Imago Dei Part 4 What <u>will be</u> Man? Guest Speaker: Thomas Ross



TALKINGPOINTS WALKINGPOINTS

A publication of a start, the adult discipleship ministry of Triangle Community Church.

Talk together about the glory of God's kingdom. –Psalm 145:11 Love the Lord your God and **walk** in all his ways. –Joshua 22:5

Questions for Reflection or Discussion

Starter Question

• From Sunday's sermon, what did you like best, or what caught your attention most—and why?

Observation—What do I see?

• Read Matthew 22:1–14. According to v. 2, what does the king's wedding feast represent?

Does the king want few or many at his feast? What in this parable leads you to that conclusion?

According to v. 9-10, does he desire to exclude any? What leads you to that conclusion?

According to v. 7, is it OK to refuse the Lord's summons?

According to v. 11-14, is it OK to refuse the holy garments God provides (cf. Zechariah 3:3-4)?

• Read Matthew 7:13-14. *How many* destinations exist for mankind? What are they?

Read John 14:6. What does Jesus *claim* about himself? What *clarity* does Acts 4:12 add?

Interpretation—What does it mean?

- The Bible claims that there is only one way to God. Is there anything *illogical* about that claim?
- Heaven is God's home (Psalm 11:4-7). Does he have the *right* to restrict access to it (Psalm 24:3)?

Application—What do I do with this?

- In Matthew 22, the invitation to the wedding feast represents the gospel's invitation to heaven.
 Who do you know personally whos evidences the "verse 5 type" of refusal? The "verse 6 type"?
- What would you say to those who *ignore* God's invitation (v. 5)?
 What would you say to those who *oppose* God's invitation (v. 6)?

Sermon Outline

What is in store for God's image-bearers? The Scriptures are explicit: live with Yahweh—or die without him. Align with him, desire him, seek him, follow him, cling to him, love him—and reject all other gods, philosophies, ways of living and live—or don't, and die! But what does this mean? What do life and death look like? How long do they last? What will be experienced? Will it be individual or corporate? Is it conscious or unconscious? Is it bodily? Is it spiritual? Is it *good* news—or is it *bad*?

The Good News: Seven "Perfections" of Eternal Life

- 1. Corporeal Perfection (1 Corinthians 15:35-49)
- 2. Moral Perfection (2 Peter 1:4)
- 3. Vocational Perfection (Revelation 5:9-10)
- 4. Experiential Perfection (2 Corinthians 4:17)
- 5. Communal Perfection (Revelation 21:3)
- 6. Emotional Perfection (Revelation 21:4)
- 7. Temporal Perfection (Matthew 25:46)

The Bad News: Seven "Perfections" of Eternal Death

- 1. Ongoing corruption/decay/dying/being destroyed
- 2. Ruined in prison, instead of reigning in paradise
- 3. Smothered with agony, choking in despair
- 4. Devoid of all goodness and beauty (hatred/filth/darkness remains)
- 5. Exiled forever from the Source of all pleasure
- 6. Fully regretful, tear-filled, sorrowful, bitter, shameful
- 7. Conscious of their eternal condemnation

Application

- For those who've not yet believed on Christ:
- For those who have repented and do trust in Christ:

Man's destiny is a grand story with a grand ending with our Triune God at the center. Each person's final condition will be unchanging in kind and endless in duration.

Digging Deeper in Your Daily Quiet Time

1 Corinthians 15 is the most extensive treatment of resurrection in the Bible. Let's explore this important chapter so that we can take part in "the resurrection <u>unto life</u>"!

Monday— Read 1 Corinthians 15:1-11. What is the content of the gospel?
Tuesday— Read 1 Corinthians 15:12-19. What if Christ didn't rise from the dead?
Wednesday— Read 1 Corinthians 15:20-28. What is the connection between Christ's resurrection and ours?
Thursday— Read 1 Corinthians 15:29-34. What are some risks of listening to false teaching?
Friday— Read 1 Corinthians 15:35-49. What kind of body will we have in the resurrection?
Saturday— Read 1 Corinthians 15:50-58. What are some final thoughts on this mysterious resurrection?

Bible Text:

Date: __

What idea particularly strikes me from this text? [Note in which verse(s) it is found.]

What question does this text raise in my mind—and how would *this text* answer it?

What about Jesus Christ—his character and/or his redemption—relates to this text?



What action must I take as a result of this text? Be concrete and specific.



With whom will I share what I learned from this text? [and what was their response?]