

Pinnacle: He Will Glorify You

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Scripture Reading

“The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children. Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.” (Romans 8:16-17 ESV)

OUTLINED SERMON

The Spirit is your down payment (*arrabon*: in Modern Greek it means an engagement ring). A sign in the present of what will be true in the future.

The spirit is the guarantee of our “inheritance” (Eph 1:14). The background here is the Exodus story. God says “I’ll take you out of Egypt and take you into the Promised land full of my presence and mercy.” As a sign that this will come true, he sent his presence with them for 40 years in the wilderness: a constant reminder (we are heading there; this land coming up is yours).

In Paul, the “already” and “not yet” overlap.

So we have mysterious and cryptic language that is meant to say “expect something different and better, but not so different that God loses what he made. And its all Genesis language of creation.

Example #1: Resurrection of our bodies. Romans 8:22 “of” not “from.” 1 Corinthians 15—if Paul is arguing anything, it’s that our bodies are coming up. Why? Because God wants YOU you. 1 Thess 5:23- I pray that you will be complete when the Lord comes back, but says “soul, spirit, and body.”

My point: Is there a part of you that you don’t like? Instead of saying, “well God will get rid of that” how about “God will transform even that. Every part of me will be beautiful as beautiful as God sees it, as beautiful as God meant for it to be.”

Example #2: The freeing of creation. Romans 8—

Option A: "Christians."

Option B: "angels, or non human persons."

Option C: metaphor.

Option D: the world (physical world) will somehow be fixed, restored, made better.

My point: Instead of saying, "that no-good terrible world, or that no-good terrible thing in God's world maybe he'll get rid of it" changes to "what if everything was what it was intended to be? What if God wins so completely that he doesn't lose, but restores what was lost, and now is found?"

Example #3: "heaven" also called "new heavens and new earth."

Some say "that metaphor means new surroundings"

Others say it means end of this one and another one "new"

Others "refers to this world remade"

My point: Instead of always speaking of escapism (go to heaven) what if we thought in terms of God "returning" and God "fixing" what is broken. Roman Colonies waiting for the emperor to fix.

The main point: Wesley hymn of Joy to the world "He came to make his presence known, far as the curse is found. Remember Genesis: man blames woman. Woman blames snake. So God curses the snake, then he curses women, then he curses...the ground! Isaiah uses that imagery and says when God gets his way, instead of the thorn bush will come up the cyprus. Maybe its metaphor; maybe its literal; maybe its both; but the deep point is this: In the end, God gets everything, and everything is made right. Satan and evil don't get victory points.

So this imagery keeps appearing. 1 Corinthians: if anyone is in christ, behold, it is a "new creation." There is that genesis language again.

"I don't see you that way." Husband and wife. Ephesians 5: "to make her holy, and to present her...without blemish." Revelation 22: I saw the new Jerusalem coming down out of heaven like a bride adorned for her husband. And comes down and voice says "now, God is with his people." Reminds us of Genesis God walking in the garden in the cool of the day.

Is there one word to sum up this "ultimate reality" that will one day be true, but we are supposed to see with those eyes now? Yes. We've talked about "sanctification" but this is called "glorification."

When God raised Jesus from the dead, he also “glorified” him (Acts 3:13; 1 Pet 1:21). John says this 7 times in his gospel (“Jesus had not yet been glorified.”). Jesus is fully God and now experiences such glory. John 17:5: “Now, glorify me with your own self, with the glory that I had with you before the world began.”

When he returns, says Paul, on that day, he will come to be “glorified in his holy people” (2 Thess 1:10). This seems to mean Jesus will be seen in all of his fullness, in all of his glory, and that glory will be seen, radiated, shared, throughout his people. Glorified “in” us means we will be funnels, mirrors, sharing his glory. 1 John 3 speaks to this: “We don’t know what we shall be like, but when he appears, we shall be like Him, for we shall see him as he is.”

But remember, that’s how God sees us now! And here is the verse to prove it. And, wouldn’t you know it, it’s in Romans 8, verse 30:

“And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; and those he justified, he also glorified.”

Is there hope for me? Yes. Read 2 Corinthians chapter 3.