

Grace and Faith

February 9, 2020

Nothing But Jesus - Sermon Study

1. What's the **best weapon** to bring to a spiritual fight? Read **2Sam 22:4... 2Chron 20... Psa 42:5... Psa 56:4... Psa 74:21... Psa 106:12... Jer 17:14... Psa 8:2/Matt 21:16... Eph 1:6... Col 2:7**.
2. What does **God have planned** for you? Read **John 10:10 (GSV)**. Are you **experiencing** that?
3. Is it wise to **compare** yourself... or your situation... to others? Read **2Cor 10:12-18**. Are you in the **habit** of doing that? What is a better plan? Read **Phil 3:12-18**.
4. What's **THE sin** that slows us down and hinders our progress? Read **Heb 12:1-3**. How do you find yourself **taking your eyes** off Jesus? What is better? Read **Rom 5:15... 2Tim 2:1... 1Pet 1:13**.
5. Read **Heb 10:38-39**. What is God trying to **tell you** in those verses? Generally, how well do you **openly, boldly, unashamedly** speak what you believe? What's the result? Read **Rom 8:6-11**.
6. Read **Matt 11:25-30... Rom 12:1-3... Gal 5:19-23** in the **MSG** translation. How do those passages help you see what the Holy Spirit wants you to do?
7. How do **grace and faith** partner together? Read **Rom 5:2** and **Heb 4:2**. Are you mixing the message of **grace with faith**? What happens when you do?

Please read entire passages of scripture to get full context. See sermon notes for more info.

Sermon Notes

Nothing but Jesus - Heb 12:1-3

I. Introduction

- a. any good fights this week... best weapon for winning a fight...
2Sam 22 (read)... **"I praised the Lord... saved from my enemies..."**
2Chron 20... **"singers ahead of army praising... enemy defeated..."**
Psa 42:5... **"why am I discouraged and sad... I will praise the Lord..."**
Psa 56:4... **"I praise the God I trust... I will not be afraid..."**
Psa 74:21... **"let the poor and needy praise your name..."**
Psa 106:12... **"they believed His promises and sang His praise..."**
Jer 17:14... **"I will be healed... I will be saved... You are my praise..."**
Matt 21:16 (Psa 8:2)... **"praise is strength which silences your enemies..."**
Eph 1:6... **"praise God for His glorious grace..."**
Col 2:7... **"faith overflows in thanksgiving..."**
- b. giving up, quitting, discouragement huge issue... burnout is real...
Forbes - affects 94,000 annually... cost \$84 billion... \$3100 per worker...
Gallup - 1500 pastors resign monthly... only 10% retire in ministry... 70% say they wouldn't go to own church...
85% experience regular depression... 97% have been betrayed, falsely accused, hurt by trusted friends...
- c. not even close to what God intends for you... **pray**...
John 10:10 (GSV)... **"I have come so you may have absolute fullness of life that belongs to God; real and genuine, vigorous and active; even in this world... life that exceeds measure, more than necessary, much more than all, exceedingly abundant, superior and extraordinary..."**

II. Nothing but Jesus

- a. discouragement, weariness starts in mind... as a man thinks, he is...
Rom 8:6-11... **"carnal mind is death... spiritual mind is life..."**
Heb 12:1-3... **"become weary and discouraged in your souls..."**
- b. don't compare yourself or your situation to anyone else... not helpful... always someone ahead or behind you in race... all one in Christ...
2Cor 10:12... **"don't compare... in measuring themselves by themselves and comparing to themselves... lack understanding (not wise, ignorant) ..."**
2Cor 10:13-18... **"will not boast... came with Gospel, not boasting... not take credit... if you want to boast, boast only about the Lord..."**
- c. religion hates grace... makes nothing of our efforts... one thing to do...
Phil 3:12-18... **"forget what's behind... reach forward to what's ahead... God will reveal it to you... live up to whatever truth you've attained..."**
- d. most Christians know we start the race by looking to Jesus... but many think the race continues by looking to ourselves... that's the problem...
Heb 12:1-3... **"surrounded by a huge crowd to the life of faith... strip off every weight and the sin that slows us down and hinders progress... keep eyes on Jesus... on whom our faith depends from start to finish..."**

- e. the sin that hinders progress... the sin that makes us discouraged and weary... the sin that knocks us out of race... is taking eyes off Jesus...
 Rom 5:15... “much more does grace overflow... thru Jesus...”
 2Tim 2:1... “be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus...”
 1Pet 1:13... “rest your hope fully on grace...”
 2Pet 3:18... “continue to grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus...”
- f. begin looking at Jesus... then religion says look at Moses... Hebrew believers been there... knew it was all about Jesus... knew His blood took care of all sin... in a fight... weary, discouraged... wanted to quit...
 Heb 11:6... “without faith it is impossible to please God...”
 Heb 10:38-39... “righteous shall live by faith... I take no pleasure in anyone who turns away... **but, we are not those who turn away and are destroyed... but those who have faith and obtain life...**”
hupostello... *hesitate to openly, boldly, unashamedly speak what they believe...*
- g. obtain life is *preserving of soul*... when you speak what you believe... soul comes in line with spirit... life comes... where, your mortal body...
 Rom 8:6-11... “spiritual mind is life... to mortal body thru His Spirit...”
- h. Hebrew Christians were bold in proclaiming Gospel... endured many trials, tribulations, persecution... but they partnered grace and faith together to help them not grow weary and obtain life...
- i. when you look away from Jesus (spiritual mind) and look to the world (carnal mind)... you will get worn out, discouraged, depressed...
 Matt 11... “are you tired, worn out, burned out... come to Me... get away with Me and you’ll recover your life... walk with Me... work with Me... watch how I do it... learn unforced rhythms of grace... keep company with Me and live...”
 Rom 12... “take everyday life... place it before God... embracing what God does for you is best thing you can do for Him... pure grace... God brings it all to you... only accurate way to understand ourselves is by who God is and by what He does for us... not who we are and what we do for Him...”
 Gal 5... “fruit of HS... legalism helpless in doing... only gets in the way...”
- j. must look to Jesus to finish race... lots of stuff will try to pull you away... don’t let it... grace and faith partner to help you win... **pray**...
 Acts 13:43... “persuading them to continue in the grace of God...”
 Acts 20:32... “commit you to message of grace... give inheritance...”
 Rom 5:2... “obtained access, by faith... into grace...”
 Heb 4:2... “grace was preached to us, as well as to them... did them no good... because it was not mixed with faith in those who heard it...”

Looking

Heb 12:2... *looking unto Jesus...*

It is ever the Holy Spirit's work to turn our eyes away from self to Jesus... but satan's work is just the opposite of this, for he is constantly trying to make us regard ourselves instead of Christ. He insinuates, *your sins are too great for pardon... you have no faith... you do not repent enough... you will never be able to continue to the end... you have not the joy of His children... you have such a wavering hold on Jesus.*

All these **thoughts about self**, and we shall **never find comfort** or assurance by looking within. But the Holy Spirit turns our eyes entirely away from self. He tells us that we are nothing, but that *Christ is all in all*. Remember, therefore, it is not thy hold of Christ that saves thee... **it is Christ**. It is not thy joy in Christ that saves thee... **it is Christ**. It is not even faith in Christ, though that be the instrument... **it is Christ's** blood and merits.

Therefore, **look** not so much to thy hand with which thou art grasping Christ, as **to Christ**. **Look** not to thy hope, but **to Jesus**, the source of thy hope. **Look** not to thy faith, but **to Jesus**, the author and finisher of thy faith.

We shall never find happiness by looking at our prayers, our doings, or our feelings. **It is what Jesus is, not what we are, that gives rest to the soul**. If we would at once overcome satan and have peace with God, it must be by *looking unto Jesus*.

Keep thine eye on Him. Let His death, His sufferings, His merits, His glories, His intercession, be fresh upon thy mind. When thou wakest in the morning look to Him. When thou liest down at night look to Him. Let not thy hopes or fears come between thee and Jesus. Follow hard after Him, and He will never fail thee.

*My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness.
I dare not trust the sweetest frame but wholly lean on Jesus' name.*

Charles Spurgeon
Morning and Evening Devotional – June 28th

Victory

Exo 7:12... *Aaron's rod swallowed up their rods...*

This incident is an instructive emblem of the **sure victory of the divine handiwork over all opposition**. Whenever a divine principle is cast into the heart, though the devil may fashion a counterfeit, and produce swarms of opponents, as sure as ever God is in the work, it will swallow up all its foes.

If God's grace takes possession of a man, the world's magicians may throw down their rods, and every rod may be as cunning and poisonous as a serpent, but Aaron's rod will swallow up their rods.

The sweet attraction of the cross will woo and win the man's heart, and he who lived only for this deceitful earth will now have an eye for the upper spheres, and a wing to mount into celestial heights. When grace has won the day the worldling seeks the world to come. The same is to be observed in the life of a believer.

What **multitudes of foes has our faith had to meet!** Our old sins, the devil threw them down before us, and they turned to serpents. What hosts of them! Ah, but the **cross of Jesus destroys them all. Faith in Christ makes short work of all our sins.**

Then the devil has launched forth **another host of serpents** in the form of worldly trials, temptations, unbelief... but **faith in Jesus** is more than a match for them and **overcomes them all.**

The same absorbing principle shines in the faithful service of God! **With an enthusiastic love for Jesus, difficulties are surmounted...** sacrifices become pleasures... sufferings are honours. But if religion is thus a consuming passion in the heart, then it follows that there are many persons who profess religion, but have it not... for what they have will not bear this test.

Examine yourself, my reader, on this point. Aaron's rod proved its heaven-given power. Is your religion doing so? If Christ be anything He must be everything. O rest not till love and faith in Jesus be the master passions of your soul!

Charles Spurgeon
Morning and Evening Devotional – June 28th