Pray for the arrival of new students that the City Outreach Ministry is embracing as all colleges around Boston gear up for the new semester.
3. Pray that all newcomers to our church will quickly find a fellowship and community and that no one will feel left out.
4. Pray for the recent increase in persecution to churches in China. May God help the Christians there to not give up and compromise, but to be courageous.