

1. Jesus is the Great Savior-King

a. "Therefore" indicates a strong connection to the preceding

i. v9 - we have the righteousness of Christ imputed to us through our union with Him

1. This is the “Savior” title given to Jesus by Paul in v20

a. Saved from the wrath of God due to our sins

b. Given the righteous standing of Christ that comes from God on the basis of faith (3:9)

2. Our salvation is accomplished by Jesus, held by Jesus, and kept by the living and reigning Savior through the blood of His cross and the power of His risen life

a. v10-11 - there is no greater treasure than knowing Christ *and the power of His resurrection*

b. There is a huge difference between being saved impersonally and being saved to know the Savior

c. Jesus’ victory over death means that He lives today that we might know Him in a relationship of life and worship

ii. v12 - Jesus has laid hold of us

1. Jesus has laid hold of us for an “upward calling of God”

2. This is the life of holiness that is revealed in the Scriptures, that which is in-line with the character of God Himself

a. Are we seeking to know Christ *that we might be like Him?*

b. Are we taking advantage of the easy access that we have to His Word so that we might know His desires?

i. This is the promise and work of His Holy Spirit

ii. Thank God that He didn’t just leave us with principles to follow, but rather poured out His own Spirit within our hearts to transform us!

c. As we seek to walk like Him, are we remembering this powerful promise that He has laid hold of us?

i. When we fail and stumble and lack belief, Jesus does not let us go

ii. Because of His risen life, His hold upon us is secure and unbreakable

iii. He is the one with the power to make all things subject to Himself (v21)

iii. v16,9 - we have attained Christ's righteousness by faith

1. v16 – Hold true to what we have attained

2. This is very similar to “stand firm”, but indicates an inward personal battle rather than threats from without

3. It is the righteousness of God that we have attained through faith in Jesus!!

a. Hold fast to righteousness, don’t give it up as worthless or unimportant

b. Because we have been made righteous in Christ, let us walk in that righteousness

i. Colossians 3 – “Set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated...who is your life...(5) Put to death that which belongs to your earthly nature...which is idolatry

ii. Hebrews 12 – “Let us throw of everything that hinders and the sin which so easily entangles...fixing our eyes upon Jesus the author and perfecter of our faith...who sat down at the right hand of God...”

iii. Romans 8 – (5) “...their minds set on what the Spirit desires...(13)...by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the

body you will live...(14)..those led by the Spirit are the sons of God..."

- iv. Galatians 5 – (24) “Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires...(25) Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit..."

iv. v20-21 - citizenship in heaven, strength/Kingship of Jesus

- 1. Remember who you are in Christ!!
 - a. We are citizens of Heaven with Christ as our King!
 - b. We are sons and daughters of God under His reign!
 - c. We are holy, not by our achievements or righteousness, but by His achievements and righteousness imputed to us by His grace through faith
- 2. Remember His powerful promise to complete our redemption at His return
 - a. taking our “lowly” bodies and transforming them to be like His
 - b. What a promise!!
- 3. Remember that He has the power to fulfill this promise
 - a. He has the power to subject all things to Himself
 - b. That means our weak flesh with all its desires, so that He will raise us up on that day with power and immortality, fit for eternity with Him

2. Stand Firm in the Savior-King’s Victories (cf 1:27)

- a. BECAUSE we have the hope of Jesus Christ as our Savior from this earthly kingdom and the promise of the heavenly citizenship in His Kingdom of righteousness, we are to stand firm in it (the Kingdom)
 - i. Paul is emphasizing again that we are to imitate him and other gospel bearing Christ exalters (v15-17) who live according to Christ and not the enemies of the cross (v18-19) who set their minds on earthly things.
 - ii. Our hope is the transformation of our “lowly” bodies into bodies like Jesus’ resurrected body (glorious).
 - iii. Our hope is even more personal: JESUS is the One doing it by His power.
- b. Even more strongly connected is the contrast between “earthly things” in v19 and the hope of “heavenly citizenship through Christ’s power to transform us” in v20-21
 - i. “Savior” from these lowly bodies
 - ii. Get your eyes fixed upon the greater and eternal hope of Jesus’ return
 - iii. This eschatological hope is always given as a reason for walking uprightly
 - 1. 1 John 3:3 – “He who has this hope [His return] purifies himself as He is pure”
 - 2. Titus 2:11-13 – “Grace of God has appeared...training us to renounce ungodliness...to live...upright, godly lives presently, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ”
 - 3. 2 Pet 3:13-14 – “Since we are looking for a new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells according to His promises...be diligent to be found by Him without spot or blemish, and at peace.”
 - iv. This hope is strongly evident in this passage and is reminiscent of Jesus’ exaltation and authority from 2:9-11 which followed His self-humility in the gospel and of 3:10-11 of our attainment of resurrection having shared in His sufferings.
- c. What is “standing firm”?
 - i. ‘NOT "march out and conquer" or "press forward"
 - ii. IS that we are to hold on to the truth of the gospel and live accordingly
 - 1. The Gospel is that Jesus has gone out and conquered
 - a. our sin
 - b. Satan
 - c. death
 - iii. It is Defensive rather than Offensive

1. Our role is not to gain ground yet ungained, but rather it is to stand firm and not give up ground that Jesus has already gained.
2. There is a difference:
 - a. To march out and conquer is to achieve ground that has not yet been won
 - b. To stand and defend is to hold ground that has already been won
3. The object of glory shifts from man to Christ when we operate under the gospel, defending ground won by our Captain rather than gaining ground ourselves.
- iv. It is to never give up the Truth of the Gospel of the Kingdom of the Christ
 1. The threats that the Philippians were under were of a gospel devoid of atonement, full of licentiousness, self-determined wisdom, minds set on earthly things
 - a. “enemies of the cross of Christ”
 - b. “god is their belly”
 - c. “glory in their shame”
 - d. “minds set on earthly things”
 2. When the gospel is altered or changed, particularly away from the substitutionary atonement of Jesus Christ and on the holiness that the Cross and the Empty Tomb call us towards, we are to stand firm and resist
 - a. Instead, imitate those who walk like heavenly citizens, glory in Christ’s cross, are ashamed of their sin, repenting with joy b/c we know the certainty of God’s acceptance through the blood of Jesus, with minds full of hope set on His return to finally and ultimately transform us to be like Him
 - b. In this way, we are to stand firm for the faith of the gospel (1:27)

3. Now What?

- a. How Do We Stand Firm?
 - i. 1:27 – “standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side *for the faith of the gospel*”
 - ii. The goal of standing firm is to believe and cling to the gospel
- b. Fix your eyes upon Jesus and His glorious gospel
 - i. This includes the Cross: my personal sin is so heinous that Jesus had to die in my place
 - ii. This includes the Grace of God: God loves me so much that Jesus did die in my place not to due to any worthiness or merit within me, but solely due to the depth and power of His love
 - iii. This includes the Resurrection: Jesus lives today to save me, guide me, hold me, and ultimately bring me to heaven and raise me up transforming this lowly body with weak desires and weak worship to be like His with holy desires and whole worship
- c. Apply this glorious gospel to your heart today
 - i. What is it that makes us give up the ground of the gospel?
 1. We think that something else besides Jesus is what we *ultimately* need
 - a. Reputation – “They don’t respect me and it makes me furious!”
 - b. Power – “He doesn’t listen to me and I’m sick of it!”
 - c. Comfort – “I’ll never be happy in this job!”
 2. We “forget” that the gospel actually changes the way that we think about all of these things
 - a. Reputation – “The only opinion of me that really matters is God’s, and He has loved me enough to die for me, to call me His own, and to raise me up to be like Him!”
 - b. Power – “When I am weak, then He is strong. I am not saved or important or worthwhile because of my strength or success, but rather because He loves me more than I can even imagine and has secured rest for me. I

don't have to defend my own righteousness, for I have been given the all-sufficient righteousness of Christ."

- c. Comfort – "I want to know the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings. I believe that when He returns He will transform this weak and lowly body into one like His, so I will patiently endure sorrow with great hope. He is resurrected, so will I be."
- ii. We must be constantly proclaiming to our own hearts the glorious gospel of Jesus Christ in its fullness together.
 1. "side by side" "with one purpose" "with one mind"
 2. For every sorrow and struggle there is a promise of the gospel suitable
 3. Let us fix our eyes upon Jesus, for the power to change lies not in any power within us, but rather in the power of the gospel for salvation from all our woes (Rom 1:16)

"God's grace means that I can rest assured that I'll have everything I need to be what he wants me to be and to do what he wants me to do in the situation in which he's placed me. I'm no longer restricted to the limits of my own strength and wisdom. By his grace, I've a new identity and a new potential. I'm a child of God; the risen Christ now lives inside of me. I need no longer fear people or circumstances; I don't have to feel weak in the face of suffering or temptation, because I no longer rest in the resources of my own ability. I'm in Christ and he's in me. This new identity gives me new potential as I face the realities of life in this bent and broken world. God's grace gives me reason to 'take heart.'" —Paul David Tripp, *Psalm 27: Take Heart*

2 Corinthians 3:18

And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. This also comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.