



## Raising our Reverence Pt 4: Jesus is Enough 2020!

March 22, 2020

**March Theme: *Hebrews 12:28-29 (KJV)*** *Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear: 29 For our God is a consuming fire.*

“Way” back in the mid-2000s, when our church first started walking through larger portions of Scripture line-by-line, we made a startling discovery: that **Jesus is Enough!** In the book of the same name, we phrased it like this:

“Many *believers* struggle to find meaning and fulfillment. They navigate the waters of life searching desperately for joy and peace. These believers desire to be successful in life but do not feel like they have achieved anything. They are told that if they just wait long enough, a powerful blessing or breakthrough will come, and their desires will be fulfilled. “When will Christ manifest this blessing?” they wonder. “Where has Christ gone?” Christ hasn’t gone anywhere! He’s just been overshadowed by what I jokingly call, “Systematic Blessing Theology!” Our inability to understand the simple truths of the gospel and our desire to bring business models into the church have also reduced our reliance on Christ.

I mean, sometimes I had to ask myself, *Has the church lost its mind?* Why are we telling people to focus so much on things that fade away? Now, if some of those things come as a result of contentment and hard work, wonderful! Ultimately people should be taught that they come as a result of Christ’s cross! He died to pay the penalty for our sin, not so we can “win” in life!

*Jesus is enough* to have joy! *Jesus is enough* to walk in peace and contentment! In Jesus, you can feel successful in life. Simply being faithful to Him and His commands *is* success! *Jesus is enough* during the difficult times! *Jesus is enough* to experience “breakthrough” because He is the breakthrough! *Jesus is enough* to adjust our perspective, freeing us daily from the temporary, temporal confines of this earth to live with eternal and unchanging realities.”

Here we are in the year 2020 and the lesson is just as appropriate now. Most of us are feeling as if we are facing unprecedented levels of uncertainty and insecurity...physically, financially, relationally, and emotionally.

**Saints, I’d like to offer today the thought that a “Jesus is Enough” kind of mindset gives honor and reverence to God. That a heart that prefers the death of self over self-preservation makes God smile. That our “consuming fire” God loves sacrificial obedience, brokenness, and an abandonment of worldly or carnal ideals. That the closer we get to an Acts 5 mindset...**

**Acts 5:41-42 (KJV)** *And they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for his name. 42 And daily in the temple, and in every house, they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ.*

...the better off we will be!

Think about it: what can man do to a “dead saint?” Does a dead man or woman worry?

**Galatians 6:14 (KJV)** *But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world.*

Especially when they have been made alive in Christ?

**Galatians 2:20 (KJV)** *I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.*

So I'd like to consider a few Texts to make sure we understand that Christ is truly Enough! May the LORD comfort our hearts and give us the strength to persevere!

**Jesus is Enough 2020!**

**Philippians 1:19-21 (KJV)** *For I know that this shall turn to my salvation through your prayer, and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, 20 According to my earnest expectation and my hope, that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but that with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether it be by life, or by death. 21 For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.*

1. THIS is the mindset we need, especially during these difficult days!
2. “We’ve said this many times, but here it is again: many lack joy...not because Christ isn’t ruling and reigning and has absolute authority, but because of their focus on imperfect life circumstances. One of the reasons we are admonished again and again in the New Testament to focus on Christ and love nothing in the world is because the joy of the Lord is our strength...NOT the joy of the world!”
3. From a Roman prison cell, Paul pens words that define the Christian life ethic, that our lives are hid with Christ in God! He went on to write:

**Philippians 3:7-11 (KJV)** *But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. 8 Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ, 9 And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith: 10 That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death; 11 If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead.*

4. Beloved, our living is in Christ. Our dying is in Christ. Our good days are in Christ. Our bad days are in Christ. All things are in Christ! So let Him be magnified regardless!!!

**Colossians 3:1-4 (KJV)** *If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. 2 Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. 3 For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. 4 When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.*

1. Again, this is the *Jesus is Enough* mindset!
  - We have been commanded to seek heavenly things...desiring after the eternal!
  - We have been commanded to set our affections...our hearts...on things above; NOT on earthly things. Yes, this is VERY difficult but can set you free! Think about the joy of a life increasingly unencumbered by worry and anxiety about money and food and status and what others think!
  - Remember this glorious truth: Christ is our life! Not money! Not houses! Not government! Not health! Christ is our life! Since this is so, you can rejoice!
  - Jesus is returning! He's coming back! We shall be with Him in glory! Hallelujah!
2. Now, in balance, our LORD knows we need earthy things; He has promised to provide them, praise His Name!
3. But those things are not to be our focus! We are to seek the Kingdom of God and His righteousness! (Matt 6:32-33)

**Matthew 11:28-30 (KJV)** *Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.*

1. So friends, rest in Christ.
2. In fact, we learned last year that this is a command; "Come unto me" is an imperative!
3. Why? Because our LORD loves His people! He wants us to cast our burdens upon Him and rest! (1 Pet 5:7) Give Him your weariness and burdens!
4. We are to take our LORD's "easy and light" yoke upon us by faith: His perfect keeping of the Law, His loving submission to the Father's will, and His sacrifice and salvation.
5. "Easy and light" sounds pretty good right now!

#### **Final thoughts:**

**Psalms 20:7 (KJV)** *Some trust in chariots, and some in horses: but we will remember the name of the LORD our God.*

In these difficult days, let us keep our minds firmly fixed upon Christ. God, in His sovereign mercy, has allowed the shaking of our worldly foundations. We've seen yet again the futility of man's devices and structures and prayerfully, the absolute need for God's provision.

What a time to rest our faith and restore right foundations!

**It is Jesus who matters. He is enough. Our lives are so fleeting...**

**James 4:13-17 (KJV)** *Go to now, ye that say, To day or tomorrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain: 14 Whereas ye know*

*not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away. 15 For that ye ought to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that. 16 But now ye rejoice in your boastings: all such rejoicing is evil. 17 Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.*

May we take this opportunity to rebuild our thoughts, hearts, relationships, church lives, and work lives on the Rock. For if we do...

*... "And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock." Matthew 7:25 (KJV)*

So:

1. How might we magnify the LORD in this season?
2. How can we more often set our affections on those things which are above?
3. How might we better receive the rest the LORD offers us in Himself?

Family, **Jesus is Enough!**

Amen!