

Copyright © Two Journeys Ministry

Andrew M. Davis

Sermon Notes

www.twojourneys.org

Please use in accordance with the copyright policy found at twojourneys.org

Raised on the Last Day: The Great Hope of Easter

John 6

We are here this morning to celebrate the incredible victory of Christ over death... His glorious resurrection!!

We are here to celebrate that He who died on the cross, He whose lifeless body was taken from the cross and wrapped up in strips of linen with myrrh and aloes, He whose corpse was laid in a cave and a massive stone rolled in front of the entrance... this very one has come alive on the third day and lives still at the right hand of God in heaven

We're here to celebrate the victory of another... the triumph of another... the glory of another... of Jesus Christ

But at its root, all true Easter celebrations are a celebration of OUR OWN FUTURE RESURRECTION... ultimately, Christ's victory is US... Christ's crowning achievement is a multitude greater than anyone can count from every tribe, language, people, and nation... from every era in human history... standing around the throne in resurrection bodies, radiantly glorious, shining like the sun in the Kingdom of their Father

WE ARE CHRIST'S RESURRECTION VICTORY!!!

So it is right to celebrate what Christ did ON OUR BEHALF... and to look ahead to our own resurrection from the dead

John 14:19 Because I live, you also will live.

We can extend this concept...

- Because I was raised from the dead, you will be raised from the dead
- Because I will never die again, someday you will never die again
- Because I have a resurrection body, you will have a resurrection body
- Because I live in the presence of the Father, so you will live in the presence of the Father

Today we celebrate Christ's resurrection victory BY LOOKING AHEAD TO OUR OWN... and no chapter in the Bible speaks so clearly of the certainty of Christ raising us from the dead as does John 6

Four times Jesus repeats this phrase: "I will raise him up at the last day"

The "last day" is Judgment Day, and Jesus is plainly teaching the resurrection of anyone who believes in Him.

John 6 teaches 1) the eternal plan of the Father for our final resurrection; 2) the giving of Christ's physical body to enable us to live forever; 3) the absolute necessity of faith in Christ to be raised from the dead; 4) the inability of sinners to come to Christ on their own; 5) the absolute power of God to bring all the elect to Christ; 6) the absolute certainty of final resurrection for any who come to Christ

Let's dig in to this marvelous chapter and celebrate its glorious teachings!

I. Our Resurrection: Proclaimed by God the Son

John 6:39-40 ³⁹ *And this is the will of him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all that he has given me, but raise them up at the last day.* ⁴⁰ *For my Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day."*

John 6:44 *"No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him, and I will raise him up at the last day.*

John 6:54 *Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day.*

A. The Most Awesome Promise in the Bible!

1. Jesus is speaking of our bodily resurrection from the grave
2. A thing unfathomable and mysterious... worthy of MOCKERY by many philosophers and scientists

Acts 17:32 *When they heard about the resurrection of the dead, some of them sneered*

3. "How can it be?" they say
 - a. We die
 - b. Our lifeless bodies shut down... the circulatory system no longer works; cells die; corruption begins immediately; decay, the stench of death, as of bad meat on a hot summer day
 - c. Our bodies buried: under the ground, worms are able to consume all but our skeletons

d. In some cases, the skeletons themselves are consumed in flames... like the sad victims of the 9-11 horror, the 767s crashing into the World Trade Center, 92 people on one flight, 65 on the other... their bodies were entirely incinerated in the crash...

e. And yet, Jesus is here promising to “raise them up on the final day”

B. Raised to an Eternal Physical Existence

1. Jesus’ resurrection, which we celebrate today was a BODILY resurrection

2. He said this to His disciples:

Luke 24:38-43 "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds? ³⁹ Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have." ⁴⁰ When he had said this, he showed them his hands and feet. ⁴¹ And while they still did not believe it because of joy and amazement, he asked them, "Do you have anything here to eat?" ⁴² They gave him a piece of broiled fish, ⁴³ and he took it and ate it in their presence.

3. A week later, He told Thomas to touch His hands and feet and look at His side where the wounds were

4. 1 Corinthians 15 makes it plain that this is exactly what we will experience as well... a BODILY resurrection from the grave

1 Corinthians 15:22-23 For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. ²³ But each in his own turn: Christ, the firstfruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him.

1 Corinthians 15:42-44 The body that is sown is perishable, it is raised imperishable; ⁴³ it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; ⁴⁴ it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body.

C. Who Will Raise Us?

1. What is so awesome is the personal aspect of our resurrection... it is Christ Himself who will raise us up

2. He says it FOUR TIMES... “I will raise him up at the last day”

3. He had taught this earlier in John 5:

John 5:28-29 "Do not be amazed at this, for a time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice ²⁹ and come out

4. Jesus pictured this multiple times in the Gospels... his personal involvement in resurrection
 - a. He raises Jairus's twelve-year-old daughter from the dead by taking her by the hand and speaking to her, "Talitha, cumi"... "Young girl, I say to you, arise!"
 - b. In Nain, He raises the widow's son from the dead personally, touching the coffin

Luke 7:14-15 he went up and touched the coffin, and those carrying it stood still. He said, "Young man, I say to you, get up!"¹⁵ The dead man sat up and began to talk, and Jesus gave him back to his mother.

- c. And most famously of all, Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead by calling him from the tomb with a command

John 11:43-44 Jesus called in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!"⁴⁴ The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face. Jesus said to them, "Take off the grave clothes and let him go."

5. So, John 6 teaches very plainly that it will be Jesus who raises His people from the dead... He Himself will call you up out of the grave, and you will rise in your resurrection body at the sound of His command

D. When Will He Raise Us?

1. Plain lesson here: "I will raise him up **at the last day**"
2. This refers to the end of the world, Judgment Day... the end of the present era, of this present age of sin, disease, suffering, mourning and death
3. Paul teaches the exact same timetable with slightly different language

1 Corinthians 15:23 Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ.

1 Corinthians 15:51-52 Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed--⁵² in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.

4. The last day = the last trumpet... when all the plagues and judgments and wrath of God depicted so vividly in the Book of Revelation has ended... when the Lord returns on a white charger for war, followed by the armies of heaven; when the Antichrist is defeated and thrown in the lake of fire

So FOUR TIMES in John 6, Jesus Christ, God the Son, PROCLAIMS our future resurrection from the dead

John 6 teaches us much more about that, however... the origin of it is in the plan and command of God the Father

II. Our Resurrection: Planned and Commanded by God the Father

John 6:38-39 For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me. ³⁹ And this is the will of him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all that he has given me, but raise them up at the last day.

A. Christ Entered This World Ultimately to Rescue the Elect from Death

1. John 6:38-39 teaches that Christ had a definite PURPOSE in entering the world
2. His purpose was to do His Father's will
3. He was not here to do His own will... by that we mean, to act independently from the Father
4. He came down from heaven to earth to accomplish the Father's plan

B. Planned from Eternity Past

1. The Bible reveals that the Father's plan was fashioned before the beginning of time
2. This verse reveals that the Father's command to the Son thus occurred before the world began as well
3. Before God said "Let there be light", before He formed the heavens and the earth, before there was a sun or moon or stars, before there was a sky or dry land, before there was vegetation, before there were fish in the sea or birds in the air, before there were wild animals and beasts of the field... before the first man and his wife were formed... before any of that, God had fashioned a plan for our RESURRECTION through the work of God the Son
4. Adam's sin and the subsequent entry of death into the world was no surprise to God, no shocking accident, no unforeseen occurrence... rather it was a mysterious part of the sovereign plan of God to achieve incredible glory for His name
5. Before the foundation of the world, God chose to give us grace in Christ Jesus

C. "All that the Father Gives Me"

1. This is language Christ uses for the elect, the chosen of God, who would eventually come to faith in Christ
2. They were love gifts from the Father to the Son before the world began
3. The Son agreed to take them on, to love them, to receive them, and to die for them
4. These are the Christians, the chosen ones, the ones that the Father has commanded the Son to raise on the final day

John 6:38-39 For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me. ³⁹ And this is the will of him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all that he has given me, but raise them up at the last day.

5. Thus our bodily resurrection from the grave on the last day was PLANNED by God and COMMANDED by God the Father to God the Son...
6. Jesus entered the world to CARRY OUT His Father's command

III. Our Resurrection: Paid for by God the Son

A. Resurrection FROM DEATH

1. The reason death entered the world was sin

Genesis 2:17 but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die.

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death

Ezekiel 18:4 the soul who sins shall die.

2. The just payment for our sins was our own death... not merely physical, but eternal in hell
3. In order for God the Son to rescue us from the eternal death of hell, He had to pay the death penalty
4. John 6 makes it plain that Jesus took on a human body in order to give that body—flesh and blood—on the cross for our sins
5. Only in this way could we sinners be raised from death to live forever

B. Our Eternal Life Has a Source... Like All Life

1. All physical life is DEPENDENT life
2. The plants need CO₂, sunlight, nutrients, and water to live

3. Land animals need air, water, and food to survive
4. God created all physical life DEPENDENT on these things to survive
5. So also our resurrected life DEPENDS on Christ as its sustenance

C. Context: The Day After the Feeding of the 5000

1. Just the day before, Jesus had fed the 5000 with five loaves and two fish
2. The next day the crowd had found Him in Capernaum and were clamoring for Him to feed them again, to keep sustaining their physical lives with an endless supply of nourishment
3. Jesus challenged them to seek a different kind of food, one that will last for all eternity

John 6:27 Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you.

4. The people responded citing the example of Moses, and how he fed the Israelites day after day for years in the desert
5. Jesus' timeless answer stands still:

John 6:32-34 Jesus said to them, "I tell you the truth, it is not Moses who has given you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. ³³ For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." ³⁴ "Sir," they said, "from now on give us this bread."

The people were yearning for this bread, but they still did not understand:

John 6:35-36 Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty. ³⁶ But as I told you, you have seen me and still you do not believe.

D. The True Bread from Heaven: Jesus' Body, Dead on the Cross, Alive from the Grave

John 6:48-51 I am the bread of life. ⁴⁹ Your forefathers ate the manna in the desert, yet they died. ⁵⁰ But here is the bread that comes down from heaven, which a man may eat and not die. ⁵¹ I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world."

1. Jesus is clearly referring to His own death on the cross
2. By His death, by His giving of His body and blood, Jesus has paid the penalty for our sins and has redeemed us from death so we can live forever

3. Jesus intensifies His statement even more

John 6:52-58 Then the Jews began to argue sharply among themselves, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?"⁵³ Jesus said to them, "I tell you the truth, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you.⁵⁴ Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day.⁵⁵ For my flesh is real food and my blood is real drink.⁵⁶ Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me, and I in him.⁵⁷ Just as the living Father sent me and I live because of the Father, so the one who feeds on me will live because of me.⁵⁸ This is the bread that came down from heaven. Your forefathers ate manna and died, but he who feeds on this bread will live forever."

4. Though none of the people standing there could understand this difficult statement, Jesus was speaking of our present faith in His death and resurrection, and our future sharing in His life for all eternity

E. Christ's Body is the Life of our Resurrection Bodies

1. At the final day, Christ will raise all true believers from the grave
2. We will have resurrection bodies like His
3. Those bodies will be sustained moment by moment by the power of Christ's own resurrection from the dead
4. We will have no independent life in heaven, but for all eternity we will live because He lives... because Christ rose from the dead in a physical body, we will in a spiritual sense FEED on His life forevermore, constantly alive because He is also alive

IV. Our Resurrection: Impossible Apart from God the Son

A. Throughout this Passage: Coming Face to Face with the IMPOSSIBLE

1. It is impossible for dead people to raise themselves
2. Christ must come and raise us up, or we will not be raised
3. And so it is also that, in this life, we must come to Christ by faith or we will not be raised on that final day

B. What God Requires: Faith in Christ

John 6:28-29 Then they asked him, "What must we do to do the works God requires?"²⁹ Jesus answered, "The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent."

In other words, in order to be raised from the dead on the final day, we must believe in the One God sent into the world... Jesus Christ

John 6:35 Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty.

In other words, just as you can't live in this world without food, so you cannot live in the next world without Jesus... you have to COME to Jesus... and that means you have to BELIEVE in Jesus... they are synonyms

John 6:37-39 All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away. ³⁸ For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me. ³⁹ And this is the will of him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all that he has given me, but raise them up at the last day.

In other words, all the elect will come to Christ, and whoever comes to Christ, Christ will accept... and He will not lose any who come to Him but will raise them up on the final day

YOU HAVE TO COME TO Christ to be raised on the final day

John 6:40 For my Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day."

In other words, every single person on the face of the earth who LOOKS TO JESUS by faith, looking to Him to save them from their sins, looking to Him to raise them from the dead will have eternal life, and Jesus will raise every such person up on the last day

YOU HAVE TO LOOK TO Christ to be raised on the final day

John 6:51 I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world."

Again, Jesus makes it plain that you have to come to Him to live forever... you have to PARTAKE OF HIM fully, by faith... immersed in His bloody death, feeding on His body and blood by faith... knowing if it weren't for His death you would die... but because Jesus gave His body and blood for us, we can live forever

NO RESURRECTION APART FROM Christ!!!

John 6:53 Jesus said to them, "I tell you the truth, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you.

John 6:57 Just as the living Father sent me and I live because of the Father, so the one who feeds on me will live because of me.

This point could not have been made more plain... our resurrection is impossible apart from coming by faith to God the Son

BUT this passage goes beyond that

C. Impossible on our Own

1. This is the very thing Jesus says we cannot do on our own
2. God has willed that no one can come to Christ independently of His sovereign action in drawing them there
3. The Jews standing there that day argued with Him every step of the way... they disagreed, thought He was insane, considered His “eat my flesh and drink my blood” statement to be disgusting and repulsive and utterly unworthy of them... so large numbers of them WALKED AWAY that day and never followed Jesus again

John 6:66 From this time many of his disciples turned back and no longer followed him.

4. Why? Jesus made it plain... just as we cannot live unless we come to Christ, so we cannot come to Christ unless the Father enables us!

John 6:44 "No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him, and I will raise him up at the last day.

5. Apart from the Father’s direct action of drawing, no sinner suddenly decides someday, “I want to come to Christ today!”
6. John Murray: “It is a moral and spiritual impossibility for anyone to come to Christ unless directly drawn by God the Father”
 - a. The word “draws” = as in a large fishing net...
 - b. the great net cast out into the lake, drawing with power through the water, catching a fish and pulling it up into the boat
 - c. so God exerts a sovereign power on a lost sinner’s heart to draw Him to Christ
 - d. and whenever this happens, the sinner ALWAYS RESPONDS... this is the beautiful doctrine of effectual calling, or effectual grace

V. Our Resurrection: Guaranteed by God the Father

John 6:37 All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away.

A. John Murray Again:

“It is a moral and spiritual impossibility for a person to come to Christ apart from the Father’s drawing. What we find now is that it is a moral and spiritual impossibility for the person given by the Father to the Son not to come. There is by Jesus’ verdict the invariable conjunction of these two diverse kinds of action—”all that the Father *giveth* me *will come* to me.” There is invincible efficacy in the Father’s action and this means grace irresistible.”

1. Before the foundation of the world, the Father had given Christ His sheep in election
2. Now, in space and time, in real life, the Father gives them to Jesus by drawing them to Him in the abandon of faith
3. The Father created our hearts, and knows our hearts... even in our sinful state, the Father has searched our hearts and known them... and He knows how to give life where there was death, how to overcome our arguments and our rebellions and to draw us to Christ
4. NOT ONE can resist!!!

ALL that the Father gives me WILL come to me...

And all who come to me, I WILL RAISE THEM UP on the last day

B. Final Resurrection Guaranteed

1. Not only is it impossible for anyone drawn by the Father to resist the Father’s drawing, it is ALSO impossible for Jesus to lose any that come to Him
2. Christ will never drive us away

John 6:37 All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will NEVER drive away.

- a. Perhaps this is speaking of Christ losing patience with us after a time
 - b. So angry at us for our sins after we have become Christians that He simply tires of us and drives us out
 - c. NO! That will NEVER happen... the text says ***“Whoever comes to me, I will NEVER drive away”***
3. Christ will never lose us
 - a. Perhaps you might think Christ will lose us in some other way... perhaps He will lose our affection, lose our faith, lose our obedience, and eventually lose us entirely
 - b. Jesus says that is IMPOSSIBLE

John 6:39 And this is the will of him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all that he has given me, but raise them up at the last day.

Jesus is the Good Shepherd, who skill at shepherding the flock is PERFECT; it is measured by His ability safely to navigate His sheep through the dangers of this world to the eternal bliss of the next

Matthew 18:12-14 What do you think? If a man owns a hundred sheep, and one of them wanders away, will he not leave the ninety-nine on the hills and go to look for the one that wandered off? ¹³ And if he finds it, I tell you the truth, he is happier about that one sheep than about the ninety-nine that did not wander off. ¹⁴ In the same way your Father in heaven is not willing that any of these little ones should be lost.

4. We WILL BE raised up on the final day

John 6:40 For my Father's will is that EVERYONE who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day.

Our bodily resurrection on the final day of history is GUARANTEED by the will of the Father and the word and work of the Son

VI. Applications

A. Come to Christ... and Receive the Promise of Future Resurrection

1. The gospel message this morning is clear
2. The work of God is to believe in Christ
3. The bread of life is Christ... feed on Him and never go hungry
4. The body and blood of Christ were given for your sins
5. Come to Him NOW... today!!

B. Celebrate the Work of God in Drawing You to Christ

1. All you Christians, know that you came to faith in Christ because God the Father sovereignly drew you to Him
2. God exerted His power on your hearts and you responded
3. God worked on you... give Him all the glory for your own coming to Christ

C. Celebrate the Work of Christ in Keeping You in the Faith

1. Christ has promised not to lose ANY of the ones the Father drew to Him

2. Thus far, dead Christian, He has kept His promise
3. Do not boast in yourself—how faithfully you have walked with Christ over the years
4. Know and believe that the reason you have persevered so long is that Christ will simply NEVER LET YOU GO!!!

D. Anticipate Your Future Joy in a Resurrection Body

1. Think often of what it will be like to live forever in a resurrected body
2. What it will be like to feel complete freedom from pain, from sorrow, from fatigue, from illness, from anything that could afflict the body
3. Meditate on the physical nature of your future life in the New Heaven and New Earth... walking on the surface of this resurrected world, a perfect world of indescribable beauty; walking tirelessly up hills and mountains to see the radiant glory of Christ shining on the rivers and glowing on the valleys
4. Meditate on the physical nature of sitting at the Banquet Table of the Lord, with people from the east and the west, feasting with Christ

E. Face Physical Death with Courage and Faith

1. Your own
2. That of loved ones
3. Death is not an easy river to cross... the process of death can be daunting...
4. The most dreadful account of the death of a Christian I have ever read... David Brainerd, a godly missionary to the Indians in the early 18th century, died miserably painfully of tuberculosis; his dying pangs lasted for TWO WEEKS!!

*“Thursday, Sept. 24. About two I went to bed, being weak and much disordered, and lay in a burning fever till night, without any proper rest. In the evening I got up, having lain down in some of my clothes; but was in the greatest distress that ever I endured, having an uncommon kind of [coughing spasm]; which either strangled me, or threw me into a straining to vomit; and at the same time was distressed with griping pains. Oh, the distress of this evening! I had little expectation of my living the night through, nor indeed had any about me: and I longed for *the finishing* moment! I was obliged to repair to bed by six o’clock; and through mercy enjoyed some rest; but was grievously distressed at turns with the [coughing spasms]. My soul breathed after God, ‘When shall I come to God, even to God, my exceeding joy?’ Oh for his blessed likeness!*

THREE DAYS LATER...

“Lord’s day, Sept. 27...Early this morning, as one of the family came into the room, he expressed himself thus: “I have had more pleasure this morning, than all the drunkards in the world enjoy.” So much did he esteem the joy of faith above the pleasures of sin. He felt that morning an unusual appetite to food, with which his mind seemed to be exhilarated, looking on it as a sign of the very near approach of death. At this time he also said, “I was born on a sabbath-day; and I have reason to think I was new-born on a sabbath-day; and I hope I shall die on this sabbath-day. I shall look upon it as a favour, if it may be the will of God that it should be so: I long for the time. Oh, ‘why is his chariot so long in coming? why tarry the wheels of his chariots?’ I am very willing to part with all: I am willing to part with my dear brother John, and never to see him again, to go to be for ever with the Lord

Afterwards, the same morning, being asked, how he did? he answered, “I am almost in eternity. I long to be there. My work is done: I have done with all my friends: all the world is nothing to me. I long to be in heaven, praising and glorifying God with the holy angels. All my desire is to glorify God.”

ONE WEEK LATER:

Lord’s day, Oct. 4, as my daughter Jerusha (who chiefly attended him) came into the room, he looked on her very pleasantly, and said, “Dear Jerusha, are you willing to part with me? – I am quite willing to part with you: I am willing to part with all my friends: I am willing to part with my dear brother John, although I love him the best of any creature living: I have committed him and all my friends to God, and can leave them with God. Though, if I thought I should not see you and be happy with you in another world, I could not bear to part with you. But we shall spend a happy eternity together!”

In the evening, as someone came into the room with a Bible in her hand, he expressed himself thus; “Oh that dear book! that lovely book! I shall soon see it opened! the mysteries that are in it, and the mysteries of God’s providence, will be all unfolded!”

That same evening he was seized with such violent coughing spasms that his agony was unutterable... all there thought he was about to die

He still had four days to go!

TWO DAYS LATER:

On Thursday, Oct. 6, he lay for a considerable time as if he were dying. At which time he was heard to utter, in broken whispers, such expressions as these; “He

will come, he will not tarry. I shall soon be in glory. I shall soon glorify God with the angels."

FINALLY:

Thursday, Oct. 8, he was in great distress and agonies of body; and for the greater part of the day, was much disordered as to the exercise of his reason. In the evening he was more composed, and had the use of his reason well; but the pain of his body continued and increased. He told me, it was impossible for any to conceive of the distress he felt in his breast. He manifested much concern lest he should dishonour God by impatience, under his extreme agony; which was such, that he said, the thought of enduring it one minute longer was almost insupportable. He desired that others would be much in lifting up their hearts continually to God for him, that God would support him, and give him patience. He signified, that he expected to die that night; but seemed to fear a longer delay

He spoke these remarkable words: "It is another thing than men suppose it is to die!"

One might think that God would spare such a faithful servant from such agonies... but He didn't... what He did do was to support David Brainerd constantly with thoughts of heaven

At last, after two weeks of unspeakable agonies, David Brainerd, one of the godliest men of history, at last departed this world

It is hard for me to imagine a more agonizing last two weeks on earth; and it is hard for me to imagine it happening to a man more pious, godly, and devoted to Christ's Kingdom... and yet, through it all, Christ sustained David Brainerd with the consolations of heaven

Today, as we celebrate Christ's resurrection victory, let us do so in full confidence of Christ's promises:

John 6:39-40 ³⁹ *And this is the will of him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all that he has given me, but raise them up at the last day.* ⁴⁰ *For my Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day."*

Celebrate that today!!!