

4. Resurrection Imagined: Heaven

Living the risen life as an act of imagination

Keswick 2024 – Friday

Mark Meynell (markmeynell.net)

- ◆ Richard Baxter (1615-1691) 1650 - *The Saints' Everlasting Rest*

1. The Moses Paradox (Exodus 33)

(i) Face to face (33:11)

10 Whenever the people saw the pillar of cloud standing at the entrance to the tent, they all stood and worshipped, each at the entrance to their tent. 11 The Lord would speak to Moses face to face, as one speaks to a friend.

(ii) A Face not to be seen (33:23)

19 And the Lord said, 'I will cause all my goodness to pass in front of you, and I will proclaim my name, the Lord, in your presence. I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion. 20 But,' he said, 'you cannot see my face, for no one may see me and live.'

Chris Wright: Whichever way we rationalize the matter, we should understand that by putting these two 'face' texts so closely together ... the narrator is forcing us to wrestle with the difficulty of expressing exactly what the presence of God means.

2. The Jesus Paradox (John 1:14-18)

John 1:14 The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

John 1:18 No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is himself God and is in the closest relationship with the Father, has made him known.

3. The God Paradoxes in Revelation

Revelation 1 & 22

- **The terrifyingly holy but awesomely gracious God.**

- **The cosmic creator but personal protector**

- **The defeated lamb but conquering lion**

- **The two-sided conflict but one-sided outcome.**

- **Present insecurities but Future Certainties**




- **A people threatened (*and sometimes killed*) but a people triumphant (*and eternally safe*)**

4. Christ walking among the lampstands




Church		Commended for . . .	Warned about . . .	SUMMARY LESSONS
Ephesus	2:1–7	Hard working; intolerant of evil	Forsaken first love	LOVING JESUS
Smyrna	2:8–11	Enduring poverty and slander		ENDURING SUFFERING
Pergamum	2:12–17	Faithful in a hostile city	Tolerant of false teaching	SOUND TEACHING
Thyatira	2:18–29	Continued growth in good deeds	Tolerant of immorality	HOLINESS
Sardis	3:1–6		Spiritual reputation groundless	SPIRITUAL LIFE
Philadelphia	3:7–13	Waited patiently in a hostile city		PATIENT WAITING
Laodicea	3:14–22		Lukewarm and worldly	TRUSTING GOD'S RICHES

Further Reading (all recommended, arranged by weight!)

Did it all really happen?

	Rebecca McLaughlin	Is Easter Unbelievable?	Good Book 2023	<i>Up to date, brief and very readable.</i>
	John Dickson	Is Jesus History?	Good Book 2019	<i>Accessible overview of the historicity of Jesus by a scholar of the classical world</i>
	Michael Licona	The Resurrection of Jesus	Apollos 2010	<i>A doorstep (643 pages!) but brilliant for going in deep</i>

What does it all mean?

	Mark Meynell	Life after Life	IVP 2024	<i>What can I say?! Not too bad...</i>
	Tom Wright	Surprised by Hope	SPCK 2011	<i>Thought-provoking, very readable and life-changing</i>
	John Stott	The Incomparable Christ	IVP 2001	<i>A rich feast looking at all kinds of different aspects of who Jesus is and the revolution he brings</i>