

From Suffering to Glory

Hebrews 2.10-11

We have spent a lot of time in the last few weeks thinking about the meaning and power of suffering, both ours and more importantly Christ's. Hebrews points out that the sufferings of Christ are the means by which He brings "many sons to Glory" - But how then is this accomplished? Consider these words from Peter...

1 Peter 1.3-5

What a wonderful truth!! It is accomplished by the completion of His sufferings, and that completion is His resurrection. We have been begotten, made sons, brought to glory by His resurrection! Thus, the resurrection of Jesus Christ stands above all other things in created history. It is the centerpiece of all our hope and the demonstration of the absolute faithfulness of our God. It is the guarantee that He has done all that He promised to do. In the resurrection of Jesus we see the vindication of His suffering, the

reality that He has accomplished what He set out to do.

I. HE BRINGS US TO GLORY BY BECOMING OUR SIN ON THE CROSS, THUS PURCHASING OUR FORGIVENESS

2 Cor 5.21

1 Peter 2.24

Acts 5.30-31

Colossians 2:13-14

Each of us carries not only our inherited sin nature, but also our full and complete "list" of sin. The actual record of our rebellion against God. This record, this list has a price tag. Each one deserves death. Christ took that record upon Himself, becoming our sin. And writing "paid in full" across each part of our record in the blood of His cross, but we have the evidence that God has honored that transaction in the testimony of His resurrection!

II. HE BRINGS US TO GLORY BY HE BEARING AND COMPLETELY EXPIATING THE WRATH OF GOD ON OUR BEHALF.

Romans 4.23-25

1 Thess 1.10

Much more than death, as we commonly think of it, the wrath of God is the thing that is most pressing on us. It is the payment due for our lives of rebellion and we are all under that wrath by birth and nature. There is not one of us who is free from that reality, from the least to the greatest, youngest to the oldest, that is our natural inheritance. But Christ being our representative stood in our place and paid the debt for every single one of those whom the Father gave Him, and in paying that debt He completely satisfied and removed every ounce of the terrible wrath of God.

III. HE BRINGS US TO GLORY BY PROVIDING HIS OWN PERFECT RIGHTEOUSNESS FOR US IN HIM

Romans 5.19-21
Colossians 1.19-22

More than taking away our sin, our offenses, He imparts to us a righteousness which is alien to us, this foreign imputation of acceptability is the full and complete righteousness of Jesus Christ applied to our account as if it belonged to us. As if WE were the ones doing what was good and right and proper...

IV. HE BRINGS US TO GLORY DEFEATING DEATH

Hebrews 2.14-15
1 Cor 15.51-57
Romans 6.4-11

All of this means little if we have hope only in this life. Paul reminds us in 1 Corinthians that if in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men to be pitied...

V. HE BRINGS US TO GLORY BY HE GIVING US VICTORY OVER SIN

Romans 6.4-11

Do not think for one second that God forgives our sin and then leaves us to our own devices. He is not willing to allow us to continue walking in ways that keeps our hearts far from Him. His desire for us is that we are at peace in His presence. He desires that we would know the glory of being loved by Him. And there is no way that we can know that glory while sin still has its way in us. Therefore, Christ's resurrection gives us victory in real practice over sin.

VI. HE BRINGS US TO GLORY BY HE DISARMING THE ENEMY OF OUR SOULS

Colossians 2.11-15

The weapon that Satan brings against us is often the full and perfect Law of God. Presented in a way that excluded Christ and His work, bringing us under the law in a bondage of fear and pain. But Christ's resurrection is the guarantee that God has accepted the payment of Jesus and that we will

never be condemned for our sin. Once this weapon is removed, once death is taken out of play, once all of the real strength of the enemy is broken, all he has left is fear and lies. These weapons can indeed do terrible damage, but ONLY if we allow them to do so. For they are imaginary weapons, they have no power to harm us, they cannot hurt what God has raised!

VII. HE BRINGS US TO GLORY BY HE GIVING TO US HEALING, PERFECT AND TRIUMPHANT, GLORIOUS AND ETERNAL.

Revelation 7.15-17

Romans 8.10-11

1 Cor 15.52

In the end of it all physical death will remain in play for us, but we have the sure and certain hope that it is nothing but our liberation from pain, suffering, sorrow and illness of all kinds. God has promised us that healing awaits us in the split second that we depart this broken world, we become whole, healed and transcendent.

VIII. HE BRINGS US TO GLORY BECAUSE WE ARE ALL OF ONE THEREFORE HIS RESURRECTION IS OUR RESURRECTION!

Hebrews 2.11

2 Tim 2:11-13

The power and the promise of the resurrection of Christ is an awesome thing to consider, but what a mercy and superabundant glorious gift is ours when we understand that Christ SHARED that power and promise with us. He is the FIRSTBORN among many brethren, that means that there will be others born of the same stock and given the same promised destiny. Those others, beloved, are us. WE have been given this promise and WE will one day be with Him for He gives us His own resurrection as ours!

IX. HE BRINGS US TO GLORY BY TAKING US HOME TO BE WITH OUR FATHER

1Peter 3.18

John 14.1-4

And the powerful wonder of that resurrection is
that we will be with Him and with the Father
FOREVER!