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Every Tongue Will Confess That Jesus Christ is Lord



By Steven J. Hogan

~ A Saturday Morning Post #243 ~

Paul lived every day for Christ while also looking forward to the day of Christ. During his life, he suffered greatly for the Lord and, without question, had *“far more labors… far more imprisonments”* than other believers. (2 Cor. 11:23-30). How did Paul do it? He was motivated by love, strengthened by grace, and he had hope. It was worth it to Paul *“to be poured out as a drink offering”* (Phil. 2:17) for he knew God would greatly reward him in the future.

In his short letter to the Philippians, Paul speaks about hope nine different times! He wanted the Christians to truly understand their hope. *“The sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us…”* (Rom. 8:18-25, Eph. 1:18). In a recent post, I looked at Paul’s first three references to hope, those in Phil. 1:6, 1:9-11, 1:21-24. Today, I will look at the next

three, those in Phil. 2:9-11, 2:14-17, 3:7-11.

Philippians 2:9-11 – *"God highly exalted Him… at the name of Jesus every knee will bow… every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."*

1. Christ was highly exalted by His Father because He humbled Himself by dying for sinners, for those who repent of their sins and trust in Him and His sin-defeating work on the cross. After His life on earth, Jesus went to heaven and was *"exalted to the right hand of the Father."* Acts 2:33

2. The ultimate, most important aspect of hope is that God will be greatly glorified, and that we will be part of the God-worshiping heavenly assembly of saints. More than anything else, this is what we should look forward to. As Paul said, *"we exult in hope of the glory of God."* Romans 5:3

3. All believers are worshiping Christ, our single greatest duty and joy. But unbelievers are deceived and are not loving the Creator, but loving the creation – themselves, others, animals, and things.

4. In the future, *"every tongue will confess"* and *"every knee will bow"*. This universal exaltation of Christ will be seen during the millennial kingdom. All people, saved and unsaved, and all spirits, angelic and demonic, will confess, will admit that Jesus Christ is Lord. For the unsaved, it will be feigned obedience – they will have no choice but to bow to Christ, the King of the world.

5. This world is becoming increasingly corrupt and devilish. Rulers, false teachers, and sinful people are doing and saying some of the most evil things. Don't be discouraged, for Christ will bring all this evil to an end – He will soon return to rapture the Christians and judge the sinners. Then He will reign over the world, and there will be *"an administration suitable to the fullness of the times, that is, the summing up of all*

things in Christ, things in the heavens and things on earth." Ephesians 1:10

Philippians 2:14-18 – *"Do all things without grumbling or disputing, so that you will prove yourselves to be blameless and innocent, children of God… holding fast the word of life so that on the day of Christ I will have reason to glory because I did not run in vain nor toil in vain."*

1. Paul did not want to waste his life, to *"toil in vain".* He wanted his life to count for Christ, to be purposeful and God-glorifying, and this meant sacrificially living for others. He had just said, *"I know that I will remain and continue with you all for your progress and joy in the faith"* (Phil. 1:25). Paul was looking forward to the future, to the day of Christ, for that's when he would really know the lasting fruit of his labors. *"Who is our hope or joy or crown of exultation? Is it not even you in the presence of our Lord Jesus at His coming?"* 1 Thess. 2:19-20

2. That Paul's life was counting for Christ meant the lives of others were counting for Christ. Paul deeply loved the believers, and therefore exhorted them to work out their *"salvation with fear and trembling"* (Phil. 2:12), to be blameless, live by God's word, and be lights in this evil world. He wanted them to know that they would see the eternal value of their earthly life on the day of Christ, and would rejoice with him for having lived victoriously for Christ.

3. Birthdays, graduations, and weddings are special days. But the day of Christ is infinitely more special, one of the most important times in history. When Christ returns, there will be the day of Christ, the conclusion and climax of this present age. Then all believers will be glorified; the fruit, the result of our earthly lives will be seen; we will be rewarded; and sinners will be punished. *"The Lord works out everything to its proper end – even the wicked for a day of disaster."* Prov. 16:2, Col. 3:4

1 Cor. 3:12-14 speaks about this day of Christ – *"If any man builds on*

the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each man's work will become evident; for the day will show it because it is to be revealed with fire… if any man's work which he has built on it remains, he will receive a reward." Matt. 6:4, 16:27; 1 Cor. 4:5, 5:10; Col. 3:24; Rev. 2:26, 22:12

Philippians 3:10-11 – *"… that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings… in order that I may attain to the resurrection of the dead."*

1. Paul was sharing his testimony, making it clear that he wasn't saved by his own works, but by the righteous and sufficient work of Jesus Christ.

2. Because Paul had gained Christ's righteousness, then he could live a righteous life. He could experience the best and most blessed life possible, a life for and through Christ. Paul knew Christ, loved Christ, trusted Christ, lived for Christ, suffered for Christ, and then died for Christ.

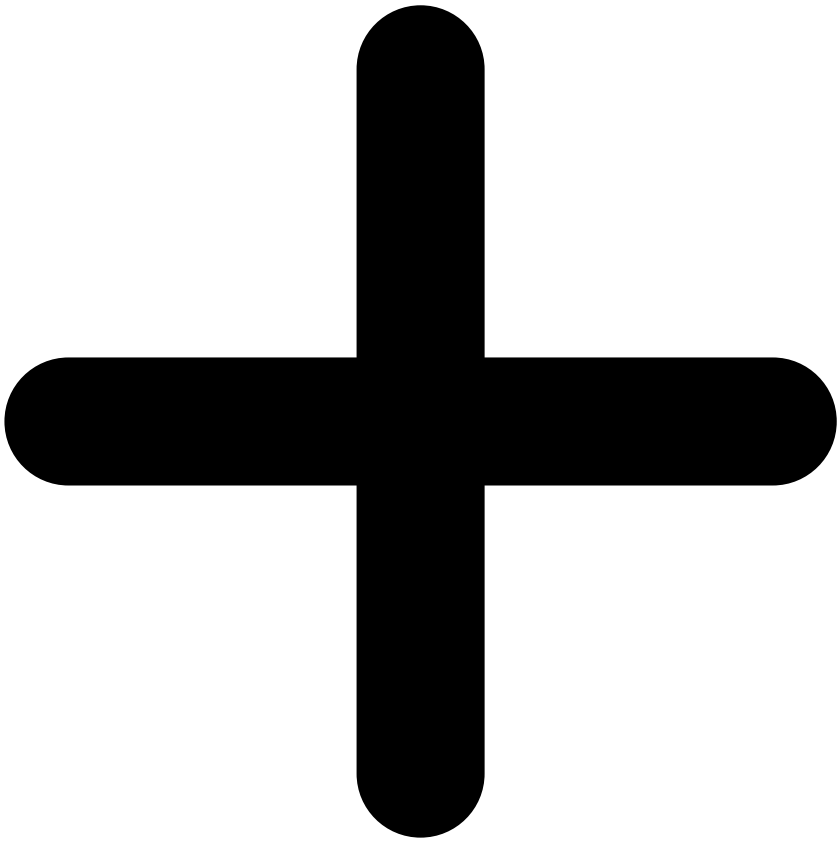
3. The culmination of Paul's life on earth is the day of Christ – then he will attain to the resurrection from the dead, receive a glorified body, and see the result, the full and cumulative effect of all his work.

4. Paul knew he would attain *"to the resurrection from the dead."* I believe Paul was thinking that he would physically die and go to heaven, and then be glorified on the day of Christ. When Paul said, *"To live is Christ and to die is gain"* (Phil. 1:21), I believe he was thinking, not just about the death of others, but his own death. And he knew the immediate benefits of dying and being in heaven, but he also knew his salvation wouldn't be complete until the day of Christ, which is still future. John 5:29

How do we live the Christian life? By living for Christ and living for others, and by having hope, by looking ahead to the most incredible and excellent future. We have looked at three essential elements of this

hope, knowing we will be glorified on the day of Christ, knowing we will see the fruit of our labors on the day of Christ, and most importantly, knowing that God will be supremely and eternally glorified in the coming ages. *“I will extol You, my God, O King, and I will bless You, and I will praise You forever and ever… Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom.”* Psalm 145:1, 13

P.S. We ought to think more about the day of Christ, for it is that time when Christ returns, and completes our salvation by glorifying us, and when He reveals to us the results of our lives, hopefully ones that were lived full out for Him. Here are two good posts about how God wants to reward you for how you lived your earthly life for Him – *“God Really Wants to Reward You”*, and *“Earthly Work that Results in Heavenly Rewards.”*



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