



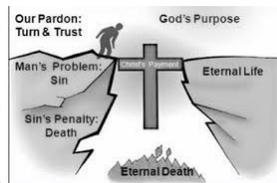
He Is Worthy

Pastor Stephen Kaneshiro

All through the history of Christianity, the most horrific and evil events happen when people have tried to wipe out all faith in God and Jesus Christ, God has always reigned supreme. His ways have many times been misunderstood as being incompetent and wrong. God and Jesus have been given a bad reputation by many. However, when you look at the big picture, you will see that His grand scheme is far more glorious than we could ever imagine.

As you begin to think about His ways, one of the first things that we have to realize is that God's most important objective is to give all of us the chance for eternal life with Him in Heaven. His primary purpose is not to give us a glorious life here on earth. When I was in college, I was part of a gospel singing group and I remember an older lady standing in one of our worship services and proclaiming that "Things go better with Christ!" This was during the days when Coco Cola had a popular slogan that said "Things go better with Coke!" In general I agree with that statement, if we to have the perspective of God's grand scheme.

Ultimately and especially in eternity, things do go better with Christ! What does the Bible say about someone who enters into eternity without Jesus? Without Jesus there is no hope! Without Jesus, one enters into an eternity of suffering and sorrow that is filled with despair that is beyond any desperation that anyone has ever experienced here on earth. However, when one enters into eternity with Jesus right beside them, they enter into eternal joy and fulfillment. The difference between these two eternal destinations is very distinct and very pronounced. Life without Jesus is so despicable that if you really understood it, you would not want your worst enemy to end up there and therefore, you would not want those that you love



and care for to have that as their final destination.

A glorious life in Heaven is what you would want for yourself and for everyone that you care about. Therefore, if you have to endure temporary horror and evil in order to be lovingly obedient to the Lord, it would be worth it. Clinging to Him through the darkest moments of your life is what we should all put our mind and heart to. Concentrating and focusing on loving Jesus with all of our heart, mind, and soul is the life long endeavor that we should all be striving for. Jesus has already proven His love and mercy to us in so many different and powerful ways. He is certainly worth it and He has proven that He can be trusted. I have never seen Him let anyone down. We may think that He has let many people down, but when you have His grand perspective of all of life, you will see the same thing that I see. He is trustworthy and can be fully trusted by all of us.

His love and grace are so powerful and fulfilling that He is worth all that you have and all that you are. You can lay down all that you have and all that you are at His feet. In Revelation 5, there was temporary grief, as there seemed to be no one worthy enough to open the seals. Then there was the report that there was one who was worthy. Look at their song of praise as they worship Him who was and is worthy. **Revelation 5:9-10 (NLT)** ⁹ *And they sang a new song with these words: "You are worthy to take the scroll and break its seals and open it. For you were slaughtered, and your blood has ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation."* ¹⁰ *And you have caused them to become a*

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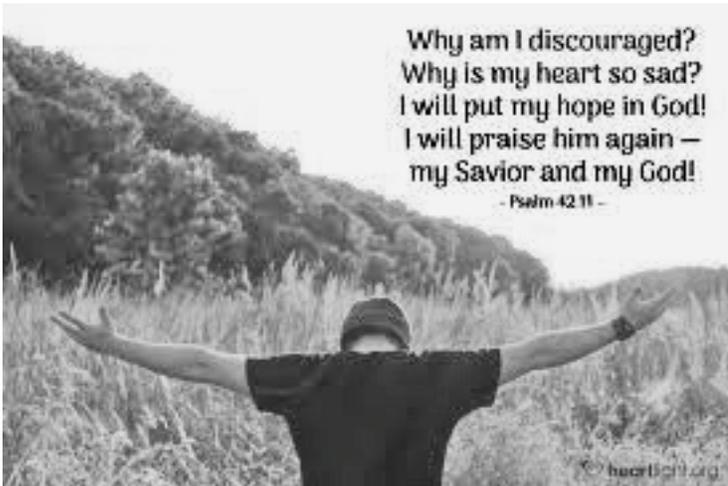
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Kingdom of priests for our God. And they will reign on the earth.” His lovingly sacrificial death provided for all who would choose to love and obey Him the promise of forgiveness of all of their sins and therefore the promise of an eternity with Him in Heaven. This praise goes on to tell all that He was the one who caused them to become a Kingdom of priests. This tells me that He provided everything that they needed to rise above all of the obstacles and challenges that this world could throw at them to become that Kingdom of priests.

His ways are definitely higher than our ways and His perspectives are broader and wider than ours. He is certainly worthy of all the worship and praise that we can offer to Him, and even more. Therefore, even when you don’t understand His commands and will, know that you can trust Him and submit your all to Him. **Proverbs 3:5-6 (NLT)** is especially true and reliable for all of us during stressful and challenging time such as we are now in “⁵ *Trust in the LORD with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding.* ⁶ *Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take.*” Take heart! He is with us and He will never leave us. He will always provide for all of our needs. His love, grace, and power becomes greatest during times of the most stressful and challenging times. Keep your eyes focused on Jesus and lovingly obey Him in all that you think, say, and do! God bless all of you as you cling to Jesus!

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“Thank you”

MISSION NEWS

NAMB Missionary Spotlight:



Seattle, WA

4,907,940 people live in metro Seattle

84.6% of the population is estimated as lost

1 SBC Church for every 25,169 Seattle Residents

“Pray for the strengthening of evangelistic impact in our church plants.” - Clay Holcomb, Seattle Send City Missionary



International Mission Board

Connecting in Prayer

<https://www.imb.org/pray/>

* **Deaf Peoples** - East Asian Deaf believers have experienced many great opportunities to tell other Deaf around the world about Jesus during the recent quarantines. Pray that Deaf East Asian believers will direct their “online friends” to Jesus and share the hope of life in Christ. Pray for good internet connections, which is one of the barriers they are encountering. Not only are these Deaf believers isolated, but they also have horrible internet connections. Call quality is mediocre, at best. There are still unprecedented opportunities to get the good news out but limited ways of sharing Bible stories. Pray that the love of Jesus will spread among Deaf communities around the world for His glory.

* **Muslim Sindhis of South Asia** - (SIN-dees) - A woman was desperate for a child. She went from one doctor to the next, searching for treatment that might open her womb. She was told the same thing at each consecutive visit: She had a problem that would not be easily fixed, and the treatment would be very expensive. Then this woman heard about the power of Jesus and how He had the power to heal those who were sick. She remembered stories that had been told in which Jesus made blind men see and lame men walk. This woman prayed. She poured out her heart continually to the one true God. God heard this woman’s pleas for a child, and He answered her. He granted her desire. Praise God that she became pregnant and gave birth to a son! “I call upon you, for you will answer me, O God; incline your ear to me; hear my words” (Psalm 17:6 ESV).

* **North Africa/Middle East Refugees in the Diaspora** - Amina* has experienced much pain in her life. She was abandoned by her husband and brothers, taken from her children, abused by men, and used for cheap labor. She escaped her horrible situation a year ago and took refuge in Europe. Coming from a minority sect in her homeland that had taught her about the Bible, she was open to learning more about Jesus. One day, she was approached by a kind man and his wife who shared hope with her and invited her to attend church with them. Over the next few months, she became very involved and started to help lead a women’s study. She began to see purpose in her life as a leader and servant in the church. However, her painful past stayed with her, and daily she looked at pictures on her smartphone of her growing children. Her heart ached with missing them. Sadly, Amina’s financial situation grew worse; she wasn’t receiving enough money to live on. The church helped her as they could, but she took matters into her own hands and began using her body to get money. She resorted to doing the thing she hated but knew was a way to get hard cash. She eventually cut off contact with the church and the women in her study. Please pray that Amina’s heart will be recaptured by the hope she has in Jesus. Pray for her protection and for her to know that she’s loved by God and by her church. (*name changed)

Faithfully and Lovingly Cared For

Pastor Stephen Kaneshiro

Daniel 3:1-30 – The Story of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego

VIDEO: Wayne Kinoshita – “Goodness of God”

- I. _____ Government Orders. – *Daniel 3:1 & Daniel 3:4-6*
 - A. _____ and _____ drive public policy.
 - B. God’s commands are _____ to self-centered desires.
– *Exodus 20:3-6 & Exodus 34:14*

- II. There are _____ to being faithful to God.
 - A. Could be _____. – *Daniel 3:12*
 - B. There could be harsh and angry _____. – *Daniel 3:13*
 - C. But _____ . – *Daniel 3:14-18*
 - D. Don’t be _____ by fierce anger. – *Daniel 3:19-23*

VIDEO: Stories of Christian Persecution | I Have Decided to Follow Jesus (Ft. Jadon Lavik)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_KOBsu_A4LU&t=206s

- III. Faithfully and powerfully _____ for. – *Daniel 3:24-30*
 - A. God can do the _____.
 - B. You must trust the Lord _____. – *2 Corinthians 5:6-11*
 - C. So stand firm trusting in His _____.
 - D. Experience His _____ and _____ care.

VIDEO: 10,000 Reasons (Bless The Lord)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tWUbgeD6pMI>