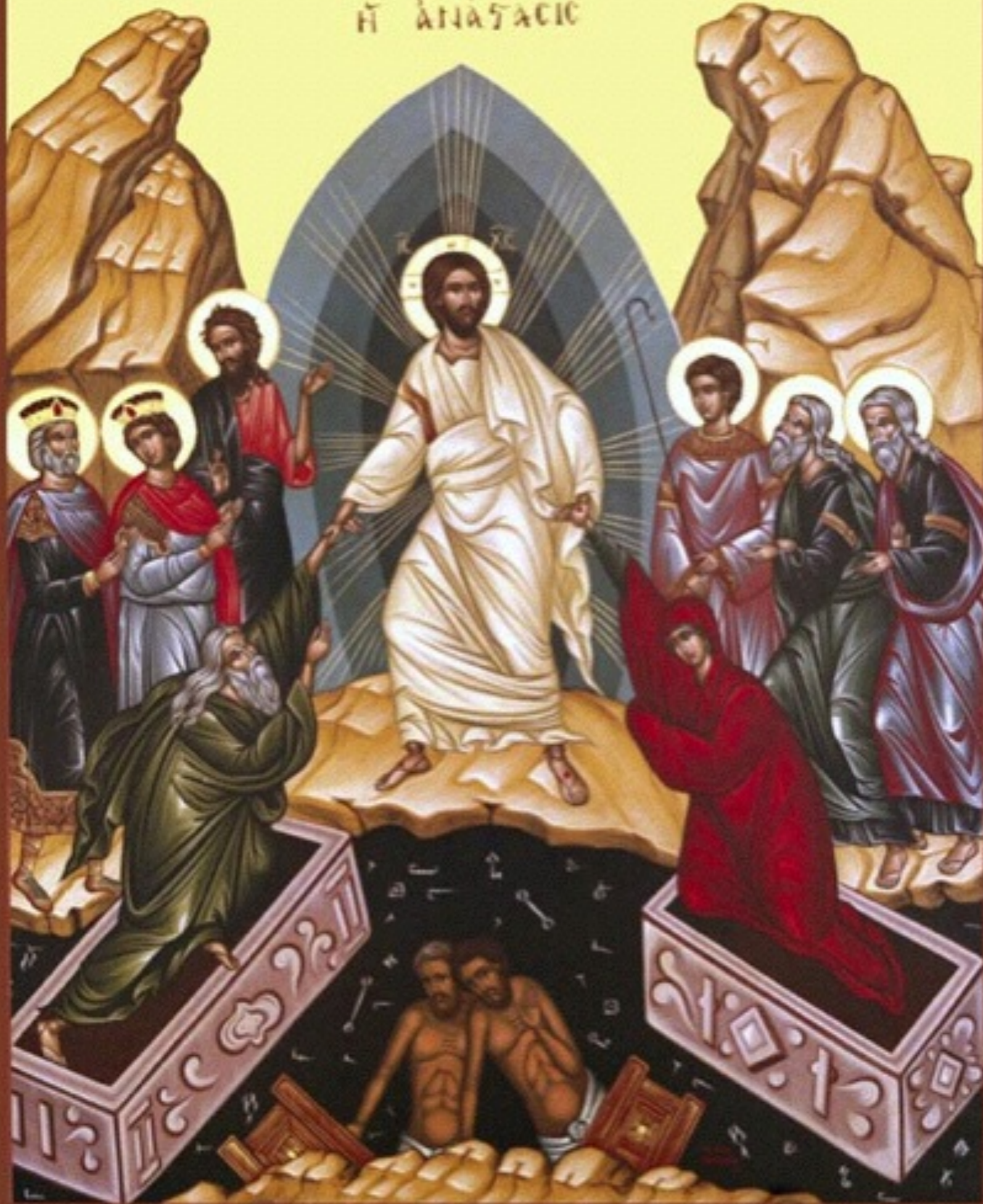


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May 17, 2010

St. Paul on:

Worthy and unworthy reception of Communion

Spiritual gifts

The Body of Christ

Love/Charity

The Resurrection of the Body

The thorn in St. Paul's flesh

The armor of God

The letter of St. James

1 Cor 11:27–29: “Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of profaning the body and blood of the Lord. Let a man examine himself, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For any one who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself.”

Two points:

- 1) Receiving Communion in a state of mortal sin does a person no good, and is in fact an additional sin.
- 2) Receiving Communion without realizing that it is the Body and Blood of Jesus is a serious sin.

1 Cor. 12:4–7: “Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of working, but it is the same God who inspires them all in every one. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.”

- 1) The Spirit gives different people different gifts.
- 2) Everyone has a gift to offer.
- 3) The gifts are for the common good, not simply for the benefit of the one who receives them.

The Body of Christ

1 Cor 12:12-34

1) We are all baptized into the One Body of Christ.

2) Bodies are made up of different parts.

3) Each part of the body has its job to do and depends on the other parts of the body to keep the whole thing functioning—even the “lesser” parts have a job.

4) Not everyone in the Body of Christ has the same job, and we ought not to envy those who have apparently more important jobs.

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1Cor 12:34a–13

Love \neq gooey mushy feelings

Love in its most important sense is also known as "divine charity"—the love God has for His people that we share with each other.

We can be smart, right about things, do good things for other people ... and it doesn't matter one bit unless we are sharing God's love

The Resurrection of the Body

St. Paul was a Pharisee—what did Pharisees believe that Sadducees didn't?

Simple principle: We follow where Jesus has led. Therefore, if our bodies won't be raised, the body of Jesus was never raised.

If the body of Jesus was never raised, Christianity is false.

But Christianity is true! Jesus lives!

So we shall one day after death have our bodies restored.

The "thorn" in St. Paul's flesh.

A "messenger of Satan".

No one knows exactly what it was.

He begs the Lord three times that it be taken away,
but is refused.

"My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made
perfect in weakness."

St. Paul brags about being weak because weakness
brings him the power of Christ.

THE ARMOR OF GOD

EPHESIANS 6:10-18

"... be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power. Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes." - Eph. 6:11

The Shield of Faith (Eph. 6:16)

Faith is being sure that God will keep His promises. Faith in God protects you when you are tempted to doubt.

The Helmet of Salvation (Eph. 6:17)

Put on the Helmet of Salvation by believing that Jesus Christ died for your sins and rose again.

The Breastplate of Righteousness (Eph. 6:14)

Righteousness is being honest, good, humble, and fair to others. It means standing up for weaker people.

The Belt of Truth (Eph. 6:14)

Truth keeps us from giving in to the world's beliefs. Compare your beliefs and actions to the truth of the Word of God.

The Sword of the Spirit (Eph. 6:17)

which is the Word of God. God's Word is our offensive weapon. When we tell others what the Bible says, the Holy Spirit helps people see their bad thoughts and actions, and makes them want to be forgiven.

Feet Prepared with the Gospel of Peace (Eph. 6:15)

The Gospel of Peace is being right with God and being contented in troubled times. Jesus said peacemakers were blessed.



Ephesians 6:10-18

The Book of James (in music)

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6lZzp1u1PDQ&feature=youtube_gdata