

SERMON AFTER A SUICIDE

Written by Calvin Fox

Thursday, 11 August 2016 14:39 - Last Updated Thursday, 11 August 2016 14:48

Rev 14:13 gives us COMFORT WHEN FACING DEATH OR BEREAVEMENT

I heard a voice from heaven say, "Write: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on." "Yes," says the Spirit, "they will rest from their labor, for their deeds will follow them."

WHEN A Christian DIES, HE OR SHE IS "BLESSED"

THE "BLESSING" IS REST FROM LABOR = rest from HARD, DEMANDING WORK or a hard, painful life, rest from suffering

For "THEIR DEEDS WILL FOLLOW THEM"-----what does this mean?

The report of the good that Believers have done during their lives follows them TO HEAVEN. When we get there we will be welcomed and celebrated. We will hear the Lord's greeting, "Well done, good and faithful servant!" (Parable of the Talents- Matt 25)

But what if our loved one died at their own hand? What about those who commit suicide? We sometimes hear that they could not have been saved or if they were, they are now lost.

The answer is in **1 Corinthians 3**

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[When it comes to salvation] **11** no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ.

SALVATION IS BY GRACE ALONE THROUGH CHRIST ALONE BY FAITH ALONE

if our loved one had confessed faith in Christ as his or her personal Savior, and we had seen evidence of that faith in their life, we ought to believe they were saved. Rev 14:13 applies to them. "Blessed are those who die in the Lord"

Since salvation is by faith, SALVATION IS NOT LOST BY A TERRIBLE SIN or BY A SINGULAR MAJOR ERROR IN JUDGMENT If it were, that would mean salvation is not by faith alone. But it is!

SALVATION IS BY GRACE ALONE THROUGH CHRIST ALONE BY FAITH ALONE and God promises that no one, and no terrible experience, can separate us from Christ and the grace that keeps us saved.

[When it comes to salvation] **11** no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ. -----Now this verse goes on to say

12 [a] man builds on this foundation, using gold, silver, costly stones, ----- (or) wood, hay or straw,

13 his work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each man's work.

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14 If what he has built survives, he will receive his reward. **15** If it is burned up, he will suffer loss; he himself will be saved, but only as one escaping through the flames.

Romans 14:7 none of us lives to himself alone and none of us dies to himself alone. **8** If we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord. **9** For this very reason, Christ died and returned to life so that he might be the Lord of both the dead and the living.

10 You, then, why do you judge your brother [for the way in which he died]? Or why do you look down on your brother? For we will all stand before God's judgment seat. **12**..., each of us will give an account of himself to God.

GOD ALONE IS JUDGE---NOT US---WE MUST TRUST HIM TO DO RIGHT when we each appear before Him—no matter what we went through to get there

LIFE CAN BE VERY HARD-----WE ALL KNOW DEPRESSION. SOME OF US KNOW HOW SEVERE DEPRESSION CAN BE AND HOW HOPELESS LIFE CAN SEEM

IT IS A TERRIBLE THING TO GET TO THAT PLACE WHERE WE ARE SO OVERWHELMED BY OUR PROBLEMS & FAILURES or BY the LOSS , or the threat of the loss, OF ALL THAT MATTERS to us –health, loved ones, freedom THAT WE BECOME CONVINCED THAT THERE IS NO SOLUTION-----ALL HOPE IS GONE-----and we come to believe the only way out is to take ones own life

WE DO NOT WANT TO Get to that state of mind! WE NEED TO REAFFIRM now, before we are tempted to go there, THAT ----WITH GOD---THERE IS ALWAYS HOPE-----there is ALWAYS A WAY OUT----and that way is never suicide

1 Corinthians 10:13 No temptation [the word means a TRIAL that will lead us into committing

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sin] has seized you except what is common to man. And **God is faithful;**
he will not let you be [TRIED] beyond what you can bear. But when you are [TRIED],
he will
also
provide a way out
so that you can stand up under it.

XIANS LIVE BY HOPE: EACH OF US---ALL OF US—we must have hope

Where does our hope come from? Form God and His Word

The HOPE that sustains us IS IN GOD AND His promises

Romans 5:5 [this] **hope does not disappoint us**, because God has poured out [THE ASSURANCE OF] his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.

Our hope is grounded in our assurance that God loves us. This confidence must be ours before we enter into dark thoughts and feelings that can overwhelm us

Romans 8:31 If God is for us, who can be against us? 32 He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all--how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?

33 Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? 34 Who is he that condemns? Christ Jesus, who died--more than that, who was raised to life--is at the right hand of God interceding for us.

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35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? 37 No, **in all these things** we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

38 I am convinced [Beloved, we must be convinced, convinced at the very core of our being] that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, 39 nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

IT IS THIS ASSURANCE OF HIS LOVE THAT GIVES US THE HOPE THAT DOES NOT DISAPPOINT

When all seems hopeless- when you are tempted to give up on life there is hope

HOPE FOR TODAY----FOR TOMORROW--- FOR ETERNITY

We agonize because our loved one somehow lost sight of that hope

Romans 8:18 I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. 24 **in this hope we were saved.**

1 Thessalonians 4:13 Brothers [and Sisters], we do not want you to be ignorant about those who fall asleep, or to grieve like the rest of men, who have no hope.

PEOPLE OF THE WORLD HAVE NO HOPE----- WE XIANS do not need to be LIKE THEM WE

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have HOPE and it WILL NOT DISAPPOINT US

Now if we have hope that we will overcome the grave, that we will be resurrected and go Home to glory

If we have hope that God can give us victory over sin and death and the grace than we can have hope that God can help us overcome whatever our troubles are now

those who take their own lives have not held on to this hope and our hearts grieve deeply for them and those they leave behind

But those who are left behind must not do the same. They must hold on to this hope that is grounded in the Word of God

We can have assurance that whatever we are facing, with God our situation is not hopeless. By God's grace, we can make it.

We shall get through our heartache and trouble.

We shall overcome

Let us close with words in Romans 12

Romans 12:12 Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. 13 Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality. 14 Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. 15 Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn.

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ADVICE TO THOSE WHO SUFFER:

Be joyful in hope,

THIS IS SOMETHING THAT NON-CHRISTIANS DO NOT UNDERSTAND ABOUT US
CHRISTIANS: WE CAN GO THROUGH TERRIBLE CRISIS AND SUFFERING
BECAUSE WE HAVE HOPE that God gives FOR TODAY & TOMORROW

The amazing thing is that in that hope WE CAN ALSO HAVE JOY AND PEACE – for ourselves
and for the loved one we have lost

BE Patient

TIME DOES NOT HEAL US, BUT HEALING REQUIRES TIME, LOTS OF TIME

WORKING OUR WAY THROUGH AFFLICTION & GRIEF IS A PROCESS: SHOCK
-----ANGER [BLAME]-----DENIAL-----ACCEPTANCE

we must be patient in our affliction

BE faithful in prayer

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GOD HAS SUFFERED-----UNDERSTANDS SUFFERING-----HEALS OUR SUFFERING

WORK THROUGH GRIEF WITH HIM---- talk to Him- pour out your heart to him

He is our *ROCK & REFUGE*

ADVICE TO THE FRIENDS OF THOSE WHO SUFFER:

· Share with God's people who are in need. SHARE: SPEND TIME--LISTEN

· practice hospitality- DON'T WAIT for them to ask: DO FOR THEM.

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· mourn with those who mourn. **ALLOW THEM TO CRY** and cry with them

Our benediction is from Romans 15:13

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.