Be Thou My Vision: Part 5

Zanesville, OH | April 15, 2018 | Sermon Notes

**Foundational Scripture:** Jer. 9:23-24

**Intro**:

* **Verse 1**: God needs to be my vision. That is, He must be my defined direction for growth. The only way to grow the right way, is with God!
* **Verse 2:** I must form a relationship with God to start this path of growing by surrendering to the waters of baptism and living a faithful life.
* **Verse 3:** There is a great spiritual war we fight. We wage battle against the powers of darkness, evil, sin and the devil and we do not overcome by the flesh; we overcome by Jesus Christ.
* **Verse 4**: Some of the tools and distractions the enemy uses in the battle are discussed. They are powerful and very enticing and if we don’t have our focus where it needs to be and if we aren’t prepared the enemy will overcome us.
* **Verse 5:** The end result of God being my vision comes to light. The reality of what happens if I walk hand in hand with the Lord is discussed.

1. **Verse 5- Line 1– *High King of heaven, my victory won:***
   * **Appeal to the Sovereign God**: The author once more addresses God as the *“High King of Heaven.”*  Here, he appeals to His authority and His Sovereign nature. (1 Chron. 29:11-12)
   * Why is there a plea, an appeal?
   * **Crossing the finish line:** Perhaps the most misunderstood and misconstrued idea among many in the religious world is this idea of when victory is won or how it is won.
     1. Victory is only won inside of Christ (Rom. 6:3-4; 22)
     2. Victory is not won the moment we are baptized. It only begins. (Rev 2:10)
     3. Victory is not won because of our deeds, it is won because of what Christ has done.(Eph. 2:1-9; Rev. 5:9-12; Rev. 12:11)
     4. Victory is not won when we see the finish line, but when we cross it. (1 Cor. 9:24; 2 Tim. 4:7-8; Heb. 12:1-2)
   * The race is the means, the finish line is the end. We get in the race because of what we talked about in verses 1-2 and we must run and overcome the obstacles of verses 3-4 with Jesus’ help and cross the finish line in verse 5 because of His grace and mercy. Then and only then can victory be won.
2. **Verse 5- Line 2– *May I reach heaven’s joys, O bright heav’n’s Sun*:** 
   * **The ruling of the Supreme Judge**: The appeal has been made in line 1 and the Supreme Judge will make a ruling. He is the doorway into Heaven (John 10:9; Rev. 1:17-18).
   * See: Matthew 25:14-30(Parable of the talents)
   * **Heaven’s Bright Sun**: God is so majestic and so powerful, and He is described often in scriptures as light. Light that is unapproachable and absolutely blinding; indeed, even more powerful than the sun! (1 Tim. 6:16; Rev. 4:3)
   * Revelation 4:3 describes God’s appearance. God is portrayed as the brilliance of light reflected from precious stones.
   * *“The imagery of bright light as a description of God’s otherworldly glory goes back to the OT Exodus story. The light of the continually burning oil lamp symbolizes God’s presence among his people” (Ex. 35:14; 39:16)* [Towner, NICNT].
3. **Verse 5- Line 3– *Heart of my heart, whatever befall*:** 
   * **There will be curveballs:** Curveballs will be thrown, and they will come at times when we may least expect it.
   * See: (2 Tim. 3:12; Matt. 10:22; John 15:19; 17:14; 2 Cor. 4:8-12; 1 Pet. 2:20-21)
   * Expect to get hit with curveballs. Don’t be surprised if you are. When they come, and they will then…
4. **Verse 5- Line 4– *Still be my vision, O Ruler of all*:**
   * **Look to your Master**: At the end of the day whatever happens, no matter what happens, we must allow Jesus, Ruler of all, to be our vision.
   * See: Heb. 12:1-3; 1 Pet. 2:21-25; John 6:68; John 11:25-26.
   * Jesus gives us a beginning and He completes us till the end.