

Series: John

Title: Because I Go Unto My Father

Text: John 14: 28

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The Lord told the apostles:

Matthew 20: 8: Behold, we go up to Jerusalem; and the Son of man shall be betrayed unto the chief priests and unto the scribes, and they shall condemn him to death, 19: And shall deliver him to the Gentiles to mock, and to scourge, and to crucify *him*: and the third day he shall rise again.

He told them he was going to preparing a place for his people and that he would return and receive us to himself, that where he is we may be also. But the apostles only heard the Lord say he was going to be crucified and die and they were very sorrowful. But listen to this word of our Lord.

John 14: 28: Ye have heard how I said unto you, I go away, and come *again* unto you. If ye loved me, ye would rejoice, because I said, I go unto the Father: for my Father is greater than I.

If ye love me, rejoice. Why? Because I go unto the Father. When he says, “because my Father is greater than I”, he is saying that he goes to the Father because, though he is God and equal with God, he took the form of a servant. He served the Father for his people making us righteous in him. That is why he was going unto the Father. The Father is well-pleased for his righteousness sake. And well-pleased with his people for his righteousness sake. So if ye love me, rejoice, because I go unto my Father.

That is reason to rejoice! He did not say he was going away never to return. But he said, “I will come again and receive you to myself that where I am there you may be also.” He is where he is because he who is equal with God willingly was made a little lower than the angels because in his Mediatorial office, as the servant of his Father, the Father was greater and he served him as greater. And he did so in perfection for his people. Our Savior looked to “the joy set before him.”

Brethren each of us have all received the news that we shall die and not live because our flesh is grass—our sinful flesh must return to the dust. But those born-again of the Spirit, brought to believe on Christ, shall live because Christ lives. In the storm look beyond the storm to the joy set before us—Christ our God and Savior.

John 14: 19 Yet a little while, and the world seeth me no more; but ye see me: because I live, ye shall live also.

Is Christ your life? Is your only hope of eternal life and acceptance with God that “*because he lives, you shall live also?*” Our confidence cannot be in his righteousness alone and in our own. Our confidence must be Christ alone and only his righteousness. Of ourselves we confess,

Isaiah 64: 6: But we are all as an unclean *thing*, and all our righteousnesses *are* as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.

Each sinner born from above and given the Spirit confesses his own total sinfulness in himself. “We are all as an unclean thing.” To be able to truly confess to God—to confess that as a believer, in my flesh, I am as an unclean thing, is contrary to human nature. It is impossible for an unregenerate sinner to confess he is altogether a sinner. He cannot confess that in his flesh dwells no good thing, except by the Spirit making him see himself the sinner.

*“What comfort can a Savior bring
To those who never felt their woe?
A sinner is a sacred thing;
The Holy Ghost hath made him so.”*

But it is not only our sin that is sinful—“And all our righteousnesses are filthy rags.” This is the fruit of the Spirit by which the regenerate sinner does the will of the Father. This is of our Lord by which we have the

faith and love that God alone puts in the heart—it is faith and love for Christ. The regenerate sinner says do not attribute righteousness to me, only to Christ my Righteousness. He confesses “all my righteousnesses are as filthy rags.” Christ alone is the Lord my Righteousness.

Our faith is full of unbelief. Our prayers, our tears, our repentance needs to be repented of. Our love needs God’s mercy and forgiveness. Our best thoughts, our best deeds, in themselves, have enough sin in them that they are but filthy rags.

But in Christ all his people are righteous—all righteous. He always pleased the Father and his people always pleased the Father in him. The good works he works in us are not our confidence. They must come up washed in his blood. God is well-pleased for his righteousness sake alone.

We are helpless dust—“And we all do fade as a leaf.” We do not even stir up ourselves to call upon him and take hold of him. Just look at the apostles that night. Were it not for Christ sustaining them by his word, were it not for him sending the Spirit, they would not have been stirred up to believe on Christ.

Our Lord said that it will not be the preachers preaching. It will not be casting out devils. It will not be MANY WONDERFUL WORKS by which God accepts us. But it will be he that doeth the will of my Father. All those things are what we normally equate with fruit. Those things are what men think is doing the will of the Father. Christ declares it is he that believes on Christ our one Foundation. He that believes that because Christ lives, I shall live also. He that loves Christ and loves those begotten of him. So that Christ must increase, I must decrease.

And the Lord said those built on this foundation will be proven. How? When the storm comes they will stand because they are on Christ their Foundation. There will be many storms of failures and sins, and persecution for the word, and all sorts of storms. We are either going into a storm, we are in a storm or we just coming out of a storm. And the last great storm shall be death.

But those on the one foundation will do what folks do after a storm, they gather up and start helping each other stand. They persevere in faith in Christ their Life. They live because Christ lives. They stand because Christ is their Strength. They persevere in love. They keep helping one another weather the storm, each one confessing that even his righteousnesses are filthy rages. But each one confessing this one Foundation—in the Lord have I Righteousness and Strength. “***Because he lives, we shall live also.***” And when it comes time that we ourselves or our brother is to depart, we will still be planted on the Rock and have every reason to rejoice.

I know we sorrow when a loved one departs. I have experienced it and will again. One day I may receive news that I am about to die. We sorrow.

Ecclesiastes 7:2: *It is better to go to the house of mourning, than to go to the house of feasting: for that is the end of all men; and the living will lay it to his heart.*

1 Thessalonians 4:13: But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope.

If we are Christ’s, if our brethren are Christs, there is more reason to rejoice than be sorrowful. In every storm it is true. It is true in that last great storm called death. He promised “**because I live, ye shall live also.**” He said that night—“**If ye loved me, ye would rejoice, because I said, I go unto the Father.**”

Luke 24: 26 Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory?

Every child of God who has Christ as his only righteousness can say the same when it is time to depart. It is the day for which the believer awaits.

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

John 11:26: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?

Our departing this world is only Christ making good on his promise—"**Ye have heard how I said unto you, I go away, and come *again* unto you.**" He said, "I will receive you to myself that where I am there may you be also." And the Lord will provide for those left behind—like he provided for us when he departed—by his sovereign hand, by his Spirit—whether we are the ones who remain or the ones who depart.

Amen!