

“Tomorrow Will Be A New Day!”

Easter 5

1)

Revelation 21:1-6

2)

May 19, 2019

This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. Amen.

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

What circumstances have you had to face in life...in the past week? Or so far in 2019? There are a lot of reasons for us to cry and to shed a few tears. If you're a kid, maybe you lost a pet or got into an argument with a friend at school. Maybe you lost your job or received the diagnosis that you were not expecting. There are many circumstances that take place in life. And not everything always goes our way. Events trigger thoughts. Thoughts trigger feelings. Sometimes those feelings involve shedding a tear.

Friends, I have great news for you today. We have a wonderful comfort from our Lord this morning – **“Tomorrow will be a new day!”**

You may be thinking – I hope so. Today hasn't started out so well...and it's raining. It's not always doom and gloom – when it comes to the weather or the circumstances of our life.

We want to hear the word of our God this morning and take to heart the comfort that God gave to the apostle John – v. 4—**“He will wipe every tear from their eyes.”** All the problems you're having today will be forgotten tomorrow.

Isn't that great news? It's easy to dwell on the past or the circumstances of life that may make us feel miserable. That's why we need to hear over and over – that God **“will wipe away every tear from our eyes.”**

This is the 3rd week of our four week look at the book of Revelation. We want to hear the wonderful gospel promises that John received. John was in a difficult circumstance of life. He was exiled on the island of Patmos. Here at the end of the book we have John receiving one of the three visions. This is exactly what John needed – to receive comfort from the Lord.

We may not be exiled on an island, but at times it may certainly feel that way. Through all the circumstances of life, it may seem that life is out of control. But we do know the one who

is in control. The one who tells us in v 4-5 – **“he will make everything new, b/c the old order of things has passed away.”**

Starting out in v. 3, John says, **“And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them.””**

Last week we heard the word phrase – **“dwelling.”** However, in last weeks reading it is translated as the word **“tent.”**

If you’ve camped before, you know what a tent provides. Remember, you’re not at home anymore. You’re outdoors. Your choices of where to sleep are limited. A tent provides shelter and safety from the elements.

The **dwelling** or **“tent”** of God is with men. In John’s day, and going back to the Old Testament, this would have been a powerful picture of how God is with us. At Christmastime, **Jesus is the Word made flesh who made his dwelling among us.** (John 1) We hear how a Savior has been born to us – **he will be called Emanuel – meaning God with us.**

God **“dwelled”** with the people in Moses day – he guided them through the wilderness – in a pillar of cloud by day and pillar of fire by night. It’s where God made his presence known.

Isn’t it comforting to know that **“Tomorrow will be a new day.”** We know this b/c of who’s living with us.

We don’t deserve it. We don’t deserve to have God live with us. We’re overcome with guilt and shame b/c of the sins that we commit. God even tells us what our sins deserve. And it’s not pretty. Our sins deserve death and eternal punishment in hell – the place where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. The thought of hell and the punishment our sins deserve is enough to make a bad day even worse.

But there is hope! John says in v 4 – **“He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.”** Jesus is living w/ you. That means there is nothing we need to be scared of or sad about. Jesus told his disciples before he ascended into heaven – **“Surely I am with you always – to the very end of the age.”**

Life on earth doesn't have to be miserable or an existence where we are controlled by our circumstances. When we face sin and temptation. When we battle the difficult circumstances of failing health or failed relationships. It can be a new day. And it is a new day – b/c God has done the best thing for us by taking away our every sin. Jesus took our place before God. He was forsaken on the cross in our place.

B/c Jesus is living w/ us – it gives us a new perspective on how we live. We live as our **“body is a temple of the Holy Spirit...Therefore honor God w/ your body.”** We live as every day is a new day – a time to be comforted by the good news of our Savior who lived and died in our place. And, b/c he's living w/ us right now! Tomorrow will be better than today. Today is better than yesterday. God has forgotten all our sins from yesterday.

Think also of what Jesus is saying to John here – and to us. Jesus is better than every human and our relationship w/ Jesus is better than any human relationship we could ever have. He never breaks promises to us – like those promises that even those closest to us cannot always keep. God told John about all that he had seen – **“These words are trustworthy and true.”**

God goes on to say about himself in v 6 – **“I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End.”** Alpha and Omega are the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet. God is saying here that he is everything from A to Z. God knows all things – he know our hurts, habits and hangups – and he doesn't cast us out of his sight or even his kingdom. He lovingly showers us with his grace. And no matter what happens to us – God will **“work out all things for our good.” (Rom 8:28)**

How much will today or tomorrow cost you? Absolutely positively – nothing! Jesus says here – **“To him who is thirsty I will give to drink w/out cost from the spring of the water of life.”** We could never pay what God demands – living a perfect life or even dying a perfect death. Jesus paid the price that God demands. He paid w/ his holy precious blood and with his innocent suffering and death.

Crying makes us thirsty. We cry b/c we have unmet needs. We cry b/c we have unfulfilled desires. Jesus invites us to come to

him. If we ever wonder or worry about anything. If we bring ourselves into judgment – judging our own performance or letting what someone else says or thinks about us, bother us. We need to not walk, but run to Jesus. Jesus is better than Gatorade. Jesus quenches our thirst better than a cold glass of water on a hot, summer day. Jesus quenches the deep spiritual desire and longing inside us to be loved and adored. Jesus is everything we've ever longed for and needed. Jesus meets our every need.

“...there will no longer be any sea...” The apostle John was exiled on the island of Patmos. He was persecuted for his faith. Perhaps, he was looking from the island back the mainland city of Ephesus, his hometown, and longing to be home. What an encouragement this must have been – that there was no longer a sea keeping him from his home. What a joy and reminder for us as we know there will no longer be anything keeping us from our home. We never have to leave the Lord's side.

Tomorrow Will Be A New Day! No matter what, there are rough waters that often separate us from happiness in our lives and separate us from heaven, while we live on earth. That's why we so often cry or feel nervous or afraid. These circumstances will not bother us. B/c of who's living with us. And b/c of who's saying this to us. Amen.

And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:7)

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. ²I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. ³And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. ⁴He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.”

⁵ He who was seated on the throne said, “I am making everything new!” Then he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.”

⁶ He said to me: “It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To him who is thirsty I will give to drink without cost from the spring of the water of life.