

Looking Unto Jesus

Various Topics

By Richard Warmack

sermonaudio.com

Bible Text: Hebrews 12:1-4

Preached on: Sunday, March 2, 2008

Grace Baptist Church

c/o Richard Warmack

900 Wedgewood Dr.

Ruston, LA 71270

Website: www.gracebaptistofruston.org

Online Sermons: www.sermonaudio.com/graceofruston

I would like for you to take your Bible with me this morning and turn to Hebrews chapter 12.

I want to read the first three verses of Hebrews chapter 12 and, if I can this morning, I want to try to preach a message to you on looking unto Jesus, the author and the completer of our faith.

Notice what he says here on the heels of... and this is why I encouraged you to read Hebrews chapter 11 because he makes reference here.

“Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses...”¹

I read just a couple of them to you: Noah, Abel, Abraham and then following on down starting in verse 11 you see Sarah, Jacob, all the saints that went before, all these Old Testament saints.

He said:

“Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses...”²

In other words, those who have actually obtained, they have got the prize. They finished the course. And now they are in glory with their blessed Savior and Redeemer the Lord Jesus Christ that one whom they looked to the cross. Now this was... all these saints that he named before, they were looking to that time when Christ would come, when the Redeemer, the Substitute, the Mediator, the one who would take away their sins would come. Now they have obtained everything they hoped for. They saw it by the same faith that you have that looks back to what Christ accomplished at Calvary, they by that same faith looked forward to what he would accomplish.

“Let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run

¹ Hebrews 12:1.

² Ibid.

with patience the race that is set before us, Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith...”³

And to me this is one of the most precious verses.

“Who for the joy that was set before him...”⁴

Now what joy did he have set before him? He was fixing to endure the cross. He was about to endure the pain and agony of being hated without a cause, being beaten beyond recognition, having a crown of thorns put on his head, stripped naked, mocked and ridiculed, hung between two common ordinary criminals, having a sword or a spear thrust into his side, enduring all the shame the agony. And, listen. Worst of all enduring the eternal condemnation of God’s holy law and his justice on this person as sin was imputed, legally charged to his account. And it was a joy.

“...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. For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.”⁵

May the Lord bless the reading of his Word.

We are such weak, feeble creatures, are we not? So filled with doubt and uncertainty and insecurity. And, you know, it is a fact. We don’t understand it nor do we see it in our generation much. I am grateful for the country that I live in. I hope that you are. This country with all its flaws and its difficulties is still the greatest country in this world. I am grateful that our God put us here because, listen. You and I, unlike other people in other regions of the world, we have such freedom and such liberty especially in the one area I am the most concerned about. We get to worship God freely. There is no state church. Nobody so far—no I am not saying it might not always be that way—but nobody so far in 20 years has ever called me up on the phone or pinned a note out on that door or came up to me verbally in my face and told me, “You can’t say the thing that you are saying anymore.”

And do you know what? I am not that concerned about. I am just not. I have freedom and I have liberty.

These dear souls did not have that freedom and liberty. These men and women that Paul is writing to, listen. They knew what real problems and difficulties were.

About the worst thing that you and I have to worry about in our life is whether we are going to be healthy tomorrow or whether or not our car is going to crank in the morning to carry us to work or whether we are going to have money in our bank account.

³ Hebrews 12:1-2.

⁴ Hebrews 12:2.

⁵ Hebrews 12:2-3.

These people when they believed the gospel, they lost everything. They lost their families. They lost their church where they had attended all their life. They lost their belongings. They lost it all for the gospel.

And listen. There was a tendency, having lost all to be wearied, to be troubled. Because, listen our old hearts. We... even you and I as children of God, we put a lot of stock in what we have down here.

I enjoy life. I know that I do. And I look forward. As I get closer and closer to that big time where I turn 50 and I enjoy how blessed I have been over the first 50 years of my life and look forward with great joy and anticipation to what the future holds for my life. I enjoy this place.

But we have a tendency to get so enamored with what this world has that when things don't go right the first thing we do is we get worried and anxious and fretful and fearful and unbelieving, doubting that our God will do everything that he has promised us.

Now listen. He has not ever promised me at any point in time that I am always going to be wealthy, I am going to have money in the bank, I am going to have a good car, I am going to have a good job, I am going to have a good life. I know what he has promised me. He has promised me through his own Word that I shall through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God. So far so good. I haven't endured much tribulation. But that is his promise.

Unto you it has been given on the behalf of Christ. Christ purchased it for you. Not only to believe on his name, but to suffer for his name's sake.

These people were suffering over the gospel and what they believed and represented. And so this is what I am starting off to telling you here this morning. It is inevitable that anybody who believes the gospel at some point in time, they are going to be persecuted over their testimony of the gospel.

These Old Testament saints were. As a matter of fact, when you read the book of Hebrews they were sawn asunder for what they believe. They lost their lives. Paul was hung. Peter was crucified. John was put on the Isle of Patmos. Men who loved Christ and loved his gospel and preached and proclaimed it loudly and boldly and proudly and confidently gave their lives for the same gospel and for the same Christ who knew them and loved them and gave himself for them.

That is what life held for these men. And, see, the reason it is that way is, listen. The gospel is the light of the truth that reveals how all men and women by nature are in a fallen, condemned state and they are all in need of a righteousness that they cannot produce and they cannot maintain based on their own obedience even to God's law and justice.

Remember. Think about it. Religious people crucified the Lord Jesus Christ and they didn't do it because he fed the 5000. They didn't do it because he raised the dead. They didn't do it because he restored sight to the blind or healed the lame. Well, why did they kill the Lord of glory? They crucified him and they hated him for one particular thing: his doctrine, what he preached, what he taught.

And you have got to remember this. The reason they hated him is what did his doctrine do? That which he proclaimed and preached to them it exposed their idolatry. To the Jews who he came unto his own and his own received him not, the very testimony of our Lord revealed that what Judaism was doing at that time, what was it? It was as idolatrous as me watching old Herbie Hancock today there on the CBS morning program in front of his little Buddha doll chanting with his beads in his hand.

Now to the world that is idolatry. Those Jews were idolaters. They were worshipping a god who could not save.

Now they called him Jehovah. They had all the testimonies and the rituals and all the doctrine and truth laid in front of them and what did they do? They rejected the one who it pointed them to, the Lord of glory. And that is what his doctrine did.

Our Lord said to those religious people in his day, "You are going to hell in your religion.

He told them, "You do not know God." He said... because to them, the most religious, moral, upright people of any generation, even our own, he said to them, "You have not known the Father."

They said, "We have one Father even God."

He said, "You have not known the Father nor me, for if you had known the Father what would have done? You would have come to the Son because you would know what. The only way to the Father is through the Son and through his righteousness."

He told them that all their efforts at religion and morality aimed at the ground of salvation was as sinful and as wicked and as evil as the most ungodly acts they could ever commit.

He basically told them, "You are a bunch of lost people."

And do you know what? His doctrine was the apostles' doctrine and his doctrine is our doctrine. And if they murdered him and they murdered the apostles, if they know what we say do you know what they would do to us if the law didn't allow us to have the freedom and liberty we have? They would kill us, too.

You say, "Oh, no, you don't know my friends."

I am telling you. I know what religious people think, because I was one of them. And

when you contradict and turn upside down what they value and hold so near and dear, they will kill you over it. Now they will.

You say, “Oh, no, they wouldn’t.”

You ain’t got nothing, pardon the English, on the holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners Son of God. And religious people hated him. Now come on. You think about it. They hated him. What about you? What about that?

Here in Hebrews chapter 11 the apostle Paul gave examples of these saints who had suffered persecution even death over the gospel they believed, over the cross that they bowed to. And in this epistle we can see how he continues to encourage these believers.

Do you know what he encouraged them to do? Persevere in the gospel, continue in this message that you started in. Because, listen. This is how your hearts are established. How? By the gospel message.

You and I, we have to be firmly convinced of the certainty of our salvation conditioned on Christ and the certainty of the eternal destruction if salvation is conditioned on the sinner in any way to any degree at any time. And this will enable us to continue in the faith if you are convinced of it.

See, this is how we do what we do. This is how we stand up unconcerned about what men and women think, because what do we know? We are talking about a life or death issue. We are talking about the difference between eternal condemnation and eternal justification. And he states it very plainly here in the opening part of verse one.

“Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses...”⁶

Now what does a witness do in a trial? What do they call a witness to do? Do they call him to come in and lie? Do they call them to come in and take the Fifth Amendment? No. What do they do? They call them up front. They put their hand on the Bible and they say, “Do you swear to tell the whole truth and nothing but the truth, so help you God?”

So what are they testifying of? The truth.

And he says, “We have such a great cloud of witnesses.” What do they do? They testify of the truth as it is in Christ Jesus. We have many witnesses whose presence... Look at about this. Abraham, where is he at right now? He is in glory. He is truly and certainly absent from the body and present with our Lord. Where is the apostle Paul today? He is there, too, as is all the saints of God throughout all the ages, good and bad.

Rahab the harlot, Zacchaeus, all those we talked about in the Sunday school hour, where are they at? They are with our Lord. How are they this morning? Holy, unblameable and unreprieveable in God’s sight.

⁶ Hebrews 12:1.

Now how did they get that way? The same way all these Old Testament saints got that way, based on a righteousness imputed, see? And faith believes that promise in spite of what it thinks, in spite of circumstances and situations.

Here is the testimony of the wisdom of God. The very means by which you and I, as God's children, are enabled to persevere removes any idea or notion that our salvation is suspended on our persevering.

You think about it. The same truth that reveals Christ to us it takes away any thought at any time that our salvation depends on us in any way, shape or form. And yet men stand up in our generation and they say, "It is not the one who starts a race. It is the one who finishes a race."

Find that in this book. Find it for me.

And I am tell you. The more you and I are convinced that we are certain for heaven based on the righteousness of Christ according to God's promise, the more we will be enabled to withstand everything that comes against us.

You want to be able to stand in the days of trouble? It is easy to stand when things are good. What about when trial comes? What about when these people faced the persecution and eventual... what comforted Stephen in that hour when they stoned him to death? What was his hope? Huh? He knew that they could kill the body, but what could they not do? They could not prevent him from inheriting the promise. They couldn't do it.

And in light of all of these witnesses, all of these Old Testament saints, in light of all the certainty of eternal death, anybody who is either ignorant of or not submitted to the righteousness of Christ, what are we to do?

Here is the first thing.

"Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses..."⁷

Here is the first thing.

"Let us lay aside every weight..."⁸

How do we lay aside every weight? How do we do that? How do we lay aside the sin which so easily hinders us? And you know what that sin is. What sin hinders us more than any other? Unbelief.

I love that song. This is not a vain presumption. What do we do? We just take him at his

⁷ Hebrews 12:1.

⁸ Ibid.

word. And, see, listen. The way we lay aside every weight and the sin that so easily besets us, what do we do? He tells us. Look unto Jesus. Continue to believe in that Christ, he satisfied all the conditions [?].

Do you realize and understand this morning there is nothing left for you to do?

Not by works of righteousness which you have done before he revealed Christ to you or after he revealed Christ to you.

Listen. When Christ suffered and bled and died at Calvary and when he cried it is finished, folks, it was over for all his elect. He saw the travail of his soul and he was satisfied.

Lay aside very weight. This weight... now think about this this morning. This weight that he is talking about is anything that would tend to hinder our value of and our attendance to the duties and the means that God has provided us for joy and peace and comfort in believing. Lay aside those things.

You think about this this morning. We are permitted to enjoy everything in this world. When Adam was in the garden our Lord said, "Everything here is yours to do with as... You can enjoy it any way you want to. It is yours."

And do you know what he said to you and me in 1 Corinthians? He said, "All things are yours."

He told us in Romans chapter eight, "All things work together for good."

Everything in this life, we can enjoy it as long as we do it honestly and in accordance with God's will. There is nothing wrong with having these things.

But this is the thing. We must never ever let those things that we can lawfully enjoy in this life eclipse our love for the honor and glory of God revealed in Christ. And listen. They must never, ever, ever hinder us from our attendance to the means God has provided for us.

What are you saying, preacher?

What is the most important thing to you this morning? Huh? What is most important? What would you not miss for anything in the world?

I am going to tell you. If most people ... I know I have said it before, but it is just true. Most people gave the same loyalty and dedication to their marriage or to their jobs that they do to the gospel they would be divorced and they would be unemployed. That is sad. And do you know what that is? That is sinful for the child of God. It is evil and it is wrong.

It doesn't excuse it. We are to lay aside those. I don't care whether it is family or friend or job. I am not saying quit your job or quit your family. Don't go out and say, "He said quit my job and quit my family."

I ain't never said that. But I am telling you, if something keeps you from being in your place under the ministry and sound of the gospel, do you know what you need to do with it? You need to lose it. Now you do.

You say, "Oh, preacher, it ain't that way. You are preaching works."

No, I am not. I am preaching responsibility.

Look. We put and devote ourselves and put the effort in to the things we love. You love your wife this morning? You love your husband? You have been married more than 10 years? It takes some effort, does it not?

I am a hard man to love. I know that. My kids tell me all the time I look like I am mad. My wife does, too. I have got flaws.

You say, "Oh, preacher, don't say that."

Man, I ain't no good guy, now I am just sorry. But I tell you what. In spite of those flaws and those failures and those difficulties, for almost 29 years we have made it work. We have. Why? We put the effort into it.

If you succeeded in business, how did you get there? Devoted long hours, did you not, and worked hard.

Now I am not telling you to work your way to heaven, but I am telling you if you truly love Christ this morning, dedicate yourself to him, not to me, not to Grace Baptist Church. Dedicate yourself to Christ who loved you and gave himself for you. He gave everything. Everything he had he gave it for you and for me.

It is just a simple thing to give back out of gratitude.

That is not asking too much. I know people they get these puzzled looks. "I just don't like to hear that."

Well, I care.

Does it change it? Lay it aside.

And I will tell you what. We can't excuse our lack of devotion to the gospel. And we can't disguise it. It is what it is, Bart. It is sin. You are not dedicated to Christ this morning, to him, you know where your loyalty should lie. You know who... Look, you have been bought with a price. You do not own yourself. He gives you life and sustains

you. And listen. You are here for one... I am, too. We are here for one purpose. Our one purpose in this life is to glorify and honor him. And we glorify and honor him by telling other sheep out there the truth.

Now just do it.

I wish it wasn't that way, but God hasn't left that remaining sin in us to cause us to doubt. Do you know what that ought to do this morning? If I told you that to you, it ought to drive you back to him because you know it can't be based on your church attendance. You know it can't be based on what you gave or how you love. You know better than that. All of our sin, what does it do? It drives us back to Christ. Where do you find relief? Where do you find [?] Well, you are told those things where you know you thought [?] and you know you have sinned against God and you know you have missed the mark of a perfect righteousness. Where does it drive you to? If it drives you to improve, wrong place. It drives you to him. And then when you come to him out of grace and gratitude, what does it do? It causes you to seek to improve.

Difference in motives, folks. Big difference.

You can't find any comfort or peace in tears of remorse. You can't find it in... you can't find anything. I can't. And maybe you can. I don't think you can. I can't look to my character and my conduct and look at anything that I have ever done in 50 years. There is nothing I can point to that would guarantee me life. Nothing. You? Can you?

But I have this confidence. I know whom I have believed. And I know he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day in spite of it all. That is what faith does. Faith is the evidence of things not seen. I can't see it in me. Faith gives me the hope that everything he did is just as much mine as if I did it.

I am going to tell you what. Doubt and unbelief, do you know what they are? They are the main weapons of the flesh against the Spirit. The flesh lusts against the spirit and the spirit against the flesh so that you could not do the things that you should.

What does it cause you to do? Doubt and uncertainty. Am I saved or am I not?

Then he tells [?] run this race. How does he tell us to run it? Run with patience.

Many times the Scriptures and Christian life describe the Christian life as a race. And, you know, every one of us are commanded as believers. We are to run this race. But what kind of race is it? It is a race of grace, not a race of works. And we run this race of grace by faith. And a lot of people like to imply that believers are running a race thinking that they might not make it to the finish line, as if somehow or another final glory was suspended upon their running the race. That is not what he is saying here. What kind of race was that?

If it is suspended on you making it to the end, what kind of race is that? That is a legal race. It is one of reward. And listen. That is opposed to faith and it is opposed to the gospel and it is opposed to salvation conditioned solely and completely on Christ's blood and righteousness.

We are to run this race of grace, but how do we run it?

“Looking unto Jesus the author and the finisher...”⁹ literally the completer of our faith.

That is to say we are to run this race. How do we run it? We run it with full expectation. What are we going to do? We are going to reach the finish line. I am telling you. There is not any possibility that one for whom Christ suffered, bled and died will not make it to glory. I think one of the most comforting verses in God's Word to me is over in this book in Hebrews where we are at where Christ is standing there and he says, “Father, I and all the children you have given me, we are all here.”

He never lost one.

“All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me [what?] I will in no wise cast [him] out.”¹⁰

Never.

We are to run this race knowing that we have attained life.

Look over at 1 Corinthians nine. This is an amazing verse. See, men twist the Scriptures so much. They just let the Scriptures say what they say and take them at their word.

Notice what he says here in 1 Corinthians chapter nine verse 24.

“Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize?”¹¹

And underlined this next phrase here.

“So run,” and notice his language here, “that ye may obtain.”¹²

Do you see that?

You say, “Well, what is the big deal about that?”

Well, the prize he says to run this race, he says, “Know ye not that they which run the race...”¹³ everybody is running the race. But what are we running the race for? To get the

⁹ Hebrews 12:2.

¹⁰ John 6:37.

¹¹ 1 Corinthians 9:1.

¹² Ibid.

prize. He said, “So run that what? That you may obtain the prize.”

What is the prize? Final glory based on the imputed righteousness of Christ to the praise and glory and honor of God. But he says, “Run that you may obtain,” folks. He doesn’t say run that you can earn. Run that you can get. Run that you can merit. He says, “Run that you can obtain.”

What does that mean? Receive or rely on. That mean to lay hold on something that you have already got.

We in a spiritual sense are to run this race confidently knowing that God is faithful and powerful to fulfill his promise.

But notice verse 26.

“ I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air.”¹⁴

Do you know what Paul is saying here? Paul is telling us he had to discipline himself in this race. He ran not with uncertainty. He didn’t run obscurely in an unseen, unevident, unknown manner.

What he is saying to us and what I am saying to you this morning, this race that we have been called on to run, it is not mystical and it is not magical. It is not something that is [?] on by emotion. It has to do with our minds and our affections and our wills as they are enlightened by the Word of God. We have a certain well grounded hope of attaining eternal life based on the blood and righteousness of the Lord Jesus Christ imputed to our account at Calvary according to God’s promise. And we are not... his language here is, listen. We are not like a boxer that is fighting a shadow. We are not just beating the air. We have got a goal in mind. And we have... we are not fighting like we don’t have a clear cut opponent. Our goal is final glory based on the righteousness of Christ and our opponent, folks, is anything and everything that would hinder us in this race, even ourselves.

Now turn back over to our text. How are you going to do that? How are you going to fight this uncertain opponent including yourself?

Notice what he says.

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. For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.¹⁵

¹³ Ibid.

¹⁴ 1 Corinthians 9:26.

¹⁵ Hebrews 12:2-3.

Believers are to lay aside every weight and every sin and run this race one way, looking to Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith.

Now, again, this looking is not an abstract mystical speculation. And I am not asking you to make a blind leap of faith in the dark. It is an act of your mind, an act of your will. It is an act of your understanding based on truth heard, understood and believed.

How shall they call on him of whom they have not heard? For you to believe this gospel do you know what you have got to do? You have got to hear it. You have got to hear it.

First the apostle Paul points us to who... he says, "Looking unto Jesus..."

Why Jesus? Why not the Lord Jesus Christ? Looking unto Jesus. What is that? He points us to Christ's person, who he was. We are to look to Jesus as how? He is our Savior. That is what Jesus means. Jehovah is salvation. It comes from the Hebrew word Joshua who had all authority and who was given all authority over all flesh and who reigns and disposes of all things according to his will. We look to him who loved us and gave himself for us who is truly God and yet truly man, the one upon whom God the Father conditioned all the salvation of all the elect of all the ages. Consider the excellency of his person, who he was in his glory. How can you doubt?

Looking, do you know what it denotes? It denotes an act of faith accompanied with expectation. Look...

Why do we look? Because we know we are going to receive based on what he accomplished.

But the next thing he points us to is he says, "Looking unto Jesus..." And he talks about his work, "the author and finisher of our faith."¹⁶

How did he become the author and finisher of your faith? He satisfied every condition. Everything that God required of you, Christ did it all. Huh?

Can there be any better news than that? Huh? Think about that. He required of you this morning—and you know this if you are a child. He required that you love God with all your heart, mind, soul and strength and love your neighbor as yourself. And you ain't done it—pardon the English—and you are not going to do it.

He did it. Why? It was required of me. And then he suffered sinlessly on my behalf to guarantee that that righteousness would be charged to my account.

I am telling you this looking, this continual looking, this continual expectation of salvation and final glory it is the remedy for the way you sin that so easily besets you. You feel with uncertainty this morning? Huh?

¹⁶ Ibid.

Because, see, this is the thing. Even the greatest child of God, we still have so much of self left in us. And it is not that we doubt the God that made the promise. Our uncertainty is in ourselves.

Do away with that uncertainty in yourself. It has never been conditioned on you before and it never will be conditioned on you ever. It was conditioned on Christ. And I am going to tell you this morning that the expectation of salvation conditioned on Christ alone according to God's promise, it is necessary for true Christianity. If you don't believe that promise this morning that God saved you and blessed you and he will keep you based on the blood and righteousness of Christ, you are not a true Christian. Now you are just not.

And now notice this and we will close with this.

“Who for the joy that was set before him...”¹⁷

Huh?

This joy that our Lord Jesus Christ had it was three fold. What was his joy? First of all he said, “Father...” Remember in his high priestly prayer in John 17?

“[Father,] I have glorified thee on the earth.”¹⁸

He was speaking in anticipation of what he was about to accomplish at Calvary. How was he going to glorify the Father on this earth? He was going to sign, seal and deliver by his bloody sacrifice at Calvary a righteousness that enabled God to be both a just God and a Savior.

Here is the second glory, his own preeminence and exaltation. Because he became...

“Let this mind be in you,”¹⁹ Paul said to the Philippians.

“Let this mind be in you, which was in Christ Jesus who being in the form of God and equal with God took upon himself the form of a servant and became obedient unto death even the death of the cross.”

And for this cause, because he took that role of subserviency to glorify and honor the Father, what did God do? God gave him, raised him from the dead and gave him a name that is above every name that at the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth every knee should bow and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ s Lord to the glory and honor of God the Father.

¹⁷ Hebrews 12:2.

¹⁸ John 17:4.

¹⁹ Philippians 2:5.

Because he did the work, what did he get? Magnified and glorified.

And, thirdly, you think this was his joy. The full free eternal salvation of every single solitary elect he represented. He took joy in that. And these three goals are inseparable. The glory of the Father, the preeminence of the Son and the eternal salvation...

Look at it. If any one of those fails, God is off his throne. If one for whom Christ died doesn't make it to glory, throwing him out. He hasn't done what he promised and I don't mean that in a disrespectful sense.

That is the certainty you and I bank on this morning. That is the certainty that these Scriptures teach us this morning. Despising the shame, isn't that what it said? What does that mean? Denoted to his... that three fold glory, the glory of the Father and his preeminence in the eternal salvation of every person whom he represented, in light of that shame his state of humiliation was nothing.

Now when we consider his shame which is beyond our comprehension, I can't begin to imagine what our Lord... no man ever suffered like our Lord suffered. None ever has and none ever will. And when we consider his shame, how much more valuable is the goal full accomplished. And as long as we continually rejoice that God has placed us in an unchangeable state of justification based on an unchangeable righteousness of his dear Son the Lord Jesus Christ, our affections will be set on God our Savior. And that is what it is to look unto Jesus, the author and finisher of your faith.

What are our sufferings compared to Christ? Think about it. All of his sufferings he didn't suffer for himself. He never did anything to suffer. When he was hanging on the cross between those thieves they said, the one that believed, he said, "We have done nothing amiss. Now this man... we are getting exactly what we deserve. This man, this person, he has done nothing wrong."

Christ was holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners. But he suffered for our sin. All the suffering he endured, he endured it for my sake, for your sake, for the elect's sake.

And listen. Can we deny him or our testimony for him when we do? Consider this. The way believers become wearied and faint in our minds, do you know what the remedy is for it? Faith. Believe his promise. Faith stirs up and engages all those subjective graces in our heart and our mind. Again, we see that looking unto Jesus as having satisfied all the condition of our salvation, it is the only remedy for that sin that so easily besets us.

Let us lay aside that sin. Let us truly, as God's children, look to Jesus Christ as the only author and finisher of our faith realizing full well that he accomplished everything necessary to bring us to glory and to know that he himself, the Lord Jesus Christ himself, he will present us holy, unblameable and unreprouvable in his sight based on that blood and that righteousness which he established.

Let's stand together and we will be dismissed. I appreciate your presence this morning.
The Lord bless you until we see you Wednesday night.

Stan...