

Sermon ~ Sunday, February 21, 2021 by Pastor D. Benoit

Text: Philippians 3: 13, 14

Title: JESUS

When **JESUS** *found* me (us)... When **JESUS** *saved* me (us)... When I (we) was *accepted* with **GOD**, because of **JESUS**, we were made complete *in* **CHRIST**, the very moment we *believed*!

When I (we) trusted our *souls* into **The Hands of The LORD JESUS CHRIST**, *saved* now, we enjoy the Holy *confidence*, that no matter what, Heaven is our Home.

“*There is* therefore now no condemnation to them which are in **CHRIST JESUS**, who walk not after the flesh, but after **The SPIRIT.**” (Romans 8: 1)

It is settled, from the **Cross JESUS** declared it,

“It is finished!” (John 19: 30b)

BUT while the “**Work of CHRIST** for us” is perfect, we cannot *presume* to think of adding to it.

BUT the “**Work of The HOLY SPIRIT** in us” is not finished. It is a day by day, continual work throughout our whole lives.

“For whom **HE** did foreknow, **HE** also did predestinate to be conformed to **The Image of HIS SON**,

that we might be the firstborn among many brethren.” (Romans 8: 29)

It is a “ongoing growing process” ...

“**I AM The True Vine**, and **MY FATHER** is **The Husbandman**.

Every branch in **ME** that beareth not fruit **HE** taketh away:

and every *branch* that beareth fruit, **HE** purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.” (John 15: 1, 2)

We are *plants* of **The LORD’S field**...

“...first the blade, then the ear, after that the full corn in the ear.” (Mark 4: 28)

It is a “ongoing growing process” ... In the text, the Apostle Paul compares us to a *warrior*, a *wrestler*, a *runner* in the games; they are ever gathering their strength, and the concentration of forces, in order, not just to overthrow the adversaries, but to *win*. *Win*, not *what* but **WHO**? This message is about,

JESUS

To *win*, our present condition must be seen in **The Light of JESUS**. To *win*, we must place our past in the past, and **JESUS** in the now. To *win*, **JESUS** must be our focus. To *win* **JESUS**, we must put forth every effort.

“Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended...” I count... I take serious stock... I make careful estimation... I have come to this conclusion... I’m not where **JESUS** want me to be!

“He is not a wise one who says, “**JESUS** died for me, and that’s enough.” What happened to, “Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it *are* the issues of life.” (Proverbs 4: 23)

What about, “See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil.” (Ephesians 5: 15, 16) Said the sage, “He who thinks he has obtained everything, has nothing.”

I *believe* as the Apostle Paul did,

“We know that the Law is spiritual; but I (we) was unspiritual,

Sold as a slave to *sin*. I (we) did not understand what we did.

For what we wanted to do, we did not do, but what we hated, we did.

And if we did what we did not want to do, we agreed that the Law is good.

As it is, it is no longer I (we) who do it, but it is *sin* living in us.

For we know that good itself does not dwell in us along, that is, in our *sinful* natures.

For I (we) have the desire to do what is good, but we cannot carry it out.

For we do not do the good we want to do, but the evil we do not want to do—this we keep on doing. Now if we do what we do not want to do, it is no longer I (we)

who does it, but it is *sin* living in us that does it.

So, we find this Law at work: Although I (we) want to do good, evil is right there with me (us).

For in our inner being we delight in **GOD’S WORD, Will and Way;**

But we see another Law at work in us, waging war against the Law of our minds

and making us a prisoner of the Law of *sin* at work within us.

What a wretched man I (we) are! **WHO** will rescue us from this body that is subject to death? THANKS be to **GOD, WHO** delivers us through **JESUS CHRIST our LORD!**”

(Romans 7: 14-25)

To *win*, our present condition must be seen in ***The Light of JESUS!***

JESUS

“Forgetting the things which are behind...” No, we must not forget “**ALL—The Mercies of GOD**”

since **JESUS** found us. “Bless **The LORD**, O my soul: and all that is within me, *bless HIS Holy*

Name. Bless **The LORD**, O my soul, and forget not all **HIS** benefits: **WHO forgiveth; WHO**

healeth; WHO redeemeth; WHO crowneth us with loving-kindness and tender mercies...”

(Psalm 103: 1-4) “Because of **The LORD’S** great **LOVE** we are not consumed, for **HIS**

compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is **THY FAITHFULNESS.**”

(Lamentations 3: 22-23)

We cannot forget the *sin(s)* we have committed, and **JESUS** *saving* us, washing them in **HIS** crucified Blood, making us pure in **GOD’S Sight**. No, that is what *humbles* us.

Paul is saying, do not be like some *runner*, who made it, in the race; the grands stand are

crowded, the cheers are loud, the gun is fired and you are off. Rounding the first curve you are

in third place; the first 50 meters, you are holding third with 5 runners behind you. You make

another 50 meters, and you stop... *runners* before and *runners* behind... you sit down and begin

to think, “I got halfway.” Your only hope is thinking “what you left behind, and occupying, the

piece of ground, you are sitting on, and no regards to the goal, the finish line, before you.

“For whatsoever is born of **GOD** overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh

the world, *even* our faith. Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that

JESUS is The SON of GOD?” (I John 5: 4, 5)

To *win*, we must place our past in the past, and **JESUS** in the now!

JESUS

“Reaching forth unto those things which are before.”

The *runner* who makes it to the finish line—reaches forth... throws himself forward... out of the perpendicular (at an angle of 90 degrees to the finish line) ... his eyes are already on the goal... his hands are far in advance of his feet... his whole body is leaning forward... projecting himself to the end of the journey... not satisfied until he sees **JESUS!!!**

To *win*, **JESUS** must be our focus.

JESUS

“This one thing I do—to aim at **JESUS CHRIST!!!**”

Silver and gold, silver and gold, I’d rather have **JESUS** than silver and gold.

No fame or fortune, nor riches untold
I’d rather have **JESUS** than silver and gold.

Don’t give me a mansion on top of the hill.
Don’t give me the world with a shallow thrill.
But just give me a **SAVIOR**, my life HE can hold.
I’d rather have **JESUS** than silver and gold.

Woke up this morning, feeling kind of down.
I called on my best friend, she could not be found.
BUT I called on **JESUS**, my life HE can hold.
I’d rather have **JESUS** than silver and gold.

Silver and gold, silver and gold, I’d rather have **JESUS** than silver and gold.

No fame or fortune, nor riches untold
I’d rather have **JESUS** than silver and gold.

For unto us a **CHILD** is born, a **SON** is given.
I’d rather have **JESUS**.

You see what profits a man to gain the whole wide world and lose his soul.
I’d rather have **JESUS**.

In the midnight hour when my body is rocking with pain
I’d rather have **JESUS**.

The SON of man, The KING of kings
I’d rather have **JESUS** than silver and gold.

I can call on **JESUS**, hey, and know **HE’LL** answer, I know **HE’LL** answer.
HE’S the *only ONE* that can save your soul.
I’d rather have **JESUS**, I don’t need nobody else.
Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah,
I’d rather have **JESUS, HE’S** the *only ONE* to save you!