

“Heaven Will Surely Be Worth It All”

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Rom. 8:14-25

There is a song entitled, “Heaven Will Surely Be Worth It All”. The words were written by W. Oliver Cooper and the melody was arranged by Minzo C. Jones.

As I sing this song, two main thoughts come to mind:

- The many sacrifices faithful Christians must often make.
- The glories of heaven and what is to come for those who remain faithful.

The song proclaims that the rewards will surely be worth whatever the cost; as did Paul, in writing to the Romans. Rom. 8:18, *“For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.”*

And again, in writing to the Corinthians. 2 Cor. 4:17, *“For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory;”*

Will heaven be worth it all? Yes! But it never hurts to be reminded of both the cost and rewards of discipleship.

The cost of discipleship.

Jesus must come first in our lives.

Before one’s own self. Luke 9:23-24, *“And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: but whosoever will lose his life for my sake, the same shall save it.”*

Before anyone else, including family.

- Luke 14:26, *“If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple.”*
- Matt. 10:34-37, *“Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword. For I am come to set a man at*

variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter in law against her mother in law. And a man's foes shall be they of his own household. He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me."

Before anything the world has to offer.

- Luke 9:25, "For what is a man advantaged, if he gain the whole world, and lose himself, or be cast away?"
- Luke 14:33, "So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple."

We must be willing to suffer for Christ.

We must be willing to bear our own cross. Luke 14:27, "And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple."

Living in an ungodly world, we may find that following Christ sometimes involves ridicule and persecution. 2 Tim. 3:12, "Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution."

The persecution may be physical. 1 Pet. 4:12-13, "Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy."

The persecution may be verbal. Luke 6:27-28, "But I say unto you which hear, Love your enemies, do good to them which hate you, Bless them that curse you, and pray for them which despitefully use you."

Other things we must endure for Christ's sake:

Personal weaknesses in our struggle against sin. 1 Cor. 9:27, "But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway."

Disappointments brought on by failing brethren. 2 Cor. 11:29, "Who is weak, and I am not weak? who is offended, and I burn not?"

- Those whose apathy and neglect produce slothful service.
- Those whose irregular attendance makes it difficult to depend on them.
- Those whose unwillingness to serve creates extra burdens on those who do serve.

- Those whose murmuring hinders the efforts of those who try to do something.

Even if blessed to escape such things, we must still be willing to expend time and effort in promoting the cause of Christ.

- Sometimes alone, or with few to help.
- Sometimes in difficult places, where few appreciate your efforts.

Yes, discipleship can be costly.

As the song suggests, we are often “hindered”, “burdened”, with “trials, toils and tears” and “many a heartache”. But the Lord tells us through His Word that “Heaven Will Surely Be Worth It All”.

The rewards of discipleship.

From the pen of Paul:

A man who endured much hardship. 2 Cor. 11:23-25, *“Are they ministers of Christ? (I speak as a fool) I am more; in labours more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequent, in deaths oft. Of the Jews five times received I forty stripes save one. Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day I have been in the deep,”*

Yet looked forward to:

A house not made with hands. 2 Cor. 5:1, *“For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.”*

The riches of God’s grace. Eph. 2:7, *“That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.”*

A glorious transformation. Phil. 3:20-21, *“For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.”*

A crown of righteousness. 2 Tim. 4:8, *“Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.”*

A heavenly kingdom. 2 Tim. 4:18, “*And the Lord shall deliver me from every evil work, and will preserve me unto his heavenly kingdom: to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.*”

A man who likewise suffered hardship, who wrote of all the apostles:

1 Cor. 4:9-13, “*For I think that God hath set forth us the apostles last, as it were appointed to death: for we are made a spectacle unto the world, and to angels, and to men. We are fools for Christ’s sake, but ye are wise in Christ; we are weak, but ye are strong; ye are honourable, but we are despised. Even unto this present hour we both hunger, and thirst, and are naked, and are buffeted, and have no certain dwellingplace; And labour, working with our own hands: being reviled, we bless; being persecuted, we suffer it: Being defamed, we intreat: we are made as the filth of the world, and are the offscouring of all things unto this day.*”

Yet Paul looked forward to:

An inheritance reserved in heaven. Peter wrote: 1 Pet. 1:4, “*To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you,*”

A new heavens and new earth, in which righteousness dwells. 2 Pet. 3:13-14, “*Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness. Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless.*”

From the pen of John:

A man who suffered tribulation and exile. Rev. 1:9, “*I John, who also am your brother, and companion in tribulation, and in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was in the isle that is called Patmos, for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ.*”

Yet was blessed to be shown:

The bliss of those who were triumphant over tribulation.

- Rev. 7:9-10, “*After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands; And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb.*”
- Rev. 7:13-17, “*And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came*

they? And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple: and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them. They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat. For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.”

The destiny of the redeemed, forever with God.

- Rev. 21:1-7, *“And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful. And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely. He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.”*
- Rev. 21:10-11, *“And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, Having the glory of God: and her light was like unto a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal;”*
- Rev. 21:22-22:5, *“And I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it. And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof. And the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it: and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honour into it. And the gates of it shall not be shut at all by day: for there shall be no night there. And they shall bring the glory and honour of the nations into it. And there*

shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life. And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb. In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him: And they shall see his face; and his name shall be in their foreheads. And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever."

Conclusion.

Can there be any comparison between a few years of service, even with hardship and an eternity of bliss in the presence of God?

"Heaven Will Surely Be Worth It All"!

We have read the words of those like Paul, Peter, and John. What if they could return and speak to us today? What if our loved ones who died in Christ could return and speak to us today? Would they not tell us, "Heaven Will Surely Be Worth It All"?

Whatever the cost of following Jesus in this life, may the words of this song and the promises of Holy Scripture remind and comfort us to be faithful and persevere.

Heb. 10:35-36, "*Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompence of reward. For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise.*"

