

Lecture 19-The Final Resurrection

Prayer

Grant, Almighty God, since we have already entered in hope upon the threshold of our eternal inheritance and know that there is a mansion for us in heaven since Christ our head and the first fruits of our salvation has been received there; grant that we may proceed more and more in the way of Your holy calling until at length we reach the goal and so enjoy the eternal glory of which You have given us a taste in this world by the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Final Resurrection

I. The "Crowning Act" of Book III (Wendel, 284)

- A. "Meditation on the Future Life" (3, 9), prayers, and letters
- B. From faith to hope (Calvin's catechism of 1537)
- C. Christocentric
- D. Warning against curiosity and speculation (3, 25, 11)
- E. Calvin's attitude toward the book of Revelation

II. Specific Topics

- A. The last days
 1. From the coming of Christ (and especially his resurrection) and the Day of Judgment
 2. Advance of the Gospel internally and externally
- B. Antichrist
 1. Not a single individual
 2. Catholicism and other forms of opposition to Christ
- C. The millennium
 1. "The chiliasts" (3, 25, 5)
 2. The church age
- D. The intermediate state
 1. Conscious state in which there is joy or suffering such as will characterize the final state
 2. Psychopannychia (1534)
- E. Purgatory
 1. Connection with indulgences (3, 5, 6)
 2. Denies sole satisfaction of Christ (3, 5, 6)
- F. The Second Coming of Christ
 1. Literal, physical return of Christ (3, 25, 11)
 2. Expectancy, patience, and diligence
- G. The general resurrection
 1. Importance of the body (3, 25, 5 and 8)
 2. Confirmed by—
 - a. Omnipotence of God
 - b. Resurrection of Christ
 3. The nature of our resurrection bodies: same, yet different
- H. The final judgment
 1. Present and future judgment
 2. Righteous and wicked

III. Heaven and Hell

- A. Real, literal, eternal
- B. Figurative descriptions

For Further Study

Davis, Andrew Martin. "A New Assessment of John Calvin's Eschatology." Ph. D. dissertation:
Southern Baptist Seminary, 1998.