

<sup>[28]</sup> “And you are those who have stood by Me in My trials; <sup>[29]</sup> and just as My Father has granted Me a kingdom, I grant you <sup>[30]</sup> that you may eat and drink at My table in My kingdom....  
[Luke 22:28-30]

As you read Today’s Thought, did you see who it was who would “eat and drink” with Christ Jesus “at [His] table in [His] kingdom?” Yes, it was those disciples with whom He shared what is referred to as *the Last Supper*. But more specifically, it is “those who have stood by [Him]” even in times of “trials”! This would include you and me, **IF** we “have STOOD BY Him” even when going through *TRIALING* times in this life!

Together with Paul, I pray as he did in Ephesians 1:18,  
“that the eyes of your heart may be *ENLIGHTENED*, so that you *MAY KNOW* what *IS THE HOPE* of His calling, what *ARE THE RICHES* of the *GLORY* of His *INHERITANCE* in the saints....”

You can have this “*HOPE* of His calling” because in Ephesians 2:4-6 the Holy Spirit reveals that,  
<sup>[4]</sup> But God, being *RICH IN MERCY*, because of His *GREAT LOVE* with which He loved us,  
<sup>[5]</sup> even when [you] were dead in [your] transgressions, made [you] alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), <sup>[6]</sup> and raised [you] up with Him, and seated [you] with Him in the heavenly realms, in Christ Jesus,

Then in John 12:26 notice that those who will experience this *PLACE* of *FUTURE JOY* are all those who ‘*SERVE*’ Jesus and “*FOLLOW [Him]*”. These are the ones who will be with Jesus. Then you are told that where Jesus is; those who ‘*SERVE*’ Jesus, will also be *HONORED* by the Father!

I stand in agreement with what the Holy Spirit moved Paul to say of this in Romans 8:18 where Paul is moved to declare,

*For I CONSIDER that the SUFFERINGS of this PRESENT TIME are NOT WORTHY to be compared with the GLORY which is to be REVEALED to us.*

These are the “*things...*” in 1 Corinthians 2:9,  
“...which eye has not seen, and ear has not heard, and which have not entered into the human heart, ALL that God HAS PREPARED for THOSE WHO LOVE Him.”

Please understand, that God “*FOREKNEW*” who would ‘*LOVE*’ Him and who would ‘*STAND*’ by Christ Jesus *SERVING* Him [Romans 8:29; 1 Corinthians 2:9; Luke 22:28; John 12:26]. Then in Romans 8:29<sup>(b)</sup>-30 you learn that it is these God,

<sup>[29]</sup> ... *PREDETERMINED* to become *CONFORMED* to the *IMAGE* of His Son, that He might be the first-born among many brethren; <sup>[30]</sup> and whom He *PREDETERMINED*, these He also *CALLED*; and whom He called, these He also *JUSTIFIED*; and whom He justified, these He also *GLORIFIED*.

Because of this predetermination, Galatians 4:7 teaches you that,  
*Therefore, you are no longer a slave, but a son; AND IF A SON [or daughter], THEN AN HEIR THROUGH God.*

Please closely listen to 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 where Paul is moved by the Holy Spirit to say,

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<sup>[13]</sup> *But we do not want you to be uninformed, brethren, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve, as do the rest who have no hope. <sup>[14]</sup> For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus. <sup>[15]</sup> For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, and remain until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. <sup>[16]</sup> For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet of God; and the dead in Christ will rise first. <sup>[17]</sup> Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and thus we will always be with the Lord. <sup>[18]</sup> Therefore comfort one another with these words.*

Therefore, the Holy Spirit in 1 Peter 5:6 encourages you to,

*HUMBLE [yourself], therefore, under the mighty hand of God, that He MAY EXULT YOU AT THE PROPER TIME....*

Lastly, you learn the reasons for why you should “ENDURE” in the things of this life when in 2 Timothy 2:10-13 the Spirit moved Paul to write,

*<sup>[10]</sup> For this reason I ENDURE all things for the sake of those who are chosen, that they also may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus and with it eternal glory. <sup>[11]</sup> It is a trustworthy statement: For IF [you] DIED WITH HIM, [you] WILL ALSO LIVE WITH HIM; <sup>[12]</sup> IF [you] ENDURE, [you] WILL ALSO REIGN with Him; IF [you] DENY Him, He ALSO WILL DENY [you]; <sup>[13]</sup> IF [you] are FAITHLESS, He REMAINS FAITHFUL; for He CANNOT DENY Himself.*

Then the Spirit REMINDS you to “REMIND EACH OTHER of these things” [2 Timothy 2:14]!

Now please join me in prayer.

O Father, Today I give You thanksgiving that you have given us hope. That is the hope of a heavenly citizenship, which will be a place of future joy! This hope is a hope we can hold on to if we love you and stand by Christ Jesus, serving Him. We can know that if we trust in this hope, You will conform us into the image of Jesus, Your Son. Teach us to trust in this hope that You will call us and if You call us, You will also justify us, and if You justify us, You will also glorify us. I ask that You accept both us and this prayer of thanksgiving in Jesus’ name. Amen!

Please meditate and pray on these things!

Louise and I pray this will help to both enlighten and encourage you to **know in a greater way** the **One** Who promises in His Word to never leave you nor forsake you [Hebrews 13:5; Deuteronomy 31:6,8]!

*BECAUSE IF I STAND BY JESUS EVEN IN TIMES OF TRIAL IN THIS LIFE,  
I HAVE THE HOPE THAT I AM A CITIZEN OF HEAVEN, AND THAT IN HIS KINGDOM  
GOD WILL GRANT ME THE RIGHT TO EAT AT HIS TABLE! – tom.*