

SRM14063 6/15/2014

#6 "Pass It On: Glorification"
1 Peter 5:10 (ESV)

JRR Tolkien's trilogy, *The Lord of the Rings* tells the story of the battle for Middle Earth. A great evil power seeks to dominate and enslave the world, and its only hope is to destroy the one great Ring of power.

It is decided that the one who should carry the ring is Frodo Baggins a diminutive Hobbit. Though it is a seemingly impossible task, he is successful in the end.

The story has many metaphors for the struggle for the real, meaningful, joyful life we all seek.

In the end of the last book, Frodo is privileged to accompany the angel-like elves to the "Fair Havens," a place that, we sense, will be perfect in every way.

Why do such stories capture our attention? Because God has placed eternity in our hearts.

A little girl was walking with her father in the country. As she looked up into the star-studded sky, her eyes were filled with wonder. .

Turning to her father she asked, "Daddy, if the wrong side of heaven is so beautiful, what do you think the right side will be like?"

How do you handle the challenges, struggles and challenges of life and keep a persevering attitude?

If you follow Jesus Christ, you handle it with a Faith that focuses on Him, what He did, & what He said about the future.

With all the emphasis that so many Christians put on what Christ does for us now, and that is considerable, we may forget that most of what Christians are promised is coming in the future.

Today we come to the last of our series, "Pass It On", considering six basic elements of our Christian worldview to "Pass on" to children and others. We started with God's Revelation in the Bible's Sufficiency, Clarity, Authority and Necessity.

Then, God's Creation of the world and everything in it, including human beings, in His image, which should lead us to worship and serve Him above all else. Then, what the Bible says about Sin, Death, humanity's fall, and regeneration.

Then, What God by Jesus Christ Did to redeem people lost in sin: Redemption.

Last week, the work of the Holy Spirit in changing a converted, redeemed person: Restoration and sanctification.

This morning we come to the final chapter in this story: Glorification, the destination to which God is bringing His children. It is the story of God creating us all, our deciding to go our own way, but getting so lost we could not and would not find our way back, God opening our eyes to our lost condition and revealing Himself to us, taking the consequences of our rebellion upon Himself, and restoring people to His spiritual family by “marrying” and adopting them.

Our church's Affirmation of Faith sums up our view of the future this way:

12. The last things "We believe in the personal and visible return of the Lord Jesus Christ to earth and the establishment of His kingdom. We believe in the Resurrection of the body, the final judgment, the eternal felicity of the righteous, and the endless suffering of the wicked."

These things are clearly taught in the Bible in various places, such as 1 Peter 5:10 (ESV) After you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will him-self restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you.

What the Bible says about Glorification can be broken down into what it says about:

- Christ coming as Perfect Ruler.

- Our future Perfect Life: Resurrection.
- The Perfect Righteousness God will bring.

1. Pass it on that Jesus will one day return to be the Perfect Ruler.

- There are differences between Christians who believe the Bible is “true truth” about what exactly some of the relevant passages mean, but all agree on 3 things:

A. His Return will be personal and visible.

While some teach there will be an earlier "secret" coming for believers, all agree there will be a coming that is anything but secret:

Rev 19:11-16 (NKJV) “Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself. He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And He has on His

robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS."

He will come as Lord & king.

Every NT writer (there are at least 8) refers to this event; it is mentioned a total of about 300 times.

Acts 1:11 makes it clear that it will be personal, bodily & visible: "Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven."

App: The Christian Faith is about historical, real things. He will come in power, to overcome every threat to our eternal joy.

He will come fulfilling God's purposes, and this reminds us that God is on the throne.

ILL: Suppose you were informed that an esteemed friend plans to make contact with you again. Would you prepare differently if he was going to call or write a letter than if he was going to visit personally? Of course: you would "clean house."

- So it is with Christ's personal Return.

B. When He comes, He will establish a Kingdom.

Some of what Jesus predicted has already taken place, but when He returns, it will be completed.

His Kingdom is more a rule than a realm, but when He comes, it will be universal & undisputed.

App. Who or what do you think this means you should be living for?

C. The time of His coming is already determined, but known only to Him.

- May be at any time. Mat 25:13 (NKJV) "Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming."

- It will be sudden & unannounced: 1 Thes. 5:3 (ESV) While people are saying, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape.

- We are to be always ready: Mat 24:44 (NKJV) Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

ILL: If you were told that you would be invited to move on a moment's notice at an undis-

closed time to the place of your dreams, how would it change your life?

- Would you accumulate little?
- Would you be careful to guard the things you would be allowed to take along?
- Would you save up for the new place in currency that would be good there?

trans: When Jesus returns, He will come as the Perfect Ruler, and something miraculous will happen to the lives of all the Christians that ever lived.

2. Pass it on that Christians will be given a Perfect Life: Resurrection.

Dan. 12:2 (NKJV) many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, Some to everlasting life, Some to shame and everlasting contempt.

John 5:28-29 (NKJV) "for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice and come forth--those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation."

A. This Resurrection will be a literal, bodily one, like that of Christ.

Your new body will be connected with the old.
1 Corinthians 15:35-37 (NKJV) But someone will say, "How are the dead raised up? And

with what body do they come?" Foolish one, what you sow is not made alive unless it dies. And what you sow, you do not sow that body that shall be, but mere grain--perhaps wheat or some other grain...42-44 So also is the resurrection of the dead. The body is sown in corruption, it is raised in incorruption. It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. It is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body.

App: You and I need to see how valuable our bodies are to God.

- The promise of resurrection should give us patience to wait for their perfection.
- Meanwhile, we should take care of them.

ILL: You treat your best china better than your paper plates.

B. The Christian has a different view of death.

1. Death is a departure: Phil 1:23 (NKJV) For I am hard pressed between the two, having a desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far better.

The image is that of a ship putting out to sea.

While the body is laid to rest, the Spirit departs.

2. Death is an entrance: Christ has overcome the power of death. For the Believer death is the entrance into a fuller life!!

Death cannot separate believers from the Love of God. Romans 8:38-39 (ESV) For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Believers enter a state of conscious existence w/ the LORD. Phil 1:23 "For I ... [have] a desire to depart and be with Christ ..."

trans: When Jesus returns, He will come as the Perfect Ruler, and something miraculous will happen to the lives of all the Christians that ever lived. Christians will be given a Perfect Life: Resurrection.

Now what happens once the body is renewed?

3. Pass it on that God will bring Perfect Righteousness

A. What does the Bible say about final Justice and our eternal home?

1. The Judge is Jesus himself.

Rev. 20:11 (ESV) "Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. From his presence earth and sky fled away, and no place was found for them."

- We are judged by one who has lived with us.

- We are judged by a perfect judge. [no favorites]

2. It will include everyone. v. 12a "And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened."

2 Tim 4:1 (NKJV) I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom:

3. He will judge what we have done.

Rev. 20:12b-13 (ESV) "Then another book was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done. (13) And the sea gave up the dead who were in it, Death and Hades gave up the dead who were in them, and they were judged, each one of them, according to what they had done.

Injustices and sufferings in history never escape God's eye. God will judge every deed, all

wrongs will be righted and all God's enemies defeated.

This ought to be a terror to God's enemies, but a comfort to His people.

Christians will receive rewards, while those who stand on their own records will answer for them.

4. It will extend even to our secrets. Rom 2:16 speaks of (NKJV) “the day when God will judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ”.

5. It's result will be a sentence of life or death.

B. What about the eternal home of Unbelievers?

1. Hell is a real place. Jesus said in Mat 10:28 (NKJV) And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

2. It is a place of punishment.

It is described as a prison, a state of darkness, a place of fire, of weeping and gnashing of teeth.

- Deprivation of all good.

- A place of suffering: Rom 2:8-9 (ESV) “but for those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, there will be wrath and fury. There will be tribulation and distress for every human being who does evil”

3. It is an ETERNAL state..

Jesus spoke of hell as a place where, quoting Is 66:44 “‘their worm does not die, and the fire is not quenched.’ Mark 9:48

App: How might this affect your attitude toward your Unbelieving neighbor?

If he was drowning and fought you when you tried to pull him out, would you quit easily?

C. In contrast to this, consider the eternal home of those made righteous in Christ.

1. It is described as Heaven, a real place John 14:2 (ESV) In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?

The Resurrection bodies require this.

2. A place of glory involving ...

a. Individual perfection: bodies, minds, morals

b. Harmonious social relations

No quarrels, crimes or wars.
No fear or mistrust.

App: Don't look for heaven in the church. You will see glimpses here, but this is a repair shop for imperfections.

c. Free from natural evils: a perfect environment.

d. Unbroken fellowship with God: face to face.

3. Heaven is everlasting.

Conc: So Pass it on that Jesus will come as the Perfect Ruler, that Christians will be given a Perfect Life, and that God in the future will bring Perfect Righteousness to the world

God has placed eternity in our hearts.

Christ's return will be both fearsome & Glorious. Fearsome for Unbelievers & Glorious for Believers. Their bodies will be raised and renewed to Perfect Life. Justice will prevail in a world of Perfect Righteousness.

Action: When someone complains about their boss or a government official, tell them you are thankful

that one day you will live under a Perfect Ruler, (and make sure it's true).

Ask God for a chance to tell someone this week why you are not afraid of dying.

Ask someone to describe their Dream Home, then tell them about yours.