

## Go Deeper 6<sup>th</sup> November 2022

Hi everyone,

I hope you found Paul's sermon as intriguing as I did. It's interesting that this topic, which is so often at the heart of our question, seems to be such a small part of Jesus' teaching and what the early church felt the need to address. Jesus' teaching had so much more to do with God's plan to bring his Kingdom to fullness here, both through the Holy Spirit and our cooperation, and then later when he comes again and the resurrection happens. With so little teaching on it, we are inevitably left wondering.

To help us explore, Paul offers these questions:

- What does resurrection mean for you?
- Jesus tells us that in our resurrection life we will be 'like' angels. What are angels?
- A bad theology of resurrection might leave us expecting to wake up somewhere better, to escape this world, whereas Jesus taught about redeeming this world. We are called to be a part of bringing in the Kingdom of God, of working with the Holy Spirit. How do you feel about that?

Don't forget our next AMA is coming up on the 20<sup>th</sup> November, so do drop any questions you have in the box at church, or email them to [rob@calverleyparish.church](mailto:rob@calverleyparish.church) – this is often a tricky subject, one about which we have inherited a lot of ideas from culture and our pasts, and it can be uncomfortable to wonder about what is 'next,' for us and our loved one. If you're struggling with it all, email, or call me (0113 226 8596)

Every Blessing

Rob

### **Deeper Stuff**

Here's some resources on what might be 'next.' Middleton and Wright have slightly different opinions – it's good to see even those who study this might disagree, but also good to see how much they agree on.

Podcast – N T Wright #76 Questions on our resurrection and meeting relatives in heaven. <https://askntwrightanything.podbean.com/e/76-will-my-daughter-see-the-child-she-lost-as-about-heaven-and-loved-ones/>

A reminder of Richard's recommendations from a previous Go Deeper –

This podcast with Jamaican theologian, J Richard Middleton, was crucial in offering a Biblical understanding of heaven: <https://hebraicthought.org/podcast/go-to-heaven-resurrection-j-richard-middleton/>

Middleton's book, *A New Heaven and a New Earth: Reclaiming Biblical Eschatology* (Baker Academic, 2014) is essential reading for those exploring the topic. Tom Wright's *Surprised by Hope* (SPCK, 2011) is an undisputed classic in the area too.