

Because I Live, You Will Live Also

(Companion Paper to the Easter Sunday Sermon Delivered on Sunday, March 31st, 2024, at Firm Foundation Christian Church, Woonsocket RI, By Pastor James Moriello)

“A little while longer and the world will see Me no more, but you will see Me. Because I live, you will live also” (John 14:19, NKJV).

Our text unfolds neatly into three parts, and we shall not look to go beyond the words of the text, as we examine and apply it.

First, **A little while longer and the world will see Me no more** -

1. Christ’s departure was foretold. **“The Son of Man must suffer many things, and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day” (Luke 9:22).**
2. To the unbelievers, Jesus says, **“Then Jesus said to them, “I shall be with you a little while longer, and then I go to Him who sent Me. You will seek Me and not find Me, and where I am you cannot come.”” (John 7:33-34).**
3. The world saw Jesus Christ, and even sees Him now through the threefold witness of creation, conscience, and Christ.
 - a. Creation- **“For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse” (Romans 1:20).**
 - b. Conscience- **“(for not the hearers of the law are just in the sight of God, but the doers of the law will be justified; for when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do the things in the law, these, although not having the law, are a law to themselves, who show the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and between themselves their thoughts accusing or else excusing them) in the day when God will judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ, according to my gospel” (Romans 2:13-16).**
 - c. Christ- **“But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the**

Prophets, even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference; for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed, to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus” (Romans 3:21-26).

4. Consider the privilege received by those who saw God Incarnate in the Person of Jesus Christ (Cf. John 1:14; Hebrews 1:1-3)! Yet they would let that blessing go by and not see Him again! Could it be that Jesus Christ is presented to you this morning, and yet you would you choose to remain in darkness? Why? The promise to the reprobate is that they shall be “**cast into outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth**” (Matthew 8:12). But is there still yet hope after death? A reprieve? For a moment every unbeliever will be allowed to appear before the Great White Throne of God, and then they can state their case. But for nought it will be. “**Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works. Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire**” (Revelation 20:11-15). Without Christ’s righteousness, no man has any standing before the Almighty, and they shall see Him no more (Cf. Romans 3:23; 2 Corinthians 5:21).

Second, **but you will see Me** -

1. This physically came to pass shortly concerning the disciples to whom Jesus spoke. “**Then, the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in the midst, and said to them, “Peace be with you.” When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord..._And after eight days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, “Peace to you!” Then He said to Thomas, “Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand here, and put it into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing. ”_And Thomas answered and said to Him, “My Lord and my God!” Jesus said to him, “Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”**” (John 20:19-20,26-29).
2. Spiritual vision is that which is by faith. “**The just shall live by faith**” (Romans 1:17). “**Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. For by it the elders obtained a good testimony. By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible**” (Hebrews 11:1-3).
3. A heart singularly affectionate towards the Lord shall enjoy unclouded vision. “**Blessed are the pure in heart, For they shall see God**” (Matthew 5:8).
4. Our text tells us that spiritual vision is possessed by believers. In this church age, we enjoy the presence of God the Holy Spirit, Whom God sent. Jesus said, “**He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you. All things that the Father has are Mine. Therefore I said that He will take of Mine and declare it to you**” (John 16:14-15). “**But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord**” (2 Corinthians 3:18).

Third, **Because I live, you will live also** -

1. This is God's promise to believers. It is a sure promise, a certain hope. The world hopes for something better, but its desire is never fulfilled. But the Christian has a certainty to hope for. As Paul encouraged Titus, so too his inspired words encourage us. **"Paul, a bondservant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, according to the faith of God's elect and the acknowledgment of the truth which accords with godliness, in hope of eternal life which God, who cannot lie, promised before time began, but has in due time manifested His word through preaching, which was committed to me according to the commandment of God our Savior"** (Titus 1:1-3).
2. Jesus Christ died for our sins and rose from the dead. On His Resurrection, our faith rests. As sinners, we could neither atone for our sins, nor find our own way to heaven. But God Himself did that which we could never do, and for this, Christians are forever grateful. John 3:16 spells this out most clearly. **"For God"** (His initiative) **"so loved"** (His motive) **"the world"** (His object) **"that He gave His only begotten Son"**(His gift) **"that whoever believes in Him"** (available to all) **"should not perish but have everlasting life"** (His enduring promise). **"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time"** (1 Peter 1:3-5).
3. **"Because I live, you will live also"**, says the Lord. **"Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also. And where I go you know, and the way you know."** Thomas said to Him, **"Lord, we do not know where You are going, and how can we know the way?"** Jesus said to him, **"I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."** (John 14:1-6).