

THE GOSPEL FOR EVERYDAY CHRISTIAN LIVING

PART EIGHT

Tim Keller: “No matter what precautions we take, no matter how well we have put together a good life, no matter how hard we have worked to be healthy, wealthy, comfortable with friends and family, and successful with our career — something will inevitably ruin it.”

C.S. Lewis, “We were promised sufferings. They were part of the program. We were even told, 'Blessed are they that mourn,' and I accept it.”

What inspires us to persevere in suffering?

Romans 12:12, “**Rejoice in hope,** be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer.”

SUFFERING IS UNBEARABLE WITHOUT HOPE

10. WE MUST PREACH THE GOSPEL TO OURSELVES EVERYDAY TO CLING TO OUR GLORIOUS HOPE OF ETERNAL GLORY.

- ❖ **I Corinthians 15:3-4,** For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, **that he was raised on the third day** in accordance with the Scriptures.

A.M. Ramsey: “For them (that is the apostles) the gospel without the resurrection was not merely a gospel without its final chapter, it was not a gospel at all.”

- ❖ **I Corinthians 15:12-19,** Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead (**Gospel**), how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead (**Eternal Glory**)? But if there is no resurrection of the dead (**Eternal Glory**), then not even Christ has been raised (**Gospel**). And if Christ has not been raised (**Gospel**), then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain. We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified about God that he raised Christ (**Gospel**), whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. For if the dead are not raised (**Eternal Glory**), not even Christ has been raised (**Gospel**). And if Christ has not been raised (**Gospel**), your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied.

- ❖ **Romans 6:5**, “For if we have been united with him in a death like his **(Gospel)**, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his” **(Eternal Glory)**.
- ❖ **I Thessalonians 4:14**, “For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again **(Gospel)**, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep **(Eternal Glory)**.”
- ❖ **I Corinthians 6:14**, “And God raised the Lord **(Gospel)** and will also raise us up by his power **(Eternal Glory)**.”

Stephen Renn emphasizes that... the Christian hope is not based on mere wishful thinking, but on a certain outcome of blessing that is grounded in the finished redemptive work of Jesus Christ.

- ❖ **I Peter 1:3-7**, Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, **he has caused us to be born again to a living hope (Eternal Glory) through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead (Gospel)**, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you **(Eternal Glory)**, who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. **In this you rejoice (Romans 12:12, “Rejoice in hope”)**, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

Eternal glory:

- Eternal life (immortality),
- Glorified body (a perfect body without human weaknesses),
- Conformity to Christlikeness (perfect in righteousness),
- Eternal dwelling with God (experience God in person forever),
- Eternal fellowship with God’s saints (live together in perfect harmony forever),
- Eternal joy (complete freedom from all earthly pain)

A one-year-old boy shattered his back falling down a flight of stairs. He spent his childhood and youth in and out of hospital. Gavin Read, the former Bishop of Maidstone, interviewed him in church. The boy remarked, ‘God is fair.’ Gavin

stopped him and asked, 'How old are you?' 'Seventeen,' the boy replied. 'How many years have you spent in hospital?' The boy answered, 'Thirteen years.' Gavin asked, 'Do you think that is fair?' He replied, 'God has got all of eternity to make it up to me.'

Tim Keller: But resurrection is not just consolation — it is restoration. We get it all back — the love, the loved ones, the goods, the beauties of this life — but in new, unimaginable degrees of glory and joy and strength.

As **John Newton** (song writer of "Amazing Grace") died at age eighty-two, he whispered to a friend, "My memory is nearly gone. But I remember two things: that I am a great sinner, and that Christ is a great Saviour." Newton wrote in his *Letters to a Wife*, "How wonderful must be the moment after death!"

WE MUST PREACH THE GOSPEL TO OURSELVES EVERYDAY TO CLING TO OUR GLORIOUS HOPE OF ETERNAL GLORY.

SUMMARY:

- 1) WE MUST PREACH THE GOSPEL TO OURSELVES EVERY DAY TO LIVE A LIFE OF SUFFICIENCY IN GOD.**
- 2) WE MUST PREACH THE GOSPEL TO OURSELVES EVERY DAY TO LIVE A HOLY LIFE.**
- 3) WE MUST PREACH THE GOSPEL TO OURSELVES EVERY DAY TO HAVE A NEW BEGINNING.**
- 4) WE MUST PREACH THE GOSPEL TO OURSELVES EVERY DAY TO PRACTICE LOVING ONE ANOTHER IN THE CHURCH.**
- 5) WE MUST PREACH THE GOSPEL TO OURSELVES EVERYDAY TO BE A GOOD CHRISTIAN EMPLOYEE.**
- 6) WE MUST PREACH THE GOSPEL TO OURSELVES EVERY DAY TO BUILD A GODLY FAMILY.**
- 7) WE MUST PREACH THE GOSPEL TO OURSELVES EVERY DAY TO PRACTICE GENEROSITY.**
- 8) WE MUST PREACH THE GOSPEL TO OURSELVES EVERY DAY TO FOLLOW CHRIST-LIKE ACCEPTANCE OF ONE ANOTHER.**

**9) WE MUST PREACH THE GOSPEL TO OURSELVES EVERYDAY
TO STIR OURSELVES UP TO PREACH THE GOSPEL TO
OTHERS.**

**10) WE MUST PREACH THE GOSPEL TO OURSELVES EVERYDAY
TO CLING TO OUR GLORIOUS HOPE OF ETERNAL GLORY.**