

Our Faith in the Future

- When we make deposits in savings or retirement
- Sacrificing today to make future more secure.
- Not throwing money away: Investing it!
- True of both physical and spiritual confidence:
- *“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; 20 but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” Mt 6:19-21*
- Where is our heart? Where are our treasures?

Jesus took His Own Words Literally

- He lived His entire life with the cross hanging over Him. All was for the future.
- *And Jesus said to him, “Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head.” Mt. 8:20*
- He deferred almost all joy and comfort of this life to prepare others and open the way to the kingdom
- *He is despised and rejected by men, A Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. Isa. 53:3*
- His prayers in the garden were the breaking point. All His struggles focused here.

Jesus lived for the Future

- His emotions were intense. Mt. 26:42-44
Lk. 22:42-44;

● *And he went forward a little, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass away from me: nevertheless, not as I will, but as thou wilt. 42 Again a second time he went away, and prayed, saying, My Father, if this cannot pass away, except I drink it, thy will be done. 44 And he left them again, and went away, and prayed a third time, saying again the same words. Mt. 26:42-44*

● *And there appeared unto him an angel from heaven, strengthening him 44 And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly; and his sweat became as it were great drops of blood falling down upon the ground. Lk. 22:42-44*

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- God heard him and sent an angel to comfort him, but for the future to be better, he had to sacrifice at that moment. Heb 5:7-10

● *who, in the days of His flesh, when He had offered up prayers and supplications, with vehement cries and tears to Him who was able to save Him from death, and was heard because of His godly fear, & though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered. 9 And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him, Heb. 5:7-10*

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- This is the terrible paradox of serving God in this life.
- There are so many things we cannot see that God can see that often lead us to situations like that of Jesus.

Easy to serve God when Life flows

- Life as it ought to be. Heb. 11:1-36
- Faithful service to God rewarded both in this life and in the life to come:
- Enoch (God took him)
- Noah (saved his house),
- Abraham (made a great nation)
- Moses (God's leader),
- David before Goliath.
- The sacrifices are easier because we always see a victory/reward.
- Jesus did not receive this.

God is Faithful: Even for Jesus

- But it's not always like that. Heb 11:36-12:4
- Faithful service to God sometimes leads to pain and suffering.
- Never forget:
- *That which has been is what will be, That which is done is what will be done, And there is nothing new under the sun. Eccl 1:9*
- We have lived for decades in “*that which has been*” are we prepared for “*what will be?*”
- Look at the apostles. 1 Cor 4:9-13

Life Isn't Always Fair

- *For, I think, God hath set forth us the apostles last of all, as men doomed to death: for we are made a spectacle unto the world, both to angels and men. 10 We are fools for Christ's sake, but ye are wise in Christ; we are weak, but ye are strong; ye have glory, but we have dishonor. 11 Even unto this present hour we both hunger, and thirst, and are naked, and are buffeted, and have no certain dwelling-place; 12 and we toil, working with our own hands: being reviled, we bless; being persecuted, we endure; 13 being defamed, we entreat: we are made as the filth of the world, the offscouring of all things, even until now. 1Cor 4:9f*

Peter's Wise Counsel

- *Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you; 13 but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy. 14 If you are reproached for the name of Christ, blessed are you, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. 1Pet 4:12-14*
- *Therefore let those who suffer according to the will of God commit their souls to Him in doing good, as to a faithful Creator. 1Pet. 4:19*
- We need to have an unwavering confidence

A Faithful Creator

- Able to do exceeding abundantly above all we ask or think. Eph. 3:20
- With God all things are possible Mt. 19:26
- He is faithful will care for us. 1 Cor. 10:13
- He will not forget our works. Heb. 6:10-12
- We are surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses Heb. 12:1-3
- Labor is not in vain in the Lord. 1Cor. 15:58
- All we entrust will be rewarded Rom. 8:18