

THE HENCEFORTH IN YOUR HEREAFTER

What Is Your Future Outlook?

Text:

2 Timothy 4:8: Henceforth there is laid up for me a Crown of Righteousness, which the Lord, the Righteous Judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love His appearing.

How great and wonderful is the faculty of the soul, this mind, and the understanding that God has given to us. It can compass the earth; it can measure the sun, moon, and stars, tell the distances between planets, foreknow each eclipse to a minute and to many years in advance.



Yes, but to top all these, it can know many of His wonderful secrets, for He reveals His secrets to His servants.

Amos 3:7: Surely the Lord GOD will do nothing, but He revealeth His secret unto His servants the Prophets.

Knowing God Who is infinite, Who made all these things, even knowing Him in a measure is most glorious!

God has created our understanding with a natural desire to truth. This He gave to Adam even before error ever arrived through the father of lies, satan.

So, in eternity, knowledge shall be enlarged, not diminished, for the apostle Paul said:

1 Corinthians 13:12: For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.

There we shall stand on eternity's shore and, looking back to earth, see how the grace of God revealed what eye has not seen nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man.

Just once inside the Pearly Gates, with but one look in retrospect, we will shake our heads. If there should be such a thing remaining in us from this earth, such as disgust or indignation, it could be only at ourselves.



To think that we allowed so vile a nature as the one satan put into our heart — so wicked a being is that devil — to team up against our soul and cause it to resist God. That for so long a time we pulled back from Heaven with such unspeakable pleasures forevermore. Unworthy soul, is this the place you started so unwillingly towards? Was the world too pleasant to lose? Did you really sicken to leave it all? Did you suffer anything for this New Home? Oh, false heart, that with satan's help you had almost lost all this glory!

There is something beautiful about a happy face. This is what will be in Heaven forever. Joys there never cease, for there is nothing to spoil them. The look on our dear Saviour's face as He receives His virgin Bride, the Church, so pure and spotless and holy. The Bride will be presented to Him faultless before the Presence of His Glory with exceeding joy as we are told in:

Jude 24: Now unto Him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His Glory with exceeding joy,

It is my prayer that the Lord will open my eyes to see more clearly the wonderful things He has in store for them that love Him. To reveal them to me that I may better express in a more suitable language and insight the riches of His Grace, and give to the Lord Jesus fuller glory for what He has wrought in and for us.



The earthly paradise in Eden was beautiful beyond description, but it had a way out, and none in again. This Eternal Paradise has a way in, but no way out.

May the Lord be praised for the consolation this will bring to all who strive to enter by the Strait Gate into our Heavenly Home. The Word tells us that Jesus paid the ransom price, and died for our sins according to the Scriptures to make the way for us into this Holy Place.



How tragic that our hearts are so degraded by sin and satan, blinded in our minds, that we find no faith in our hearts to believe the true purpose of Christ's Coming — as a poor man can hardly believe it if he were offered \$100,000, for it is so far above him.

So, no man can humanly believe that One could so love him as to actually die that he might be saved from his sins and provide a way for him to live in a Heavenly Mansion. No, it's hard to see even how He can raise our bodies up from the dust, and unite them once again with our souls. That He can call us with a shout, with the

voice of the Archangel, and the Trump of God to this great Coronation where He shall make us kings and priest unto God.

1 Thessalonians 4:16: For the Lord Himself shall descend from Heaven with a shout, with the voice of the Archangel, and with the Trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

None can believe, that is, until God has worked His work of Grace in our hearts, thus making us partakers of the Divine Nature, having made us new creatures in Christ Jesus; then being born again of the Spirit, by the incorruptible Word Seed of God, that liveth and abideth forever. Then, that which once seemed foolishness, the unreal becomes most real and alive to us by the Spirit of God.

The things of God become so sure and certain that we hear Paul speaking in:

2 Timothy 4:8: Henceforth there is laid up for me a Crown of Righteousness, which the Lord, the Righteous Judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love His appearing.

This coronation talk is coming from one of God's most faithful servants. It is coming at a time when he is awaiting the executioner's ax. Paul is not afraid to die, nor is he disappointed that the Lord is allowing him to leave this old world in such a shameful way. The future has no haunting nightmares, for he faces it with a triumphant look. He said just before this:



Acts 21:13: Then Paul answered, What mean ye to weep and to break mine heart? for I am ready not to be bound only, but also to die at Jerusalem for the Name of the Lord Jesus.

Here is what he said, never minding the attitude of the world and its hatred for Christ and His saints:

2 Timothy 4:8a: Henceforth there is laid up for me a Crown of Righteousness, which the Lord, the Righteous Judge, shall give me at that day:



What an unusual way to look at death. He told them:

2 Timothy 4:6-7:

6 For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand.

7 I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith:

The executioner's ax will only hasten me on to receiving my crown. Then Paul concludes his letter with these comforting words to all Christians:

2 Timothy 4:8b: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love His appearing.

There is a foreverness connected with this crown. The crown is for this overcoming saint who has endured to the end and remained faithful to Christ. Paul's insight into the awaited coronation day is such that he cannot be concerned with the tragic way he is to depart and receive it. The one overshadows the other. The greater outshines the lesser. The Crown is bigger than the cross.

This high note of henceforth tells us he is happy to go home. He is about to exchange rags for riches, suffering for satins, sobs for songs of deliverance, hardships for hallelujahs. Thus the Word 'henceforth' tells us how the Holy One, the Lord, prepares His saints for their final hour with dying grace.



There is one thing we should never do. We should never judge any person's life for what they appear to receive in human treatment down here. To make a real true reckoning, you must catch up to that word 'henceforth'.

Yet, to the unsaved, the wicked or ungodly, I have no such word as — **Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown.** Unless you repent to God and turn from your sins, calling on the Name of The Lord Jesus for mercy and pardon, your 'henceforth' will be:



Matthew 25:41: Then shall He say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from Me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:

In this 'henceforth', there is another wonderful reality for the overcomer. All instruments of time will be discarded like clocks and calendars, and when you hear a lone shout, then know that it came from me, and maybe a few dozen other preachers. There has been one thing that has bothered us more than any other throughout life, and that has been this ugly time piece. In that day — in eternity — when time shall be no more in effect, a 1000 years shall be as one day.

The next fact which would be appropriate to relate here is that moment when The King shall speak to His adopted child, "**well done good and faithful servant**".

Matthew 25:23: His Lord said unto him, "Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy Lord.

Only servants will rejoice in this greatest of all hours, NO shirker, loafer, idler, nor those who labored for self to advance their denomination or their name, just those who served the Lord Jesus out of pure love and gratitude. Crowns will await them who love Him.

Some of you have deplored the seeming neglect of recognition which you have failed to receive down here. If what you have done was with an eye single to the Lord, just for Jesus, be glad it was not counted here, for it will surely be doubled up there in Glory.

We will receive a glory crown that fadeth not away, reserved in Heaven for you who are kept by the power of God thru faith unto salvation, ready to be revealed in the last time.



1 Peter 1:3-6:

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to His abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

⁴ To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in Heaven for you,

⁵ Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

⁶ Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations:

This was the definite possession which Paul held when he worded our text “**to die is gain**”. He viewed what death can mean and what it cannot mean. Therefore, He said:

Philippians 1:21: For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.

I am convinced that much of the emphasis placed on life today and even in the church with material rewards for services given, when we reach yonder shore, they will be seen worthless in the true values which we could have obtained. So many people fuss, fight, strike, and strain to get ahead down here for what we call fair wages. It is the primary motive of the vast majority of people today. Higher pay, fringe benefits, and pensions have so caught the public eyes that they have nearly lost sight of henceforth of the hereafter. I do not undervalue that there ***is a now*** and it's human rights, but after all, who is to remind you of the future world out there when the labor market has stopped all its machinery, and the last whistle has blown?



The sweet “now” is more important to the worldly minded than the sweet forever. Eternity and its *henceforth* has so little charm attached to it by this materialistic generation. We are all headed for an endless eternity with a timeless future, and we are to reckon with it and not overlook it. So should you NOT take a longer range view that you can have a wonderful henceforth? Otherwise, it is every man for himself and the devil take the hindmost.

This attitude is first of all unchristian, but is also false. We cannot go along with a fool’s paradise and think that gain is godliness, for it isn’t. But godliness with contentment is great gain, so says the Bible.

1 Timothy 6:6-7:

6 But godliness with contentment is great gain.

7 For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out.

If we seek alone for our own welfare, our selfishness will merit us the fate of the rich man in **Luke 12** where Jesus spoke a parable:

Luke 12:16-19:

16 And He spake a Parable unto them, saying, "The ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully:

17 And he thought within himself, saying, 'What shall I do, because I have no room where to bestow my fruits?'

18 And he said, 'This will I do: I will pull down my barns, and build greater; and there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods.

19 And I will say to my soul, - Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry.'"

He fulfilled the devil’s assignment by heaping up goods for himself, and then told his soul: Take it . . . eat . . . drink . . . be merry. The Lord stopped that foolishness in a hurry with:

Luke 12:20: But God said unto him, "Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?"



He ended his self-centered life begging a poor and neglected saint to dip his finger in water and cool his tongue.

Jesus did not come to this world for what He could get. He came only to give Himself as a ransom — to give His Life for the world. That same spirit will be in the hearts of all His Own redeemed children who are called by His Name.

George Fox used to pray, *Great God, I pray to be baptized into a sense of the ability to know their needs and feel their sorrows, even the sons of mankind, and then give me the ability to minister to those needs.*

Paul felt this way when he wished himself accursed from Christ for his brethren, his kinsmen according to the flesh.

Romans 9:3: For I could wish that myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh:

He also said:

1 Corinthians 9:22: To the weak became I as weak, that I might gain the weak: I am made all things to all men, that I might by all means save some.

The newspapers of our city brought attention to the anguish of a sorrowful mother whose son had been killed on our streets in a tragedy of sinfulness. Her sobbing cries rang out the regrets of a disappointed mother: *"Oh, if he had but given up his life in a cause that was worthy to die for"*.



You, yourself, are also facing this same issue and can only come to the same tragic end if your eyes continue to focus on living for self. God has so regulated life that it can only grow strong and victorious as it is lived wholly for His purpose.

Revelation 22:12: [Jesus says] "And, behold, I come quickly; and My reward is with Me, to give every man according as his work shall be."

Matthew 19:29-30:

²⁹ And every one that hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for My Name's sake, shall receive an hundredfold, and shall inherit everlasting life.

³⁰ But many that are first shall be last; and the last shall be first.

When Jesus carried all the world's sin to the Cross extending His loving arms to embrace all humanity, there was no place for selfishness there. Peter knew from Jesus' prophecy that He was going to lay down His life for us and tried to restrain our Lord from the Cross. Jesus said to Peter,

Matthew 16:23: But He turned, and said unto Peter, "Get thee behind Me, satan: thou art an offence unto Me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men."

The thief dying on a cross by Him, cried out; *save Thyself and us by coming down from the Cross.* This silly, short-sighted mocker was throwing a cheap idea out to our

Lord Jesus, never realizing that if Christ didn't stay there and give His life a ransom for us all, we could never be saved from eternal ruin. That was why He couldn't come down. Herod's soldiers had put a make-believe crown of thorns on His precious

Head. Little did he care for the Son of God, for he knew not that He was fulfilling God's plan for the salvation of the world. Jesus cared little for the mockery, for He knew that was part of the divine plan for the bringing of many sons to glory to make the captain of our salvation perfect through suffering.



Hebrews 12:2: Looking unto Jesus the Author and Finisher of our faith; Who for the joy that was set before Him endured the Cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the Throne of God.

Jesus knew these details were part of the fulfillment of the scriptures. For before Him was the cross before the crown. *Before coronation must be crucifixion.*

Philippians 2:7-11:

⁷ But made Himself of no reputation, and took upon Him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:

⁸ And being found in fashion as a man, He humbled Himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

⁹ Wherefore God also hath highly exalted Him, and given Him a Name which is above every name:

¹⁰ That at the Name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth;

¹¹ And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

He is now King of kings and Lord of lords, awaiting the day when all His enemies shall be made His footstool. This is what God The Father has decreed:

Psalms 110:1: The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit Thou at My Right Hand, until I make Thine enemies Thy footstool.

Paul is following the same pattern as our Lord, and is willing to lay down his life for the brethren. He will receive a martyr's crown which is the greatest.

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