

Psalm 22: 27-31; “The Victory of Christ’s Kingdom”, A Communion Sermon, part of the series entitled – “Christ’s Passion, Death, and Resurrection noted in the Psalms and Remembered”, Delivered by Pastor Paul Rendall on October 11th, 2015, in the Afternoon Worship Service.

We have come to the end of this glorious Psalm and have found it to be filled with many precious and wonderful insights into the experience of Christ on the cross. We have entered in to His awful experience of being forsaken by His Father, and yet we have seen Him justify God as holy. We have stood by Him as He has explained to us His feeling that He had become a worm and not a man, and yet we find Him still trusting in His Father and praying to Him even when “trouble surrounded Him and there was no one to help”. We have entered into His sufferings at the hands of wicked men who acted the parts of bulls, lions, and dogs in their hatred toward Him. We have been inside his mind when He hung on the cross feeling as though all His strength was being poured out like water and all His bones were out of joint. He knew that His Father could not deliver Him but He prayed for deliverance anyway. And after He had accomplished our salvation by the sacrifice of Himself, then His Father answered his prayers and raised Him from the dead. From verse 22 onward this psalm then becomes a psalm of praise and victory. So this afternoon we want to see what Christ’s victory consists of. It consists, 1st of all – In His being worshipped by all nations. It consists 2nd – In making every Christian spiritually rich and prosperous. And 3rd – Christ’s victory consists in His having a posterity that will serve Him.

1st of all – Christ’s victory consists of His being worshipped by all nations.

Verse 27 says: “All the ends of the world shall remember and turn to the Lord, and all the families of the nations shall worship before You.” “For the kingdom is the Lord’s and He rules over the nations.” Let us seek to understand what is being said here. All of the ends of the world shall remember. What shall they remember? They shall remember that the kingdom is the Lord’s and that He rules over the nations. This truth shall come to them with power as a revelation of gospel grace; that God is sovereign over the nations, and sovereign in the matter of bestowing salvation. These “ends of the world” will, at a certain time of God’s appointment, at a certain stage of their development as nations, come to remember this all important truth which has been greatly neglected not only in past generations, but even in our own generation. The nations world, not just simply in the generic sense of their being Gentiles, but in the specific sense of all the particular nations of the world, shall come to their senses in the latter days of this present evil age. They shall remember what God has said in His word; what He has promised that He would do, which is to exalt His Son and His Son’s kingdom among them. And many, many persons among those nations shall be converted to Christ.

Now, when I say this I do not at all mean to imply that there is a not general sense in which these verses refer to the calling of the elect Gentiles, among the nations, in all the generations after Christ died on the cross and rose from the dead. For our Lord Jesus, in His Great Commission in Matthew 28: 18 says: “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you, and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Christ’s mediatorial kingdom in relation to the New Testament Church began at that point and it continues unto this present day, and it will continue until He returns and brings this world and its history to a close. There is no doubt that when Christ died, He broke down the barrier between Jew and Gentile, and He made them into one new man in the Church. And there is no doubt that Christ is currently reigning among the nations, from heaven where He sits

enthroned. Indeed we can say with Psalm 29, verse 10 – “The Lord sat enthroned at the Flood, and the Lord sits as King forever.”

But we must also come to understand, according to this verse and many other verses in the Bible, that there is a progression which takes place in relation to the advancement of Christ's kingdom among the nations of the world all during this Church age. There is much gospel progress and much gospel prosperity that is to be looked for before our Lord returns in His Second Coming. That is what these verses are referring to. When Christ was raised from the dead He was given the purchase deed to all the nations of this world. Turn with me over to Psalm 2, verses 7-9. “I will declare the decree: The Lord has said to Me, ‘You are My Son, today I have begotten You.’ “Ask of Me, and I will give You the nations for Your inheritance, and the ends of the earth for Your possession.” “You shall break them with a rod of iron; You shall dash them to pieces like a potter's vessel.” Many Christians mistakenly believe, in our day, that it will take Christ's Second Coming to break the nations of their false worship, but the Lord Jesus knows that His Father has promised that the nations would be given to Him, the ends of the earth, for Him to possess. And He knows that it is the Father's purpose to save a number which no man can number from among those nations. What the Father's purpose is, in this matter, is revealed for us in Psalm 110, verses 1 and 2. “The Lord said to my Lord, ‘Sit at My right hand, till I make Your enemies Your footstool.’ “The Lord shall send the rod of Your strength out of Zion.” “Rule in the midst of Your enemies.” The Father, it says here, would send the rod of Christ's strength, that is the gospel, out of Zion. That is, the gospel would proceed forth from the lips of the apostles, out of the fledgling church at Jerusalem. And then in all of the generations following until Christ returns, the Father will have His Son to sit at His right hand where He now is; ruling and reigning in righteousness, until the Father puts all His enemies under His feet. In other words, our Lord Jesus Christ will remain there until all of these enemies are put under Christ's feet by His Father's actions and working. Until then, Christ will not return.

Now, we must joyfully confess that, looking at things from the human standpoint, there has been a certain amount of success and gospel prosperity which has taken place as we look back over all the generations since Christ went to sit at the Father's right hand. And yet as we look at the advance of Christ's kingdom among the nations, His gospel has not yet conquered any one of those nations to the extent that we could call it a Christian nation. The Christians who are alive today are still a decided minority in every nation. And the false religions of the world: Buddhism, Mohammedanism, Hinduism, Roman Catholicism are still very much alive. And the Jews, who rejected our Lord Jesus Christ, are still hoping for their Messiah to appear, not realizing that our Lord Jesus was, and He is, their Savior. It is not as though the ends of the world have not heard the gospel. For indeed it has been, and it is being, proclaimed in all the nations. But our verse 27 says: “All the ends of the world shall remember and turn to the Lord.” “All the families of the nations shall worship before You. No, the thing which many Christians have forgotten, the thing that they should remember, is that the kingdom is the Lord's and He rules over the nations. But we should also understand that the Church has not yet been given the kingdom. She is still being oppressed by the Antichristian powers of Roman Catholicism and Mohammedanism, and many unbelieving people around the world are still hostile to the gospel.

But look with me over at Daniel Chapter 7, and verse 25. “He shall speak pompous words against the Most High, shall persecute the saints of the Most High, and shall intend to change times and law.” “Then the saints shall be given into his hand for a time and times and half a time.” “But the court shall be seated and they shall take away his dominion, to come and destroy it forever.” “Then the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people, the saints of the Most High.” “His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey Him.” There it is again; this progression of Christ's kingdom to reign over all dominions. But notice, the kingdom must be

given to the saints at a certain point in time. When is this time? It will be after “a time, times, and a half a time”; 3 and a half years, or what the book of Revelation calls the 1260 days. This is the same as the 42 months in that same book, and both refer to 1260 years. When these years began has been a matter of some difference of opinion, but the end of these years will mean the end of the Antichristian powers and the setting up of Christ’s kingdom in greater sense than ever before; that is, among the nations. It will mean the victory of Christ’s kingdom upon the earth.

It is spoken of, once again, in Psalm 102, verses 12-17 – “But You, O Lord, shall endure forever, and the remembrance of your name to all generations.” “You will arise and have mercy on Zion; for the time to favor her, yes, the set time, has come.” “For your servants take pleasure in her stones, and show favor to her dust, so the nations shall fear the name of the Lord, and all the kings of the earth Your glory.” “For the Lord shall build up Zion; He shall appear in His glory.” “He shall regard the destitute, and shall not despise their prayer.” Let us remember this, my brethren, that Christ died not only that God’s elect would be saved, but that Christ’s kingdom might come to reign upon the earth. Christ shall see the travail of His soul and be satisfied. “All the ends of the world shall remember the promises of God when He pours out His Spirit upon the world, and the latter-day glory of the Church is seen. When you partake of the communion, remember that this is why Christ died; that His cause and kingdom might triumph in all the earth.

2nd – Christ’s Victory consists in making every Christian spiritually rich and prosperous.

Verse 29 says: “All the prosperous of the earth shall eat and worship; all those who go down to the dust shall bow before Him, even he who cannot keep himself alive.” If we keep viewing these verses in the way that we have; as describing the future victory of Christ’s cause and kingdom during the time period of the Millennium, we can see why these verses speak of all the prosperous people of the earth coming to eat and worship. Even many rich and prosperous people will be made partakers of Christ’s sacrifice for sins, and they too will become His worshippers. This is spoken of in a number of other places in the Bible; especially in relation to the conversion of the Jews, and their being brought into the Church of Jesus Christ. In Isaiah 49: 23 – “And kings shall be your foster fathers, and queens your nursing mothers.” Isaiah 60, verse 16 – “You shall also drink the milk of the Gentiles, and shall milk the breast of kings.” Psalm 45: 12 – “The daughter of Tyre shall be there with a gift; ...the rich among the people shall entreat Your favor.” And Psalm 138, verse 4 – “All the kings of the earth shall praise You, O Lord, when they hear the words of Your mouth.” “Yes, they shall sing of the ways of the Lord, for great is the glory of the Lord.” And Psalm 72, verses 8-11 – “He shall have dominion also from sea to sea, and from the River to the end of the earth.” “Those who dwell in the wilderness will bow before Him, and His enemies will lick the dust.” “The kings of Tarshish and of the isles will bring presents; the kings of Sheba and Seba will offer gifts.” “Yes, all kings shall fall down before Him; all nations shall serve Him.”

But this afternoon let us joy and rejoice that even though Christ’s Church has not yet reached this great time period in Church history, where Christ’s kingdom will conquer the nations, that in every generation, every sinner who believes in Jesus Christ is made spiritually prosperous, as they partake of Christ’s sacrifice by faith. They are made spiritually fat by His grace and truth, and they are truly able to worship the Lord of glory. For that is what this word “prosperous” can be translated as, in some translations. It is translated in the King James this way: “All the fat of the earth shall eat and worship.” The American Standard Version and the Revised Standard Version translate it as “the fat ones of the earth shall eat and worship”. In other words, the soul of the person believing in Jesus is made fat by partaking of spiritual things which will nourish his soul, and give him the fullness of grace to prosper greatly to the glory of God. Proverbs 28: 25 – “He who is of a proud heart stirs up strife, but he who trusts in the Lord

will be prospered.” (He shall be made fat) How thankful we should be that the Lord has called us to be partakers of the Divine nature, to partake of spiritual food which will enrich our souls and make them fat.

Turn with me over to Isaiah chapter 25, verse 6. “And in this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all people a feast of choice pieces, a feast of wines on the lees, of fat things full of marrow, of well-refined wines on the lees.” “And He will destroy on this mountain the surface of the covering cast over all people, and the veil that is spread over all nations.” “He will swallow up death forever, and the Lord God will wipe away tears from all faces; the rebuke of His people he will take away from all the earth; for the Lord has spoken.” The mountain that is spoken of here is the mountain of the house of the Lord; Christ’s kingdom, Christ’s Church. The feast that is spoken of here is the feast of the gospel, the word of God, and the ordinance of the Lord’s supper that we are about to observe. These are mentioned here for the encouragement and strengthening of the faith of the Lord’s people. It is a feast which has been prepared by the Lord Himself that they might remember and turn to the Lord; that they might eat and worship. It has been made for all of His dear people; Jew and Gentile. Here to this table we now will come. The best and choicest food has been prepared. It is set before you so that you might partake of it. We will remember Christ and His sufferings; He who has become to us true food and true drink. We will remember His body broken and His blood shed for us. And we will feed on these things spiritually remembering His love for us, and all that He intends to do for us, both in this life, and in the future. He has destroyed the covering cast over all people, the veil that is spread of all nations. There at the cross He conquered sin and death. Someday we shall see Him face to face, and He will swallow up death forever, and He will wipe away all of our tears. As we now come down front to the table, let us remember these glorious things that Christ died for, so that we might see them, so that we might have them, and so that we might know them.

3rd - Christ’s victory consists in His having a posterity that will serve Him.

Verse 30 says: “A posterity shall serve Him.” “It will be recounted of the Lord to the next generation, they will come and declare His righteousness to a people who will be born, that He has done this.” As we come to the Lord’s Supper now, we ought to be very thankful that both our faith and all of the accomplishment of our salvation, from beginning to end, rests upon our Lord Jesus Christ. Christ has accomplished a full redemption, and because He has accomplished it, God the Father and the Holy Spirit will apply it to each and every one of God’s elect people. There will be tangible results for Christ’s sufferings. The results do not rest with the will of man, but with the power of God. Therefore, each generation of Christians can praise the Lord that there will be a posterity which shall serve Him. Each generation can recount the wonders of grace which have been shown and performed by God. Each generation can declare Christ’s righteousness to the next. Christ has done all that God has required, in order for Him to look upon us with favor. Christ has suffered, bled, and died to atone for all of our sins. Christ has been raised from the dead as the manifestation of God’s intention; to apply all the benefits of salvation to the hearts of His people, so that they might be changed from glory to glory, and be made fit for heaven. Let us now give thanks that it is so.