



THE CHURCH AT ELLERSLIE
SUNDAY SERMON NOTES

ERIC LUDY

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2017

GRAPE SCHOOL

a study in the exquisite joys of suffering



James, a bondservant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, To the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad: Greetings. My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.

James 1:1-4

Suffering (noun) - the state of undergoing pain, distress, or hardship

Suffering is Good

We are grieved by many trials . . . *and yet* . . . We greatly rejoice, we rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory (1 Peter 1:6-8)

We are reviled, persecuted, and falsely accused . . . *and yet* . . . Blessed are we, let us rejoice and be exceeding glad (Matthew 5:11-12)

We are partakers of Christ's sufferings . . . *and yet* . . . we may be glad with exceeding joy (1 Peter 4:12-13)

We endure tribulations . . . *and yet* . . . we are exceeding joyful (2 Corinthians 7:4)

We face trials and testings . . . *and yet* . . . we count it all joy (James 1:2-4)

Do We Actually Believe This?

Exercising Faith in the Word of God

The Happy Story of a Grape

In the Hebrew culture, the pressing of the grapes took place in September and was accompanied with great rejoicing. The ripe grapes were gathered into baskets and carried to the wine-press. They were then placed in an upper vat for treading. A certain amount of juice exuded from the ripened grapes simply due to the initial weight of the harvest in the vat. This initial juice that exuded was called the “sweet wine” and was kept separate from the rest of the juice. The treading then commenced and was effected by one or more men depending on the size of the vat. They encouraged one another by shouts. Their legs and clothing were stained red with the blood of the grape and the expressed juice escaped by an aperture into the lower vat, or was at once collected into vessels.

The Blood of the Grape - Wine *(Life Come Forth through Crushing)*

The Life of the Perfect Grape - *His Name - Jesus*

The Life of a Grape - *Tended with Joy to be Trowned with Joy*

The Proverb of the Grape - *The bitter boot releases the sweet wine*

The Glory of the Grape

The Glory of the Grape is not found in its plump redness while nesting cozily amidst the vine, but rather, it is found when its inner wine comes forth at the beckoning of the Husbandman's squeeze. It's in the squeezing that the grape reveals its truest virtue, beauty, and strength.

The Mindset of a Grape

I am built strong to be poured out. And it is in the pouring out that I will rejoice with the greatest fervor. It is in the crushing that I will leap the highest, and it is in the moments

of squeezing that I will sing the loudest. To spill out that which was first spilled into me is my greatest delight. For I am a grape, and I was made to fill my King's cup.

The Motto of the Grape - *To fill my King's Cup!*

The Tale of Two Cups (Two Comings)

#1 - The Cup of Grace

Poured out on all that are thirsty for Righteousness

And He (Jesus) took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it; For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.

Matthew 26:27-28

#2 - The Cup of the Wrath

Poured out on all that are thirsty for Unrighteousness

For in the hand of the LORD there is a cup, and the wine is red; it is full of mixture; and he pours out of the same: but the dregs thereof, all the wicked of the earth shall wring them out, and drink them.

Psalms 75:8

For thus saith the LORD God of Israel unto me; Take the wine cup of this fury at my hand, and cause all the nations, to whom I send thee, to drink it . . . Then took I the cup at the LORD'S hand, and made all the nations to drink, unto whom the LORD had sent me . . . And it shall be, if they refuse to take the cup at thine hand to drink, then shalt thou say unto them, Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Ye shall certainly drink.

Jeremiah 25:15, 17, 28

To Fill My King's Cup

We fill the King's Cup of Grace

Who now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up that which is behind of the afflictions of Christ in my flesh for His body's sake, which is the Church:

Colossians 1:24

When He opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the testimony which they held. And they cried with a loud voice, saying, "How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?" Then a white robe was given to each of them; and it was said to them that they should rest a little while longer, until both the number of their fellow servants and their brethren, who would be killed as they were, was completed.

Revelation 6:9-11

Consolation

The Reward of Suffering

Paraklēsis - Pā-rä'-klā-sēs - Help and support that is very near, and very ready to supply strength;

intimate aid; heart-level encouragement; the supply of deep comfort

Paraklētōs - Pā-rä'-klā-tōs - The Holy Spirit, the very present Help in times of trouble, the very ready supply of strength, the intimate aid of the Father, the One who delivers the heart-level encouragement, the One who supplies the deep comfort.

Truth: The Degree of Consolation always outweighs the Degree of Suffering. So no matter the Degree of Suffering, the Degree of Consolation will always prove greater.

Conclusion: Suffering for the Name of Jesus Christ is always, something worthy of celebration

For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our **consolation** also abounds by Christ. And whether we be afflicted, **it is for your consolation and salvation**, which is effectual in the enduring of the same sufferings which we also suffer: or whether we be comforted, **it is for your consolation and salvation**. And our hope of you is steadfast, knowing, that as you are partakers of the sufferings, so shall you be also of the **consolation**. For we

would not, brethren, have you ignorant of our trouble which came to us in Asia, that we were pressed out of measure, above strength, insomuch that we despaired even of life . . . We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed; Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, **that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body**. For we which live are always delivered unto death for Jesus' sake, **that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh**. So then death works in us, **but life in you**.

2 Corinthians 1:5-8; 4:8-12

The Training of a Grape

1. A Grape must learn to embrace the crushing
2. A Grape must learn to be crushed well

Lesson #1 - The Beauty of the Crushing

For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also abounds by Christ.

1 Corinthians 1:5

That I may know Him, and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being made conformable unto His death.

Philippians 3:10

. . . to die is gain.

Paul

For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain. But if I live on in the flesh, this will mean fruit from my labor; yet what I shall choose I cannot tell. For I am hard-pressed between the two, having a desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far better. Nevertheless to remain in the flesh is more needful for you.

Philippians 1:21-24

We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.

2 Corinthians 5:8

Thou fool, that which thou sows is not quickened, except it die:

1 Corinthians 15:36

Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abides alone: but if it die, it brings forth much fruit.

John 12:24

Thou fool, the life of the grape is not released, unless it is crushed . . . verily, verily, I say unto you, except a grape be crushed beneath the heel and die, its juice is its own and not imparted, but if it be crushed, it sheds forth its wine.

Lesson #1 Summary - To Die is Gain

Grape Tenet #1 - To Be Crushed is Wine in our King's Cup

Lesson #2 - Being Great at Being Crushed

The Two Attributes of Every Triumphant Crushing

1. Patience
2. Rejoicing

as James was led to the place of martyrdom, his accuser was brought to repent of his conduct by the apostle's extraordinary courage and undauntedness, and fell down at his feet to request his pardon, professing himself a Christian, and resolving that James should not receive the crown of martyrdom alone. Hence they were both beheaded at the same time. Thus did the first apostolic martyr cheerfully and resolutely receive that cup, which he had told our Savior he was ready to drink.

Fox's Book of Martyrs - The Martyrdom of James the Great

With Patience

. . . when you do well, and suffer for it, and **you take it patiently**, this is acceptable with God.

1 Peter 2:20

Hypomenō - Hoop-oh-MEN-oh

The Brave Calm and Steadfast Courage of the Christian Soul

to remain unmoved, to not recede or flee, to stand fast amidst the most most severe misfortunes and trials and to hold fast one's faith in Christ to the end; to endure and bear ill treatments bravely and calmly.

Following the Example - Facing Death like Jesus

. . . when you do well, and suffer for it, and you take it patiently, this is acceptable with God. For even hereunto were you called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow his steps . . .

1 Peter 2:20b-21

And you shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that shall **endure** unto the end, the same shall be saved.

Mark 13:13

And you shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that shall **show a brave calm and a steadfast courage** unto the end, the same shall be saved.

Mark 13:13

Rejoicing in hope; **patient** in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer.

Romans 12:12

Rejoicing in hope; **showing a brave calm and a steadfast courage** in tribulation;
continuing instant in prayer.

Romans 12:12

Love . . . bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, **endures** all things.

1 Corinthians 13:7

Love . . . bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, **shows a brave calm and a steadfast courage in** all things.

1 Corinthians 13:7

Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him **endured** the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider him that **endured** such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.

Hebrews 12:2-3

Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him **with a brave calm and a steadfast courage endured** the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider him that **so bravely and courageously endured** such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest you be wearied and faint in your minds.

Hebrews 12:2-3

With Joy

Rejoice always.

1 Thessalonians 5:16

We are grieved by many trials . . . *and yet* . . . We greatly rejoice, we rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory (1 Peter 1:6-8)

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The Grapes of Grace

Stephen was stoned, Philip was crucified, Matthew was slain with the sword, James (the brother of Jesus) was stoned and clubbed, Matthias was stoned and beheaded, Mark was dragged to pieces, Jude was crucified, Bartholomew was cruelly beaten and then crucified, Thomas was thrust through with a spear, Luke was hung, Simon was crucified, and John was thrown into a cauldron of boiling oil (and removed unscathed) and then exiled to Patmos.

Lesson #2 Summary - Real Gold Fears No Fire

Grape Tenet #2 - The King's Grapes Fear No Heel

To Live is Christ, To Die is Gain

The Grape-twist on a timeless Truth

To Live is to hold the juice of Christ within, to be crushed is to give the juice of Christ to others and to fill my King's cup with pleasure.

There is Always a Reason to Leap

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