

Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Nov 8th, 2020

This Letter of St. Paul to the Thessalonians, is one of his earliest writings. As such, it is also his earliest theology. It was thought that the Resurrection and Ascension of Jesus meant that he would “return” to them soon, that is, in their lifetime. The early Christians and Apostles became confused and discouraged as members of the Community eventually died. They comforted each other by speaking of their loved ones as “being asleep”, and upon Christ’s return they too would rise from the dead.

Paul’s task was to encourage them, to give the Christian Community Hope that all of them would be with Christ in “end time”. In this reading, Paul speaks of both, the living and those who have died, being “caught up together with Christ”. As time went on, and in future epistles, Paul had to amend his understanding of the Resurrection.

Now what about us? What is our understanding of the resurrection? And of the “End Times”? No one KNOWS what Death, and “heaven” is like. Some years ago, there was quite a search and curiosity about this subject. Elizabeth Kubler Ross was a famous writer on this subject as was Raymond Moody, in his book, Life After Life [@ 1968] and others studied and wrote about Life After Death. Our Faith professes it, Jesus promised it to us; we believe in Life after Death. We have got to believe in the Holy Spirit. Resurrection is in the Realm of the Holy Spirit. This is the promise given by Jesus. Upon his return to the Father, he would give us another advocate, a “helper”. This is the Spirit of God. We must believe in the realm and the presence of the Holy Spirit in our DAILY lives. That means we must allow the presence of the Spirit to influence us, to move us, to live in us. If we are hard hearted, we lose. We must surrender our hearts and will to God’s Spirit. This is the realm of Resurrection.