

Study 11

Topic: Made for new life

Sub-theme: Made for story (4)

Sunday date: July 7

Key ideas: Resurrection and the renewal of all things, life after life after death, Heirs of the kingdom

Key texts: Rom 8, 1 Cor 15, Rev 21

Further reading/resources:

1. Sarah, a bright, confident member of your growth group, tells you that she is planning to give up her accounting degree and give her time to volunteering with Anglicare. How do you feel? Later that week you hear that her family are wealthy property developers Sarah will receive millions of dollars on her 21st birthday from a trust established by her parents. How does that change things for you? Why?
2. Can you think of a time when your expectations for the future significantly changed your decisions in the present?

Read Romans 8:1-25.

3. What things jump out at you from the text?
4. The background to Paul's argument is the great claim of vv.1-4. What has happened to those in Christ? What does this mean?
5. From vv.5-8, what change does 'living according to the Spirit' (v.4) bring? How do you see this in your own life? Where do you not?

6. In vv.14-17, Paul explains that our outward changes in behaviour result from a change in status. What is this new status, and how does it affect our thoughts and actions?

7. Because of this new status, what do we look forward to (vv.18-25)? What difference does it make now? What would that look like in your life today?

In risk management reviews, people talk about 'likelihood' and 'impact'. The greatest attention is given to risks that are highly probable and that have potentially catastrophic consequences.

8. How would you describe the 'risk' of Jesus' return, along these lines?

9. We all live and work alongside friends, family and colleagues who don't put their trust in Jesus. To what degree do you think, looking at your life, they would conclude that you are deeply confident Jesus will return at any moment? What would they notice that points that way? What would be missing?

10. What do think help you to put more hope in the resurrection, and less and less in this world? What would help you to pursue that?