



Between Two Worlds

LIVING WITH THE TENSION BETWEEN
THIS PRESENT WORLD AND THE WORLD TO COME

The Views Expressed From
the Pulpit Today Are Not
Necessarily Those of the
First Presbyterian Church
of Newhall



GOOD MORNING

~~Remember from our passage: If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised; and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain and your faith has been in vain. Now, when does all this happen—the Resurrection and the Second coming? WHEN DOES ALL THIS HAPPEN? Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, * you do not need to have anything written to you. 2 For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. 1 Thes 5:1 'But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Mk 13:32~~

~~But when it comes and I'm dead, what earthly (or heavenly) good does that do me. My grandchildren are going to be the cutest kids in the Kingdom and I'm gonna be mulch. I'm with Woody Allen on this one: "I don't want to achieve immortality through my work... I want to achieve it through not dying."~~

~~Christian often scrunch together two very different things. One is going to heaven after you die, and the other is the resurrection of the body as the final destination. There's not very much in the New Testament about going to heaven when you die, and where you do find it it's a temporary thing is a temporary thing. What really matters is resurrection—What NT Wright calls: Life After Life After Death.~~

~~From Paul as our earliest Christian writer right onto Origen at the end of the second century—the word resurrection did not mean the state we enter immediately after death. In effect, I may be resting at the moment but I shall be raised in the future. That two stage life after death is the classic Christian position. Sunday School Teacher Art Moore: 'If I sold my house and my car, had a big garage sale, and gave all my money to the church, would I get into heaven?' 'NO!' all the children answered. 'If I cleaned the church every day, mowed the yard, and kept everything neat and tidy, would I get into heaven?' Again the answer was, 'NO!' 'Well,' I continued, 'then how can I get to heaven?' A five year old boy shouted, 'You gotta be dead!' The kid was right. You can't be resurrected unless you die. That's why it was so important for the gospel writers to emphasize that Jesus really, truly, absolutely did die on the cross. The guards didn't break His legs because He had already died. Blood and water come out of the spear piercing in Jesus' side proving that He~~

~~was dead.~~ AMEN





The Choice Wit
and Wisdom of

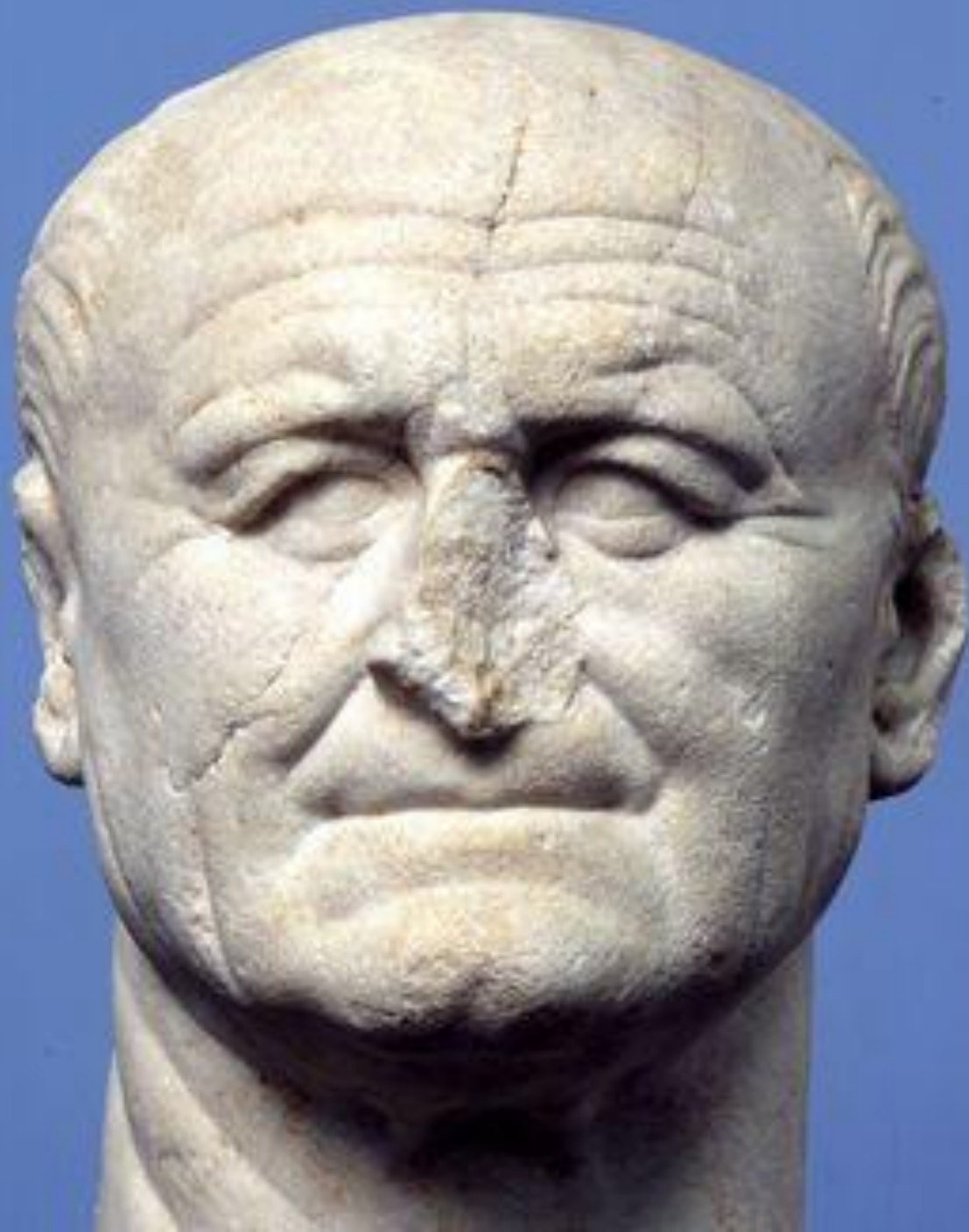
Sam Levenson

author of
In One Era & Out the Other

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**You Can
Say
That
Again,
Sam!**







1 Corinthians 15:12-28 (NSRV)

Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say there is no **resurrection of the dead**? If there **is no resurrection of the dead**, then Christ has not been raised; and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain and your faith has been in vain. We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified of God that he raised Christ—whom he did not raise if it is true that the **dead are not raised**. For if **the dead are not raised**, then Christ has not been raised. If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. Then those also who have died in Christ have perished. If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

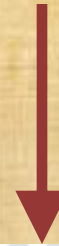
But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, **the first fruits of those who have died**. For since death came through a human being, the **resurrection of the dead** has also come through a human being; for as all die in Adam, so all **will be made alive in Christ**. But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ.



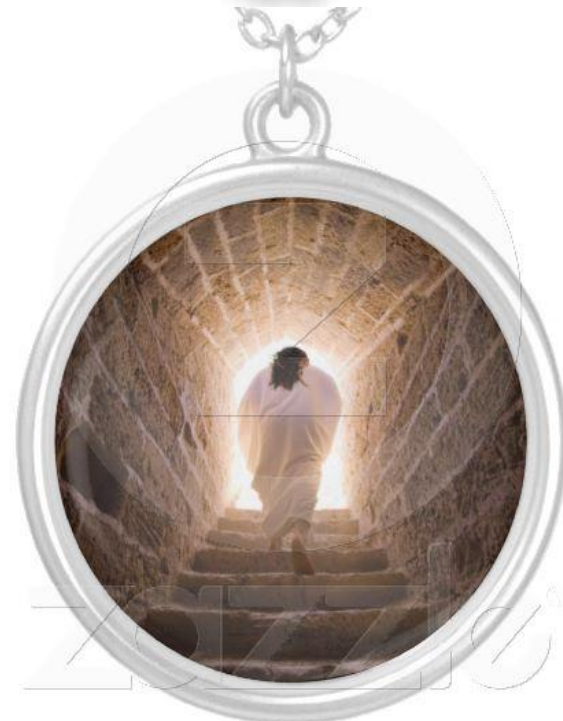
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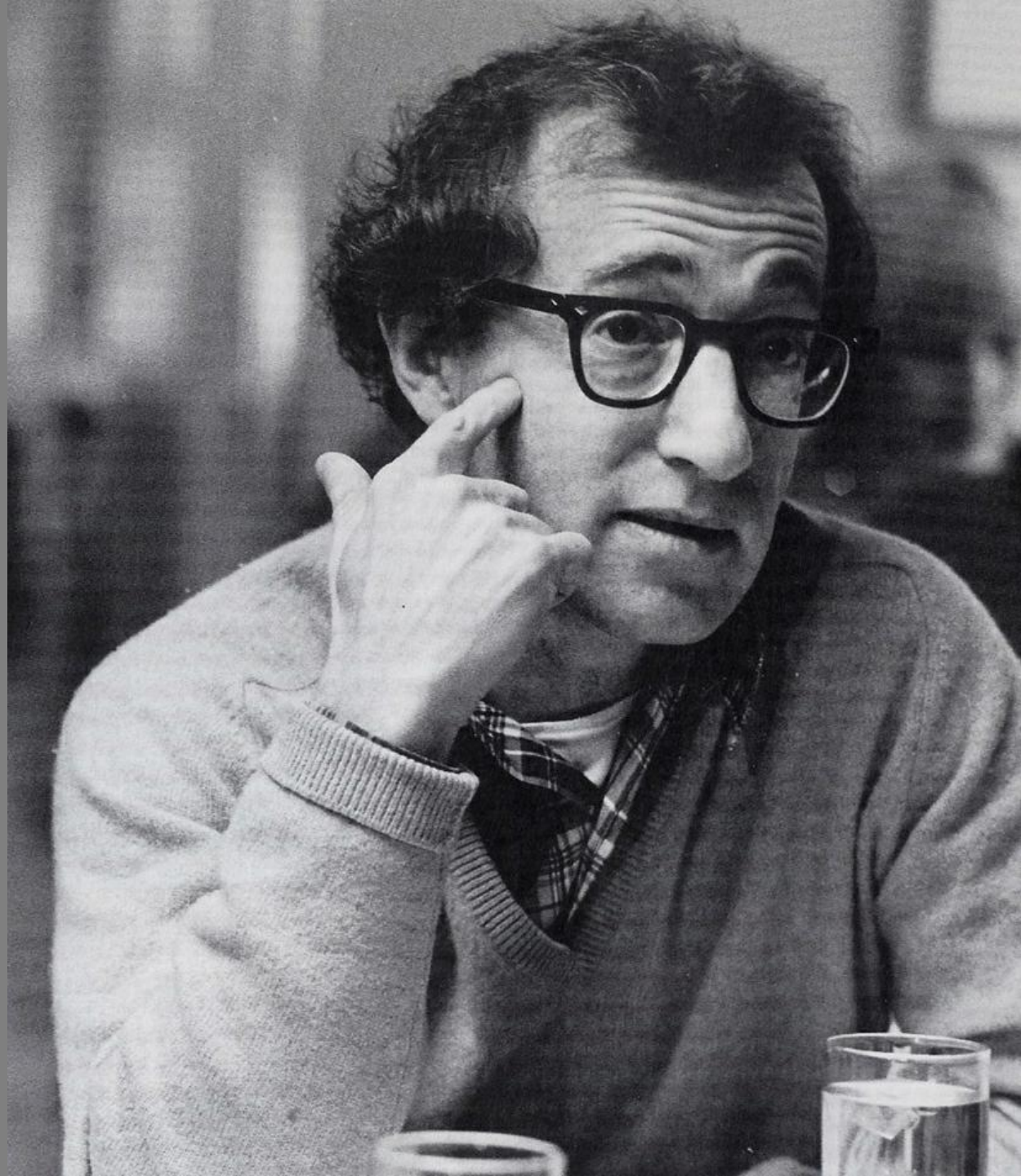


YOU



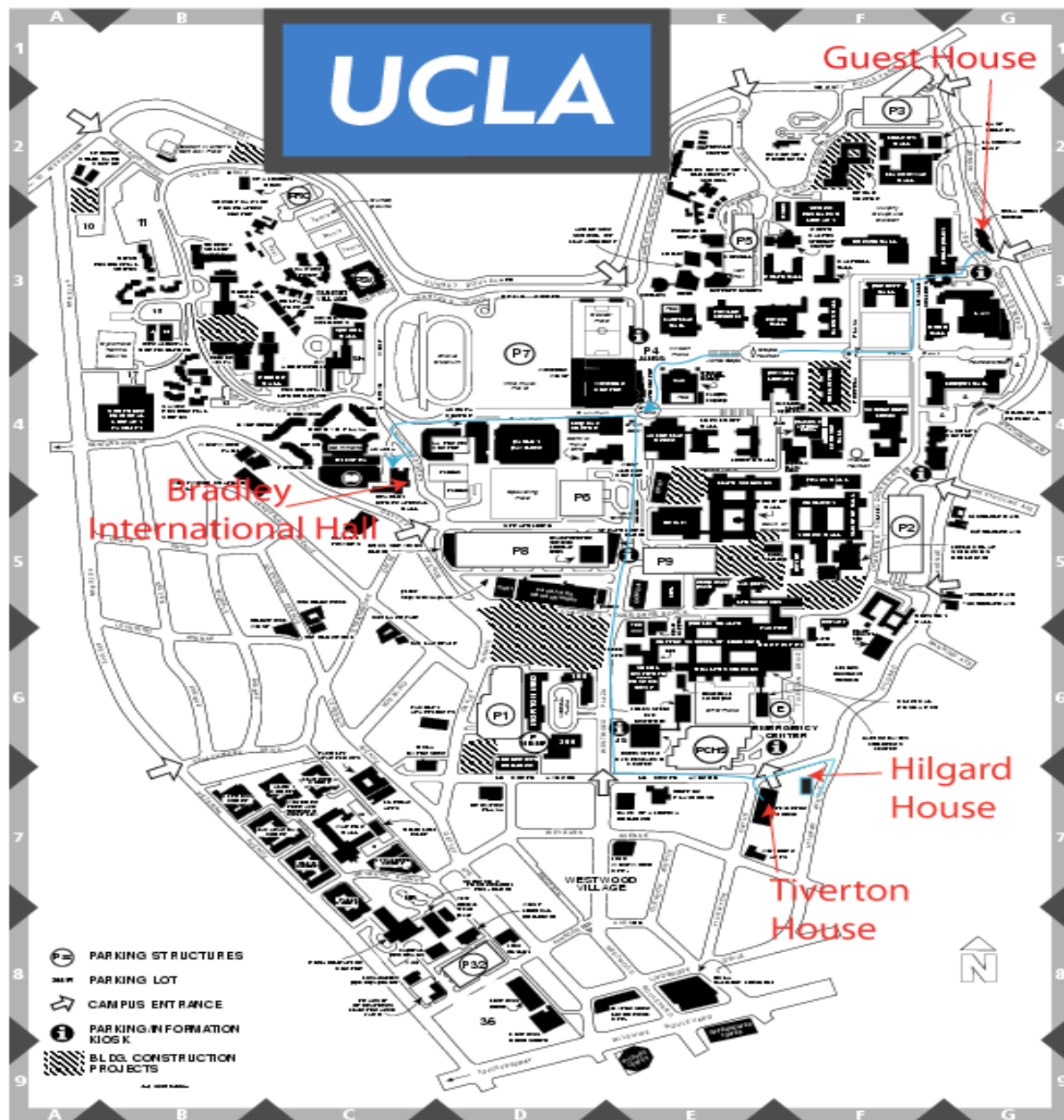
In 1532-1533, LUTHER preached on it 187 sermons in a row—1 Cor. 15. He believed it was “not sufficient to know and believe that Christ has died” and not enough to know that Jesus has risen from the dead because “THIS WOULD PROFIT ME NOTHING.” For Luther, knew the facts of Easter were not enough: *“When I come to understand the fact that all the works of God does in Christ are done for me, nay, they are bestowed upon and given to me, the effect of His resurrection being that I will also rise and live with Him; that will cause me to rejoice.”* He saw Jesus’ resurrection as “the lynchpin of Christianity.”





INTERNSHIP FOR THE ESCHATON







Ordinary Christian believers helped me realize that the Resurrection changes not just the way we think but also the way we live...the gospel impacted every aspect of our existence - our reasoning, emotions, imaginations, and values. Looking back on those days, I can now see that they liberated me from an impoverished view of the Christian faith....The resurrection of Christ creates a bridge between two worlds-the everyday world in which we exist and a better and brighter world of the Christian hope.





THE  LAST
ENEMY 
& THAT  SHALL 
BE DESTROYED
is  DEATH.

1 CORINTHIANS 15:26

