

Intro:

Steve Saint's story from *Christianity Today* about his father's death from the Huaorani tribe in Ecuador, 1956. In 1996, Mincaye, one of the killers and now brother in Christ, explained that the murder of the 5 men was based upon a lie that one of the Huaorani told in order to cover up his own mischief. Wanting to marry a young woman, but not having her family's blessing, he had been seen with her in the jungle, and wanting to deflect suspicion lied and told the tribe that they had been attacked by the *cowodi*, the 5 missionary men.

After the death of the 5 men, one of the widows, Elisabeth Elliot, and Rachel Saint (Nate Saint's sister who had been learning the Huaorani language from a refugee), returned to bring the gospel to the tribe that killed their family. Steve Saint was raised in this village, and his father's killer, Mincaye, became his tribal "father." Many Huaorani believe today because of the faith of these 5 men, who loved Christ more than life itself and wanted Him to be exalted, even if it meant their own death.

This desire and hope to exalt Christ through faithful witness even unto death, is what enlivened the apostle Paul. Sitting under house arrest, awaiting the verdict from Rome, he desires above everything else to magnify Jesus Christ. In verse 19 Paul alludes to and quotes the great sufferer, Job, "Though He may slay me, I will hope in Him...this will turn out for my salvation" whether by life or by death.

## 1. Though He May Slay Me, I Will Hope in Him

- a. Paul rejoices that he will be "delivered"
- b. "delivered" in the ultimate sense, even if not necessarily immediately from Caesar
  - i. Job 13:15-16 – "though He slay me, I will hope in him...this will turn out for my salvation..." (Paul quotes word for word "this will turn out for my salvation" from the LXX)
  - ii. It may be deliverance through death to glory, or through release from prison to fruitful ministry (see following context)
- c. through their prayers (*δεησις*)
  - i. note that he prays for their supply from God (v4)
  - ii. note that they pray for his supply from God (v19)
  - iii. thus "fellowship in the gospel" (v5)
- d. through the provision of the Spirit of Jesus Christ
  - i. "provision" comes from "over + supply" (*επι + χορηγια*)
    1. Used of the supply of the chorus by the *leader* of the chorus
    2. leads to the sense of *abundance of provision or supply*
  - ii. Used in Ephesians 4:16, "from what every joint *supplies*"
    1. Is the answer to prayer the Spirit of Christ?
  - iii. The Holy Spirit, or here the Spirit of Jesus Christ, is the Paraclete
    1. Why call Him "the Spirit of Jesus Christ"?
      - a. Jesus was a martyr, who testified unto death
      - b. Jesus exalted the Father, even unto death
      - c. Jesus is alive, raised from the dead to reign, and the Philippians possibly needed to be reminded of this truth while Paul awaits his fate
    2. "Helper" – supplier, sustainer, provider
      - a. Literally, "one called alongside"
    3. John 14:16 – "another Helper", one of like kind to Christ

- 4. He is the gift of God, the supplier of the chorus and the leader of the band, so to speak
- iv. Everything that Paul needs *in order to exalt Christ* in whatever circumstances that the Lord may bring him will be provided for by the Spirit of Christ Jesus, the King over all things

## 2. Our Joy is According to Our Hope of Exalting Christ

- a. deep desire/expectation - "head watch"
  - i. the idea is expectation, to "bend one's neck to watch" down the road
  - ii. Paul *know* that his deliverance is near, right around the corner, so he rejoices
- b. "my" hope
  - i. Hope, in biblical terms, not a mere wish but rather the sure thing that we must wait for
  - ii. Waiting, while not always pleasant, is always joyful when we know the outcome is sure
  - iii. Paul's greatest desire is that Christ would be glorified: this is his deliverance, whether by life or by death
    - 1. This truth, the glory of Jesus, is what brings him great joy
- c. Is this the hope in which we live?
  - i. "to die is gain"?
  - ii. Is being with Jesus, present with Him, our hope in this life? Does it alter the way that we live for Him now?

## 3. Our Hope is to Exalt Christ in Life or in Death

- a. that he will not be ashamed in anything
  - i. "ashamed" has the idea of dishonor, disappointment, letting down your loved one
  - ii. Due to its contrast with "boldness", it seems shame has to do with cowardice
- b. but rather
  - i. indicates that the following is contrasted with former
- c. in every frank boldness Christ would be greatly-enlarged
  - i. "frank boldness"
    - 1. Here is the contrast from shame: frank boldness
    - 2. Even the great Apostle desired not to shrink back, but to boldly proclaim Christ
      - a. Through prayers of other believers
      - b. Through the Spirit of Christ within him
        - i. Though we are not "Paul", we have the same Spirit of Christ within us for His glory and our boldness
        - ii. This is a matter of great hope to all of us
  - ii. "greatly enlarged" – to make large
    - 1. The goal is that Jesus would be seen as majestic
      - a. "majestic" is the nominal form of the word "enlarged"
    - 2. Not that Jesus isn't already filling all things, all in all, or eternally huge already, but that He would be seen as such by all and worshiped accordingly

- iii. in my body
  - 1. Awaiting his fate from Caesar, his purpose as Christ's servant is on the lie in this life
  - 2. This body, right now, is all that Paul has to give
  - 3. Jim Elliot, Nate Saint, Roger Youderian, Ed McCully, and Pete Fleming – Bringing the gospel to the Huaorani tribe
    - a. “He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose.” (Jim Elliot, summarizing Philip Henry)
    - b. Outcome of their deaths and the subsequent forgiveness and evangelism of their families have produced great fruit
    - c. Steve Saint, Nate's son, has been adopted as a tribal son by Mincaye, the man who killed his father, and they both have travelled internationally to proclaim the gospel together
- iv. whether through life or through death
  - 1. for Paul, deliverance from Caesar wasn't the ultimate point
  - 2. the ultimate point was that Christ would be exalted in his release from prison or in his execution (which eventually happened later in his life)

#### 4. A Faithful Witness to the Greatness of Christ is Better than Life

- a. “Christianity is a religion of martyrdom because its founder was a martyr.” – Joseph Tson
  - i. Revelation 1:5 – “from Jesus Christ, the *faithful witness* [martyr]...”
  - ii. Martyr means “witness” and came to refer to those who were killed for their witness because being a faithful witness often meant execution or being killed by a mob in the early centuries of the church
    - 1. “martyr” does not mean taking one's own life, but having it taken from you because of your witness
- b. Martyrdom spread the church
  - i. Stephen was stoned to death (Acts 7)
    - 1. Why would God take one of its best orators in Stephen?
    - 2. The church was scattered because of the following persecution, taking the message of the gospel beyond Judea.
  - ii. James was killed by Herod
    - 1. Do you think the church wondered why God would take one of the leaders of the church in Jerusalem?
    - 2. Bearing a faithful witness strengthened the prayers and the perseverance of the saints
  - iii. According to church tradition 11 of the 12 apostles were martyred, with John being the lone survivor, and he was boiled in oil, survived, and was exiled to Patmos
- c. Martyrs are appointed by God
  - i. Revelation 6:9-11
    - 1. The martyrs are seen as being “under the altar”
      - a. Near to the Lord
      - b. Covered by His sacrifice
      - c. Conversing with God!! Their desire and their joy!

2. They are told to rest until “the number of their fellow brothers should be complete, who were to be killed as they themselves had been”
  - a. There is an appointed number of martyrs that are to die for Christ
  - b. This number is appointed by God
- d. Will I bear a faithful witness in the face of persecution, even unto death?
  - i. Do my acts of service and my words of hope exalt Jesus Christ above all else?
  - ii. Is my faithful witness to the glory and majesty of His name and His work and most of all, of His person?
  - iii. Am I willing to give what I cannot keep to gain what I cannot lose, even into the teeth of death?

Conclusion:

Is Christ worthy of our faithful witness unto death? Do I love Him more than life itself? Is He my joy, my hope, my treasure? There is no greater love than the love of God through Jesus Christ our Lord. He is to be greatly magnified for He is worthy of our love and of our faithful witness to His glory, that rings in the old hymn: “Amazing love, how can it be that You, my God, would die for me?” You are worthy, O Gracious King, of our lives and of our deaths, and we long to see your face. Spend our lives for Your praise and come quickly.

Read end of story about Gikita