

Sermon Notes – December 6, 2015

The Joy & Longing of Advent

This year during Advent we are looking *back* at Christmas “From Heaven’s Portal,” knowing that on that great and final day when human history melds into eternity we will indeed appreciate Christmas like never before.

Last week we saw in Romans 8 that now “All creation _____and so do we,” longing for that future day when we and all of creation are healed from the ravages of sin.

Though we do not yet live in that final day, all through the Bible the _____ of the final day is playing...at times in _____, but one day in a mighty _____, when we will shout, “Hallelujah! For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns” (Rev. 19:6).

Remember the word picture of Romans 8:18? _____

A Nod to CS Lewis

On June 8, 1941 Lewis preached a sermon entitled “The Weight of Glory” in which he wraps his theological arms around the deep longings in the human spirit...the longings for joy, for beauty, for satisfaction, for intimacy, for justice.

We tend to think of such longings simply as targets for selfishness and sin. Certainly our longings are affected by the Fall, but Lewis says this:

“If we consider the unblushing promises of reward and the staggering nature of the rewards promised in the Gospels, it would seem that Our Lord finds our desires not too strong, but too weak.”

Future Glory Defies Full Description (I Peter 1:3-9)

- ⇒ The Bible always describes heaven as a very real place rather than a bank of clouds, a place _____ (John 14), a place _____ (I Peter 1:4).
- ⇒ Peter’s attempt to describe heaven involves three things that heaven is not: _____.

I Peter 1:3-9; II Corinthians 4:14-16
Pastor Jay Mosser
From Heaven’s Portal: Feeling the Weight of Glory

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I Peter 1:3-9; II Corinthians 4:16-18
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- ⇒ “In this you greatly rejoice (i.e. you are overjoyed) *even though...*” -- Peter writes to people who are suffering.
- ⇒ The term deeply affected by Future Glory? _____

Future Glory Renders Today Momentary

(II Cor. 4:16-18)

- ⇒ This chapter is about the gospel and it is written so that we will not _____ (1, 16).
- ⇒ The gospel is “the gospel of the glory of Christ” (4).
- ⇒ The glory of Christ IS the glory of God (6) because Christ is God in the flesh.
- ⇒ Look at the words that Paul uses to describe our life in this world: _____
- ⇒ Verses 17&18 are the key! My struggles today are “preparing...producing...achieving...” a deeper and clearer view of the glory of Christ who indeed will one day “reign forever and ever.”

Responding to God's Word

- ⇒ According to Paul in II Corinthians 4, the gospel is God’s tool to train my heart to draw more fully on heaven’s bank of glory rather than on today’s sorrow.
- ⇒ Communion meditation: II Corinthians 4:7-14

Next Sunday: December 13, 2015

Third Sunday of Advent

“From Heaven’s Portal:
Motivation for Mission”

(II Peter 3)

Pastor Jay Mosser