

JESUS – THE CROWNING EXAMPLE!

**“Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”
(Heb.12:3 NIV)**

Last week we shared about the joy set before Christ. He saw the end of his life and glory that should follow. **“Did not the Christ have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?”** (Lu.24:26 NIV) He was the perfect example to help us persevere in the challenges and difficulties of life. As we are steady and not give up, God is going to bring us through to share in the glory of Christ. This is not “pie in the sky,” but the truth and promise of God.

God calls you into his kingdom and glory.(1 Th.2:12) **God calls us to share in the glory of the Lord Jesus Christ.**(2 Th.2:14) Col.3:4 tells us that **we shall appear with him in glory.** Paul tells us to **rejoice in the hope of the glory of God.**(Ro.5:2) He also encourages us that **we are joint heirs with God, and if we suffer with him, we will be glorified with him.** (Ro.8:16-17) Peter shares that same truth when he says that **we may be going through various trials of our faith, but we are rejoicing in hope of praise, honor and glory when Christ returns.** (1 Pet.1:3-7)

There are trials of hardship, opposition, hindrances, rejection, temptation, and even affluence. How do we live our lives? There are eternal prizes to gain. Our place in the everlasting kingdom is being set before us. We are to be steady, living for God, serving and giving. **For the joy set before us, we are to persevere through the many obstacles, and lay hold the eternal.** It is real and it is promised by God himself, and “the scriptures cannot be broken.”(Jn.10:35)

“For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far out-weights them all.” (2 Co.4:17 NIV) Let’s encourage ourselves in the Lord; a glory awaits those who trust Christ and follow him through the challenges and difficulties of life. This is the joy set before us and it is a sure thing!