

5-1-16

WHY OUR HOPE IS NOT IN THIS WORLD

Romans 8:18 For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

Romans 8:19 For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God.

Romans 8:20 For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope,

Romans 8:21 Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.

Romans 8:22 For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now.

Romans 8:23 And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body.

Romans 8:24 For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for?

Romans 8:25 But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it.

Romans 8:26 Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

Romans 8:27 And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God.

Romans 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

Romans 8:29 For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.

Romans 8:30 Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.

Romans 8:31 What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?

Romans 8:32 He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?

Romans 8:33 Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? [It is] God that justifieth.

Romans 8:34 Who is he that condemneth? [It is] Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.

Romans 8:35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

Romans 8:36 As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.

Romans 8:37 Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.

Romans 8:38 For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,

Romans 8:39 Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

A few years back I opened the Bible to Romans Chapter 8 and I just started to sing and wrote the song we sang this morning.. NOT AT HOME IN THIS WORLD ANYMORE..

In fact last week when I shared our new Scripture song that we sang taken from I John 4:17. I thought I had written a song on the subject of not being at home in the world.. However.. I couldn't find it.. But I did find the Scripture song.. and finished it and put it in the bulletin.. But it was actually this song I was trying to find. When I found it.. I realized it was too difficult to sing as a Scripture Chorus..

I found the words to the song in my archives.. and thought I would preach an addendum to the message I preached last week and share this song.

The song follows the text in Romans Chapter 8 that I am going to share this morning! The Title of my message is

"WHY MY HOPE IS NOT IN THIS WORLD"

My Text is Romans 8:18-39 I am sure we will not be able to finish the whole message this morning.. but I will share what time will allow and finish up the rest of the passage tonight.

When I was young I was trying to find my life in this world, and thought to do so by pursuing a career in music. I played in night clubs in the Philadelphia area in the late 60's early 70's.. When I was challenged to receive Christ, God started to work in my heart and mind.. I believed that little by little I was going to achieve everything I wanted to achieve in this world. But also I saw that most musicians I knew did not live very long. Most died in their 40's or 50's at the latest.. So I assumed the same would happen to me. I assumed I would have some measure of success, and then die at an early age. Or worse than that would wind up losing my health or mind because of drugs and lose everything before I died.

Than I considered that if I got saved I might live a longer life but be rejected by the world and then spend eternity with the Lord. I would have a healthier life.. have peace with God maybe not have as much in this world.. but I would trade that all in for a good conscience and peace with the Lord...

I reasoned .. what would I lose.. I would give up everything that I would someday lose anyway .. for that which was a sure thing. So in 1974 I gave my life to Jesus. And all has gone as planned.. I have served him now in this country church for 33 years.. relatively unknown.. but he has given to me more than I deserve. I have not suffered want for anything.. though at first it looked like finances would be an issue living here. But the Lord allowed me to have a ministry and used my musical skills to even supplement my income. I have not had to compromise my preaching.. I have freedom to preach.. I do not cater to rich or poor, young or old .. I am free to share what the Lord has laid on my heart week by week.

What more could a Christian servant ever want in this life..

I am now coming to the end of my life I am sure.. what could I have three score and ten or if by reason of strength 80 years.. Yet already I see signs that the Lord is saying get your bags packed.. it will not be long i am sure..

But one thing I can say.. THIS WORLD IS NOT MY HOME..

MY HOPE IS NOT IN THIS WORLD.. AND I CAN SAY .. I HAVE NO REGRETS HAVING SERVED THE LORD NOW FOR 42 years.. 33 of those years I have spent in this church. I meet people all the time who are now adults .. parents raising children who were in our nursery when I first came to this church..

I can say with King David..

Psalms 37:25 I have been young, and [now] am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread.

The Apostle made some great observations when he penned the word we read in Romans Chapter 8 ..

Through the years we have had a few trials and set backs but nothing like those who have gone before us. What sacrifices have we had to make compared to the promises that we have. Can we even consider them sacrifices.. I say with Paul .. I count them as dung...

But I say.. now.. MY HOPE IS NOT IN THIS WORLD..

I. OUR HOPE IS NOT IN THIS WORLD BECAUSE OF THE PRESENT SUFFERING

Romans 8:18 For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time [are] not worthy [to be compared] with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

Romans 8:19 For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God.

Romans 8:20 For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected [the same] in hope,

Romans 8:21 Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.

Romans 8:22 For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now.

Romans 8:23 And not only [they], but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, [to wit], the redemption of our body.

One of the greatest problems that people face in this world is that of not living in reality. Reality is truth.. Fantasy is a lie. Why is it people would rather believe lies than the truth. The truth sometimes is harsh. Reality is sometimes difficult to accept. We love to fantasize day dream etc.

Now reality is that this present life is a life filled with suffering and difficulties.

The reason people have been drawn to Christianity these thousands of years is because of the strength that God gives His people to face suffering and endure trials.

And what is it that allows us to face trials and hardships in this life with a supernatural strength?

What allows this is our hope and faith in His promises of something that is better, and His teaching concerning what we can expect in this present life.

1. GOD PROMISES THAT THERE IS SOMETHING BETTER AWAITING US IN ETERNITY

Romans 8:18 For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

Jesus said if we suffer for him we shall reign with him..

We are waiting for the promise of the Father..

The Bible teaches that the wages of sin is death..

Death is a process.. when Adam and Eve sinned they didn't just fall over and die that very second.. there were phases of death ..

- A. **THEIR SPIRIT WAS AFFECTED IMMEDIATELY AND THEY WERE SEPARATED FROM GOD THAT VERY PHYSICAL DAY..**
- B. **THEY WERE CASE OUT OF THE GARDEN AND SPEARATED FROM THE TREE OF LIFE WHICH ALLOWED FOR PHYSICAL HEALTH AND WELL BEING WHICH CAUSE PHYSICAL DEATH WITHIN A SPIRITUAL DAY .. 900 years approx..**
- C. **THEIR SOUL THEN WAS USHERED BEFORE THE LORD WHERE THEY SHOULD HAVE SPENT ETERNITY IN A PLACE OF SPIRITUAL SPEPERATION FROM GOD FOR ETERNITY..**

Death is a process.. that takes place over time.

The worse death is not Physical..

The death we ought to truly fear is spiritual death which would cause us to be separated from God for eternity.

When Jesus came to earth he showed that he had power over every aspect of death, both physical and spiritual .

He healed people

He raised people from the dead..

He did all this..

Now today we preach and teach Jesus Christ as our Lord and Saviour..

And the Bible says whoever receives this message can be saved..

Saved from what .. Physical Death?

No Christians die..

Saved from suffering?

No Christians Suffer...

SAVED FROM WHAT ..

Saved from eternal separation from God.. after death..

Matthew 10:28 And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

Hell is eternal separation from God.. Spiritual death..

When we receive Jesus Christ as our Lord and Saviour we accept the fact that we may suffer and we are willing even to suffer in this present world because we have hope in the promises of a future life..

WHAT ALLOWED THOSE EARLY CHRISTIANS TO GO TO PRISONS FOR THEIR FAITH?
WHAT ALLOWED THOSE EARLY CHRISTIANS TO BE WILLING TO BE MARTYRED FOR THE CAUSE?
WHAT ALLOWED THOSE EARLY CHRISTIANS TO SUFFER PERSECUTION?

THIS IS WHAT PAUL WAS TALKING ABOUT..

Romans 8:18 For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

Will I lie to you.. and tell you when you become a Christian everything is going to go well for you in this life..

Will I tell you that God will give you wealth and health and fame and riches in this life?

When did the victory come for Christ? Was it before the cross or after the cross?

Jesus said..

Matthew 16:24 Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.

Matthew 16:25 For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it.

Matthew 16:26 For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?

2. NOTICE THAT PROMISE IS IN THE RESURRECTION OF THE DEAD

Romans 8:19 For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God.

Romans 8:20 For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope,

Romans 8:21 Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.

Romans 8:22 For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now.

Romans 8:23 And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body.

What is this redemption of our body?

This is none other than the promise of the resurrection from the dead..

All of creation groans.. So we groan.. we have ache we have pains..

I groan and do not even know it..

A little while back I was carrying something up into the sound room and Lathen, one of the children of the church, looked at his grand mom and grandad and said "WHY IS HE SO OLD?" I must have been groaning as I carried something upstairs!

Not only does the Bible say we groan but all of creation groans.

Often when there is a storm brewing and I go up into the woods behind my house I can actually hear the all the trees groan.. I COULD SAY WHY ARE THEY SO OLD?

I hear the animals groan at night..

GLOBAL WARMING IS ACTUALLY THE CREATION GROANING..

Do you think you will stop it by not burning coal, oil and coal?

Whenever there is a earthquake the earth groans...

Whenever there is a hurricane the earth groans...

Our sin has effected the very creation itself!

II. OUR HOPE IS NOT IN THIS WORLD BECAUSE WE BELIEVE HIS PROMISES

Romans 8:24 For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for?

Romans 8:25 But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it.

Someone said to me, I will believe if I can see!

We are saved by hope.. we are saved by our faith.

Faith that is seen is not faith ..

Hope that is seen is not hope..

A miracle saves no one..

It is a miracle when you believe..

Jesus said to Thomas .. they called him doubting Thomas in the bible because he said this..

John 20:25 HE SAID... Except I shall see in his hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into his side, I will not believe.

John 20:27 Then saith he to Thomas, Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into my side: and be not faithless, but believing.

John 20:28 And Thomas answered and said unto him, My Lord and my God.

John 20:29 Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed.

Jesus said our blessings come by way of our faith..

Seeing is not faith ... when you see something you don't need faith.

What is greater faith to see and believe
Or to hear and believe..

Romans 10:17 So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

We preach faith ..
As you come I preach this book.
As you believe this book you get faith.
As you get faith you are blessed!

Our hope is not in this world because we have no faith in this world.
Our faith is not in this world..

We do not trust in this world..

Paul said it this way:

I Corinthians 15:19 If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable.

Our hope is not in this world..
Our hope is not in this life..

III. OUR HOPE IS NOT IN THIS WORLD BECAUSE WE HAVE A DIFFERENT SPIRIT THAN THE WORLD

Romans 8:26 Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

Romans 8:27 And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God.

GOD SPEAKS TO OUR SPIRIT!

We have a different spirit than the world.

JOHN SAID:

I John 4:17 Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world.

JESUS SAID:

John 15:18 If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you.

Why are we surprised that the world reacts against us in the same way that they reacted to Jesus!?

In the wild sometimes certain animals will reject their young when they come in contact with humans and they pick up the scent of a human on their young...

I liken the Spirit of God to that sort of thing. When the world picks up that we have a different spirit they reject us! They actually will fight against us and attack us!

I often wonder if a true Christian could ever be widely accepted in certain nationally scrutinized offices anymore...

It is one thing to say you are a Christian it is quite another thing to truly have the Spirit of Christ!

IV. OUR HOPE IS NOT IN THIS WORLD BECAUSE WE HAVE DIFFERNT GOALS THAN THE CITIZENS OF THIS WORLD..

Romans 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

Romans 8:29 For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.

Romans 8:30 Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.

What should be the goals of a true godly Christian?

Luke 12:34 For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

What should we try to accomplish in this life?

We should try and be conformed into His image!

V. OUR HOPE IS NOT IN THIS WORLD BECAUSE WE HAVE A DIFFERNT LEADER AND SAVIOUR AND GOD

Romans 8:31 What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?

Romans 8:32 He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?

Romans 8:33 Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth.

Romans 8:34 Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.

THE POINT IS THIS .. IF GOD BE FOR YOU! IF GOD IS FOR YOU WHAT DOES IT MATTER WHO IS AGAINST YOU!?

When Abijah fought against Jeroboam He said..

II Chronicles 13:12 And, behold, God himself is with us for our captain,

On April 18, 1775 John Adams and John Hancock were at the home of Rev. Jonas Clarke, a Lexington pastor and militia leader. That same night Paul Revere arrived to warn them of the approaching Redcoats. The next morning British Major Pitcairn shouted to an assembled regiment of Minutemen; "Disperse, ye villains, lay down your arms in the name of George the Sovereign King of England." The immediate response of Rev. Jonas Clarke or one of his company was:

"We recognize no Sovereign but God and no King but Jesus."

The last war we won with a decisive victory at the most important hour and the most important battle of that we face .. D Day we had a president that got on the radio on D Day and prayed.. this prayer..

HERE IS WHAT HE PRAYED I want you to note one statement..

*Almighty God: Our sons, pride of our Nation, this day have set upon a mighty endeavor, a struggle to preserve our Republic, **our religion**, and our civilization, and to set free a suffering humanity.*

NOTE HE PRAYS TO PRESERVE OUR REPUBLIC.. OUR RELIGION, OR CIVILIZATION
My question is what religion? Then he goes on in his prayer

Lead them straight and true; give strength to their arms, stoutness to their hearts, steadfastness in their faith.

They will need Thy blessings. Their road will be long and hard. For the enemy is strong. He may hurl back our forces. Success may not come with rushing speed, but we shall return again and again; and we know that by Thy grace, and by the righteousness of our cause, our sons will triumph.

They will be sore tried, by night and by day, without rest-until the victory is won. The darkness will be rent by noise and flame. Men's souls will be shaken with the violences of war.

For these men are lately drawn from the ways of peace. They fight not for the lust of conquest. They fight to end conquest. They fight to liberate. They fight to let justice arise, and tolerance and good will among all Thy people. They yearn but for the end of battle, for their return to the haven of home.

Some will never return. Embrace these, Father, and receive them, Thy heroic servants, into Thy kingdom.

And for us at home -- fathers, mothers, children, wives, sisters, and brothers of brave men overseas -- whose thoughts and prayers are ever with them--help us, Almighty God, to rededicate ourselves in renewed faith in Thee in this hour of great sacrifice.

Many people have urged that I call the Nation into a single day of special prayer. But because the road is long and the desire is great, I ask that our people devote themselves in a continuance of prayer. As we rise to each new day, and again when each day is spent, let words of prayer be on our lips, invoking Thy help to our efforts.

Give us strength, too -- strength in our daily tasks, to redouble the contributions we make in the physical and the material support of our armed forces.

And let our hearts be stout, to wait out the long travail, to bear sorrows that may come, to impart our courage unto our sons wheresoever they may be.

And, O Lord, give us Faith. Give us Faith in Thee; Faith in our sons; Faith in each other; Faith in our united crusade. Let not the keenness of our spirit ever be dulled. Let not the impacts of temporary events, of temporal matters of but fleeting moment let not these deter us in our unconquerable purpose.

With Thy blessing, we shall prevail over the unholy forces of our enemy. Help us to conquer the apostles of greed and racial arrogancies. Lead us to the saving of our country, and with our sister Nations into a world unity that will spell a sure peace a peace invulnerable to the schemings of unworthy men. And a peace that will let all of men live in freedom, reaping the just rewards of their honest toil.

Thy will be done, Almighty God.

Amen.

When leaders of our nation were not ashamed to name the name of Jesus we were supernaturally protected and blessed.. now what is happening to us..

According to Wikipedia:

President [Barack Obama](#) did not hold any public events at the White House,^[25] though he has issued presidential proclamations regularly each year.

In other words he is takes a neutral stand on prayer .. all 8 years in the white house Obama has never prayed publicly .. So how well are we doing on the war with Terror? How well are we doing with our economy? How well are we doing? Also my question is, what is the nations religion that FDR talked about preserving? When he prayed..

*Almighty God: Our sons, pride of our Nation, this day have set upon a mighty endeavor, a struggle to preserve our Republic, **our religion**, and our civilization, and to set free a suffering humanity.*

Also..

President Franklin Delano Roosevelt suspended naturalization proceedings for all German, Japanese, and Italian settlers in the United States on December 8, 1941, just one day after the Pearl Harbor attack.

Could you imagine during war world II running a president on the Ballot with the name of **Yosuke Yomamoto** Or Could you imagine running for president a man by the name of **Heil Schicklgruber** **We had just gone to war in Iraq with a man by the name of** Saddam Hussein and a few years later we elect a President with the name of Barack Hussein Obama.

But like all the nations of the world we have gone a drift.. just as predicted in the Bible. For a while our nation was a Bastion, a Citadel, for the cause of Christianity around the world.. The number one country of the world for missions around the world.

When we look to Jesus for leadership we will have right leadership. And for a while our nation was leading the world. So the nearer to the end of times we come the further we drift from what we were..

Can any man lead without Christ..

VI. OUR HOPE IS NOT IN THIS WORLD BECAUSE THE WORLD HATES US AND CHRIST LOVES US..

Romans 8:35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

Romans 8:36 As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.

Romans 8:37 Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.

Romans 8:38 For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,

Romans 8:39 Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

II Timothy 3:12 Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.

If Christ is for us who can be against us..

There are some people who just will not like you ..

There are some who will hate you because of what you stand for..

I John 3:13 Marvel not, my brethren, if the world hate you.

John 15:17 These things I command you, that ye love one another.

John 15:18 If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you.

John 15:19 If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you.

John 15:20 Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also.

John 15:21 But all these things will they do unto you for my name's sake, because they know not him that sent me.

Conclusion:

These are the reasons my hope is not in this world.