

Rev. Paul A. Hottinger

**Beyond Our Knowledge**      Thirty-third Week in Ordinary Time      Saturday, November 24, 2018      Rev 11:4-12;      **Lk 20:27-40**      (We are called to live in mystery. We are called to live a life of testimony, not to ourselves or our goodness, but to God and to God's goodness.)

**“Jesus said to them, ‘The children of this age marry and remarry, but those who are deemed worthy to attain to the coming age and to the resurrection of the dead neither marry nor are given in marriage.’”**

**This discussion of the resurrection of course is beyond our ken, our knowledge.** St. Paul made this very clear. He said that to argue about the nature of the resurrection of the body is a waste of time. It's beyond what we can know. We do believe in faith that God has raised up Christ and he is the firstborn of a new creation, and we are all invited to the new creation, but what it will be like, we do not know. As St. Paul also said in I Corinthians, “Eye has not seen, ear has not heard, the mind of humanity has never imagined what God has prepared for those who love him.” **We can believe it without knowing what it means.**

And that's a problem with the Sadducees. They wanted to think about, to imagine, a resurrection that would fit into their small, little conception of life, life as they were used to it, but it doesn't work that way. **What God has prepared for those who love him is beyond anything we have ever known, heard, or imagined.** It is important that we keep that in mind. From time to time there are people at a funeral, for example, who will make rather strange statements like, for example, “Oh, yeah, I know Dad now is in heaven playing golf.” Well that's doing the same thing the Sadducees did; that's dragging in something from this world and assuming it has something to do with the resurrection. That's a fatal assumption. We are called to something we cannot know. **We are called to live in mystery. We are called to live a life of testimony, not to ourselves or our goodness, but to God and to God's goodness,** which is revealed to us in Christ Jesus, and that should be enough.